

NETWORK

3.2. Forages Network

Working Group: Forages.

The **Forages Network Coordinating Group** consisted of six members: Merja Veteläinen, Finland (Network Coordinator); Beat Boller, Switzerland; Petter Marum, Norway; Vladimir Meglič, Slovenia; Ian Thomas, United Kingdom and Evelin Willner, Germany.

A **proposal on forages was accepted for funding under the second call of the AEGIS Grant Scheme**. The proposal "Establishment of the European Forages Collection" was submitted by MTT AgriFood Research, Finland. This project, involving partners from IPK, Germany, IBERS, United Kingdom and NordGen, Sweden, as well as all the Forage Database Managers, will receive a grant of € 18 000.

Summary of AEGIS development status

Forages WG

- European Collection: Selection criteria for Forage Most Appropriate Accessions were defined and test analyses of the *Phleum* and *Poa* collections were made, with assignment of "Primary Collection" status to 1536 *Poa* accessions (i.e. it was defined which institutes are proposed to be the "primary holders" of those accessions – primary holders should take the responsibility for the long-term conservation of the given accessions). A mechanism for formal acceptance of European Collection status still needs to be set in motion and it is planned to achieve this during the AEGIS Grant Project Workshop in 2012.
- AQUAS: Preferred and acceptable quality standards for regeneration have been agreed at the Working Group level.

Outlook for 2012

As part of the AEGIS Grant Scheme-funded project, a workshop aimed at making progress in assigning forage accessions to the European Forage Collection, according to the principles of AEGIS, is planned in Tápiószéle, Hungary in January-February 2012.