

## 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.

A **joint workshop between ECPGR and the Near East and North Africa Plant Genetic Resources Network (NENA PGRN)** was organized on 28-29 September 2011 in Menemen, Turkey, with the local support of the Aegean Agricultural Research Institute. This workshop was dedicated to exchanging views, information and experiences related to the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty).

The NENA PGRN Network was represented by the Coordinator and members from Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Sudan and Yemen. ECPGR was represented by the Secretariat and members from Germany, Sweden and Turkey. International organizations (Bioversity International, ICARDA and GFAR) were also involved, as well as the Secretary of the Treaty, Mr Shakeel Bhatti.

The workshop consisted of presentations from both networks regarding the national and regional approaches to *ex situ* conservation, documentation and information, implementation of the Multilateral System (MLS) of the Treaty and its related policies and legislation.

Examples provided by ECPGR for consideration by NENA PGRN were the concept for "A European Genebank Integrated System" (AEGIS) and the online EURISCO catalogue. A strong recommendation was directed from the meeting to NENA PGRN, indicating the need to reach self-sustainability through the acquisition of firm national commitments as a pre-requisite for regional collaboration.

This workshop opened the way for further exchanges of information between the two Networks and to possible opportunities for advice or training in the near future. NENA PGRN specifically expressed interest in future collaboration with ECPGR on different aspects of PGR conservation and management.

#### **Outlook for 2012**

Opportunities for additional joint workshops between ECPGR and other regional networks will be discussed with the Treaty Secretariat.