

INTER-REGIONAL COOPERATION NETWORK

3.9. Inter-regional Cooperation Network

The **Inter-regional Cooperation Network Coordinating Group** consisted of five members: Frank Begemann, Germany (Network Coordinator); Merja Veteläinen, Finland; Petra Engel, Italy; Silvia Străjeru, Romania; and Ayfer Tan, Turkey.

In November 2010, the Treaty Secretary, Shakeel Bhatti, sent a letter to the Network Chair, acknowledging his intention to further promote a partnership with ECPGR. Subject to the availability of resources, the Treaty Secretary was looking forward to organizing together a workshop in the Near East with the Near East and North Africa (NENA) Plant Genetic Resources Network and in any other region in which further capacity building is required.

The **Network Coordinating Group met in Bratislava, Slovakia**, on 14 December 2010 and discussed opportunities for a continued collaboration with the International Treaty. The following conclusions were reached:

- ECPGR (through the Inter-regional Cooperation Network) can offer to continue its support for an inter-regional collaboration to share experience in the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and in particular its Multilateral System.
- ECPGR could contribute to about two more bi-regional meetings, funds permitting, under the following conditions:
 - ECPGR to be involved in developing the agenda jointly with the other organizers;
 - ECPGR to be recognized by the ITPGRFA in the following documentation to the Governing Body;
 - An Agreement between ECPGR and the ITPGRFA-Secretariat is signed to document this collaboration.
- ECPGR would be interested in organizing a workshop in the Near East region, jointly with the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East and North Africa (AARINENA)

Outlook for 2011: activities planned by the Network include the organization of a second “Capacity building inter-regional workshop on International Treaty implementation”, to be held in Izmir, Turkey, 27-29 September 2011, jointly with the International Treaty Secretariat and the NENA Network.