

VEGETABLES NETWORK

3.6. Vegetables Network

Working Groups: *Allium*, *Brassica*, Cucurbits, Leafy Vegetables, Solanaceae and Umbellifer Crops.

The **Vegetables Network Coordinating Group** consisted of 11 members: Marie-Christine Daunay, France (Network Coordinator), Willem van Dooijeweert, The Netherlands (Vice-Coordinator); Dave Astley, United Kingdom; Noortje Bas, The Netherlands; Ferdinando Branca, Italy; Maria José Díez, Spain; Emmanuel Geoffriau, France; Joachim Keller, Germany; Charlotte Allender, United Kingdom; Katerina Karlová-Smékalová, Czech Republic; and Rob van Treuren, The Netherlands.

The **Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Brassica** was held on 2-3 March 2010, Linguaglossa, Italy. The ECPGR *Brassica* Database (Bras-EDB) has been updated and has been used to flag core collections of *B. oleracea*, *B. rapa*, *B. napus* and *B. carinata*. A duplicate search function was developed and used to identify duplicates within *B. rapa* accessions (preliminarily, 30% duplicates were identified) and it will be extended to search among *B. oleracea* accessions. A Working Group Task Force was formed, with the aim of verifying whether the genepool of wild *Brassica* can be considered safely conserved in *ex situ* genebanks or if further collecting is needed, to identify the accessions requiring multiplication and to prepare a detailed time-frame for such multiplication.

Various populations of wild brassicas obtained from genebanks were planted in Catania, Italy, in the same environmental conditions for comparison, with the aim of establishing a core collection of well characterized and diverse wild accessions. The material is available (either seed or freeze-dried samples) to anyone interested in carrying out characterization or evaluation work.

Ninety-seven accessions of *B. rapa* were selected from the Bras-EDB for characterization through ECPGR project funds. The N.I. Vavilov Research Institute of Plant Industry (VIR), Russian Federation, volunteered to carry out the characterization for morphological and phenological descriptors.

The **Second Meeting of the Working Group on Cucurbits** was held on 9-11 November 2010, in Tbilisi, Georgia. The Group agreed to prepare guidelines for regeneration of cucumber, melon, watermelon and *Cucurbita*. The criteria for selecting European Accessions were agreed and the analysis of the ECPGR Cucurbits Database in this regard is expected to take place in 2011 after further improvement of data quality in the database.

Two proposals submitted by the Vegetables Network **for funding to the AEGIS Grant Scheme** in 2009 were successful and started in 2010. The proposal on "Assessment of Unique Material in the European Collections of Umbellifer Crops" is coordinated by the University of Warwick, United Kingdom and the proposal on "Cryopreservation of young inflorescence bases in bolting garlic for germplasm storage" is coordinated by the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Germany.

On behalf of the Vegetables Network, M.C. Daunay gave a presentation on "ECPGR Achievements and Perspectives" to the 28th International Horticulture Congress (IHC), held in Lisbon, Portugal on 22-27 August 2010. A paper was also prepared to be published in the Congress' proceedings (see section on Publications).

Outlook for 2011: Meetings planned for 2011 include the WGs on Umbellifer Crops (March, Germany), *Allium* (September, Greece) and Leafy Vegetables (November, Slovenia, to be confirmed). The Solanaceae WG meeting to be held in Turkey was postponed to 2012, date to be decided).