

## FORAGES NETWORK

### 4.2. 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.

The project '**Establishment of the European Forages Collection**' funded by the AEGIS Grant Scheme held a workshop in Tápiószele, Hungary from 30 January to 3 February 2012.

The ECPGR Forage Databases were updated in preparation for the above-mentioned workshop, including analysis of the data received in order to identify most original samples (MOS), holders of primary collection (PRIMCOLL) and potential forage accessions for the European Forage Collection (EFC).

Outcomes of the workshop are listed under the 'Summary of AEGIS development status' below.

The report of the workshop, entitled *Establishment of the European Forage Collection – To Age with AEGIS* is available online from the AEGIS and ECPGR Web sites.

The Forages WG is participating in a NordGen Public Private Partnership (PPP) project on pre-breeding in perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.). This project screens diversity of 400 accessions for winter hardiness and will utilize information from the ECPGR *Lolium* Database.

The survey on *Storage conditions and status of safety duplication* was updated in April and posted on the Web site.

#### Summary of AEGIS development status

##### Offers by countries

The following forage accessions were submitted to the attention of the Working Groups for their opinion on the suitability of their inclusion in the European Collection:

- IPK, Germany: 5807
- CGN, The Netherlands: 852.

##### Forages WG

- European Collection (outcomes of the AEGIS project workshop):
  - \* The procedure for the selection of candidate European Accessions was agreed.
  - \* A tentative list of 10 485 candidate European Accessions of 10 forage species/groups was created; Database Managers to seek confirmations from the respective genebanks/collection holders. The selection of candidate accessions is a continuing process and the expected number of accessions to EFC can be 5-10 times the present number of candidates.
  - \* A number of issues related to EURISCO were identified, requiring solution by ECPGR.
- AQUAS: Preferred and acceptable quality standards for regeneration have been agreed at the Working Group level.

##### Outlook for 2013

As part of the AEGIS Grant Scheme, a second workshop on the *Establishment of the European Forage Collection* will take place at NordGen, Alnarp, Sweden in April 2013, with the following objectives: confirmation of the EFC candidates for acceptance as AEGIS accessions, inclusion of C&E data in model central Forage Databases and improvement of the database management routines.