

20 August 2019

Elzbieta MARTYNIUK Poland
Chair of the Access and Benefit Sharing TF

Report of the Access and Benefit Sharing ERFP TF

1. Objectives of the group (Summary)

The ERFP Task Force "Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)" was established in 2011, after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on biological diversity. It is addressing the following issues:

- Follow up on development at international fora regarding ABS, in particular Convention on biological diversity, Nagoya Protocol and FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- Contribute to the processes undertaken at these fora to present specific characteristics and practices of animal genetic resources sector affecting implementation of the ABS measures;
- Draw attention to specific characteristics of animal genetic resources sector in implementation of ABS measures among policy makers;
- Promote ABS issues among animal breeding community.

2. Membership of the group (chair in grey)

Country	Name Member	Surname
Austria	Beate	BERGER
Czech Republic	Vera	MATLOVA
Norway	Nina	SÆTHER
Poland	Elzbieta	MARTYNIUK
Slovakia	Ján	TOMKA
Slovenia	Danijela	BOJKOVSKI
Switzerland	Laurène	BARMAZ
Switzerland	Alwin	KOPŠE
The Netherlands	Sipke-Joost	HIEMSTRA

3. Activities in the past year and output/results

During the last year, the ABS Task Force focused on the advancing work on three documents: MAA, MTA for Conservation and Breeding and MTA for Research. This topic was for a long time on the agenda both of the ABS Task Force and the Working Group on Ex-situ Conservation.

Over time, the concept of the final product was evolving. At the beginning we were aiming on development of three standard documents, that could be used as blueprints by Genebanks. With this understanding, the chair of the ABS Task Force prepared drafts of MAA and MTA documents incorporating comments received to previous drafts and outcomes of ongoing discussion on this topic. The drafts were distributed for comments on 23 April, 2019 to the ABS Task Force and to the Working Group Ex-situ Conservation.

These three draft documents provided basis for discussion firstly during the meeting in Madrid, on Wednesday 23 May, and then next day for discussion at a joint meeting of the ABS Task Force and Working Group G Ex-situ Conservation.

During the course of discussion and exchange of views between the members of the Working Group Ex-situ Conservation it was concluded that instead of blueprint type of document it will be more helpful to prepare guidelines type documents. Such documents should provide options for inclusion of various elements and allow incorporate relevant solutions in the MAA or MTA and thus facilitate development of own Genebank standard MAA and MTA. Such approach will allow to take into account specific circumstances, legal status and existing practices of individual Genebanks.

This development, moving from *Draft elements of standard MAA/MTA* to *Draft Guidelines for the Development of MAA/MTA* have slowed down the work on these three documents. During the joint meeting of both groups on 23th May only discussion on MAA was finalized. It was further agreed that the MTA both for Conservation and Breeding and for Research should be amended accordingly.

The Chair of the Working Group on Ex-situ Conservation provided first draft documents as the outcome of the joint meeting. Further work on these drafts were carried out by the Chair of ABS Task Force and sent to members of both groups for their consideration before the General Assembly.

The agreement on the way to proceed should be reached during the General Assembly.

The ABS Task Force at its meeting on 24th May also considered latest developments on ABS issues at international arena (14th COP CBD, 3rd COP/MOP Nagoya Protocol, 17th session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and EU COM ABS Expert Group (see minutes from the meeting).

Taking into account the input already provided by the ABS Task Force to these processes in relation to animal genetic resources, it was concluded that no immediate action is needed.

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

The ABS Task Force was of the view that it is important for ERFP community to be aware of developments on ABS issues at international fora and contribute, when needed, to these processes representing a view of animal genetic resources sector.

It is also important to advocate for exemption of animal genetic resources from national access legislation, whenever possible, presenting technical arguments and relevant data.

Taking into account the developments at the ERFP, the way to achieve these goals may be through establishing a roster of ABS experts to meet through *Ad Hoc* Action and undertake specific task or through a continuation of the ABS Task Force.

5. Other

As it is my last meeting as the Chair of the ABS Task Force, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all colleagues that were members of the ABS Task Force since 2011 for their important contributions to the work of our group and thank them for their friendship.