

European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources Workshop 13th/14th June 2013 - Bonn, Germany

Report

On 13th/14th June 2013, a workshop on the Establishment of a European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources took place in Bonn, Germany at the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, with representatives from 16 European countries participating.

Thursday 13th June 2013

Welcome and Opening

Frank Begemann, Head of the Secretariat of the European Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP), opened the workshop, in welcoming all participants and explaining the intention of the meeting. The workshop is joint activity of the two ERFP groups – Working Group Ex situ Conservation and Task Force Access and Benefit Sharing – to make further progress on the establishing the European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), and to develop documents for the further conceptual work on this network.

General expectations of the meeting

Sipke-Joost Hiemstra, Netherlands, chair of the Working Group Ex situ Conservation gave an overview on the expectations of the workshop to give clarification of the justification for the European Genebank Network for AnGR, and to develop strategic documents for the further progress. (Presentation is available on the ERFP website.)

Current situation of genebanks in Europe

Afterwards Sipke-Joost Hiemstra presented the current situation of genebanks in Europe. Based on the “FAO-EAAP-ERFP Workshop on National legal and institutional arrangements for ex situ conservation of animal genetic resources” in Zagreb in 2012 and the results of a questionnaire in 2013, conducted by the ERFP Secretariat, there is information on genebanks in 25 European countries available. Genebanks were grouped according to key characteristics like institutional framework of the genebanks, legal basis, ownership, governance, objectives and access/acquisition conditions. (Presentation is available on the ERFP website.)

Current situation of Access and Benefit Sharing conditions

Elzbieta Martyniuk, Poland, chair of the Task Force Access and Benefit Sharing gave an overview on the current situation of Access and Benefit Sharing conditions in the AnGR sector. She presented some background information on the legal ABS- framework (CBD, Nagoya-Protocol), described the current situation of exchange of animal genetic resources, and presented existing contracts that are used for the exchange of genetic material. (Presentation available on the ERFP website)

Draft definitions of describing genebanks in Europe and draft objectives of the European Genebank network for AnGR

Definitions for describing gene banks were discussed and agreed. They shall help the National Coordinators to answer the questionnaire on genebanks, which will be send by the ERFP Secretariat again. The definitions are also intended for the further use in the draft concept for the European Genebank Network for AnGR. Therefore they have been included in the draft concept document.

Even the objectives of the European Genebank Network for AnGR were discussed and agreed. The objectives are included in the draft concept for the European Genebank Network for AnGR.

Draft network structure of the European Genebank Network for AnGR

Sipke-Joost Hiemstra presented the proposed structure of the European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources. The structure was agreed with some additions and modifications. It is included in the draft concept for the European Genebank Network for AnGR.

Elements for a possible MTA approach for the European Genebank Network for AnGR

In this discussion, which was chaired by Elzbieta Martyniuk, the needed elements for a MTA were identified. It is planned to precise these elements and to add the draft MTA as an annex to the draft concept for the European Genebank Network for AnGR.

Friday, 14th June 2013

Summary of conclusions of Thursday

Elzbieta Martyniuk opened the second day of the workshop and thanked all for the excellent work on Thursday. She presented some amendments on the different working documents that were made on the day before. The participants agreed to these amendments.

Table of contents for the concept of the European Genebank Network for Animal Genetic Resources

A table of contents for the concept of the European Genebank Network for AnGR was discussed and revised. It is mainly consisting of the working documents that have been created before on this workshop and will be presented as a first draft concept for the European Genebank Network for AnGR on the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes. (Draft concept is available on the ERFP website.)

Follow up to the Access and Benefit Sharing requirements of the FAO

Elzbieta Martyniuk presented the requirements of the FAO concerning access and benefit sharing. She gave a review of the current regional and global situation and explained the planned next steps on the various levels. (Presentation is available on the ERFP website.)

Next steps

The revised tables "Institutional Conditions" and "Technical Conditions", that describe the current state of genebanks in Europe, will be sent to the National Coordinators and the members of the Working Group Ex situ Conservation again with revised definitions. The definitions should facilitate to fill the table in the right way. The "Draft concept note for the establishment of the European Genebank Network for AnGR" will be presented on the ERFP Assembly Meeting in Nantes. If the Assembly agrees, this draft concept will be further elaborated.

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There was no other business to be discussed.

Closing remarks

Frank Begemann expressed his gratitude to the participants for the constructive discussion and the very productive workshop. Catherine Marguerat-König, chair of the ERFP Steering Committee, endorsed him. She thanked the Secretariat for the organization of the meeting. After that, she wished everybody a good journey and closed the workshop.