

SUGAR, STARCH AND FIBRE CROPS NETWORK

3.5. Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network

Working Groups: *Beta*; Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp); Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs); Potato.

The **Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network Coordinating Group** consisted of four members: Lothar Frese, Germany (Network Coordinator until October 2009); Roel Hoekstra, The Netherlands (Network Coordinator as of October 2009); Martin Pavelek, Czech Republic; and Ana Maria Barata, Portugal.

The **Second Meeting of the Working Group on Fibre Crops (Flax and Hemp)** was held on 7-9 July 2010 in Šumperk – Velké Losiny, Czech Republic.

The Group is developing the International Flax Database, even though current financial resources are insufficient at the managing institute in the Czech Republic to operate this database online. The development of the ECPGR Hemp Database was reconfirmed as an agreed responsibility of Consiglio per la Ricerca e la Sperimentazione in Agricoltura - Centro di Ricerca per le Colture Industriali (CRA-CIN), Rovigo, Italy. Preliminary recommendations for the implementation of AEGIS include focusing on the procedures to select flax accessions for the European Collection, under the coordination of the Chair.

In order to collaborate with the *In situ* Network, two Members of the Network attended the **final meeting of the AEGRO project** and First Meeting of the On-farm Conservation and Management Working Group and Wild Species Conservation in Genetic Reserves Working Group in Madeira, Portugal, in September 2010.

The project on **inventory and sampling of *Origanum vulgare* L.** populations was started in June 2010. Samples were collected by 19 partners and sent to the University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna, Austria, where they are being evaluated through molecular and chemical analysis. The data collected within the Oregano Project will contribute to the selection of oregano accessions to be included in the European Collection according to the AEGIS concept.

The Sugar, Starch and Fibre Crops Network submitted three **proposals for funding to the second call of the AEGIS Grant Scheme**. These were prepared by partners from The Netherlands (potato), Russian Federation (flax) and Ukraine (hemp).

Outlook for 2011: The meeting of the Potato WG that was planned for 2011 was cancelled, since the Group thought that it would be more effective to use the allocated funds for molecular analysis of potato clones; the Steering Committee endorsed this decision.