Monday, 19 August 2019

Fernando TEJERINA, Spain.
Chair of the Ex-situ Working Group.

Report of theDevelopment of specifications for a modern gene bank documentation software Ad hoc action

1. Objective of the Ad Hoc Action.

In the country reports for the 2nd edition of the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 86% of the 35 respondents from Europe and the Caucasus indicated presence of Ex situ in vitro conservation programme, and 71% reported having a national gene bank. The national gene bank setup and management in the various countries is very diverse, ranging from a single gene bank managed by one institution to a federation of genebanks each responsible for separate species, or separate regions of the country.

The proper documentation is essential aspect of these gene banks, recognized also in the the FAO's Guidelines for Cryoconservation of Animal Genetic Resources, where the minimum amount of information required for every donor and sample in the gene bank is described. In the last decade various software has been used in Europe - several countries are using the specialized for this purpose CryoWEB, some has developed their own information systems and databases, others are using spreadsheets for recording their data.

During this time the countries has gained experience with the documentation of their gene banks, and their needs in terms of data entry and control, data quering and statistics, reporting, linking and exchanging information with other systems and inter-operability. With the development of their gene bank collections, more countries are recognizing the need for an elaborated data keeping sofware.

Within this ad hoc action a small group of experts (6-7 persons, including representives of coiuntries using CryoWEB; countries with «in house built software»;countries lacking software) will review the current status of documentation of the national gene banks across Europe, will identify the information needs of the various countries in this regard and will prepare functional specifications for an up-to-date documentation software.

2. Membership of the group of experts.

The participants of the Ad hoc action are some members of the ERFP WG Ex Situ Conservation and national experts (a balanced geographical distribution was the main criteria to select the participants). The coordinator of the Ad Hoc Action is Zhivko Duchev.

Ad hoc action members	
The Netherlands	Anouk Schurink
Sweden	Eva-Marie Stålhammar
Poland	Ewa Sosin-Bzducha
France	Delphine Duclos
Spain	Francisco Javier Cuevas Gozalo
Ukraine	Nataliia Reznikova
Spain (Chair of the Ex Situ WG)	Fernando Tejerina Ampudia
Bulgaria (Coordinator of the Ad Hoc Action)	Zhivko Duchev

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

1st phase - preparation-

The coordinator of the Ad Hoc Action developed a first draft of a questionnaire for the countries, consisting of 3 parts:

- a common part for each country containing questions about the setup of the national gene bank and the collected information
- a software specific part containing questions about the functionality the respective software used
- a "wish list" part for the features needed, but not present in the current software

This first draft was circulated to the Ad Hoc Action members to collect their comments and suggestions of improvement. The consultation process ended the 17 July.

A second draft version, including the suggestions from the group was disseminated to the Ad hoc members for final comments, before development of web survey.

4. Plans and priorities for the next year (to be formally approved by Assembly)

The ad-hoc action will be completed in 2019-2020. The questionnaire will be sent to the countries, and after collecting and summarizing the responses a one day meeting with external experts will be organized in order to discuss the results and exchange experience aiming for preparation of functional specifications for modern gene bank software.
The final outcome of the Ad Hoc Action will be a functional specifications for gene bank documentation software.