



Genetic Resources for EU Agriculture: Status and vision

Brussels, 9th June 2016

Background



- **Recommendations have been built on the activities undertaken and the analysis of results performed**
 - ✓ Mapping activities, reviewing literature, performing interviews, developing case studies, organising workshops
- **Recommendations address all seven themes identified by the EU Commission**
- **Recommendations offer concrete suggestions for EU and MS policy**





- Recognising the special nature of agro-biodiversity -



[1. Scoping agro-biodiversity

- **Recognise and define agro-biodiversity in EU agricultural policy and legislation**
- **Agro-biodiversity is a sub-domain of biodiversity at large**
 - ✓ exhibiting specific features (human-made)
 - ✓ offering specific opportunities (tradeable products)
 - ✓ showing specific needs (pre-competitive nature)
 - ✓ characterised by strong connection to the food on our plate and to food production systems/rural areas





- Promoting conservation and utilization of GRFA in the value chain -



4/5. Developing R&D for conservation and use of GRFA

- **Promote European, national and regional R&D programmes**
 - ✓ to support the sustainable use of diversity for food and nutrition
- **Enhance and promote awareness and lower barriers for SME**
- **Develop appropriate infrastructure for pre-breeding activities**
 - ✓ addressing genotypic and phenotypic characterisation to render the use of wider genetic diversity attractive



6/7. Strengthening knowledge brokering roles/ EIP operational groups and Thematic networks

- **Secure transfer of information from research to production (along the value chain) to realise valorisation**
- **Establish European Innovation Partnerships operational groups to develop and strengthen diversity valorisation projects**
 - ✓ focus on neglected crops and rare breeds
 - ✓ develop new business models
 - ✓ provide a framework for cooperation along the value chain
 - ✓ finance under national / regional RDP
- **Explore the possibility of European wide Thematic Network for GRFA under Horizon 2020**
 - ✓ Allocate specific call topic on GRFA thematic network in H2020 Work Programme
 - ✓ bring people from science and practice together





- Capitalising on available capacities and expertise –
- Strengthening cooperation -



2. Establishing EU Coordination Platform

- **EU Coordination Platform to strengthen coordination between EU Commission and Member States, as well as between Member States**
 - ✓ assign formal responsibilities
 - ✓ nominate MS Focal Points in Platform
 - ✓ enhance coordination across EU DGs
 - ✓ liaise with FAO Commission Genetic Resources Focal Points
 - ✓ capitalise on expertise and capacities in existing European networks (ECPGR, ERFP, MIRRI, EUFORGEN) and involve farmers' organisations
 - ✓ foster information exchange
 - ✓ provide support in dealing with new challenges (e.g. implementation of Nagoya Protocol and International Treaty)



3. Supporting actors in diversity supply chain

- Support creation of European networks for microbial and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture
- Support EU user networks in developing regional and local supply chains
 - ✓ Farmer organisations, seed savers networks
- Promote collaboration and integrated approaches between *ex situ* and *in situ* activities/communities



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- Supporting awareness raising-



8/9. Improving value chain cooperation/ Promoting consumer awareness on diverse foods

- Facilitate reproduction of rare breeds and neglected crops
- Support promotion of added value
 - ✓ biodiversity, tourism, cultural heritage , geographic indications
- Support promotion campaigns for wider awareness on diverse foods and nutritious diets
 - ✓ using the platforms suggested above
 - ✓ (EU Coordination Platform; European networks; EIP operational groups)





- Developing strategy and mobilizing funding -



13. Developing a long-term EU Agrobiodiversity Strategy

- Secure long-term funding for essential activities
- Plan for activities
- Identify potential synergies with and between stakeholders
- Review options to financially support existing regional networks

- In harmony with the EU Biodiversity Strategy (Target 3)
- Involving all relevant DGs
- Capitalysing on the proposed EU Coordination Platform and EIP Operatinal Groups



11. Reviewing grant funding mechanisms

- Review grant funding conditions under agri-environmental measures (AEMs) of the rural development policy (RDP)
 - ✓ to support the work of EIP operational groups
 - ✓ allowing collective financial support for collective activities



12. Reducing administrative burden

- **Reduce administrative burden in particular for SMEs given their pivotal role in exploiting new ways to utilize GRFA**
 - ✓ improve availability of support functions
 - ✓ in relation to agri-environmental measures and implementation of Nagoya Protocol



- Creating supportive policy and legislation -



10. Reviewing legislation impacting on GRFA

- **Review existing legislation in other areas for their impact on the conservation and use of GRFA**
 - ✓ veterinary and phytosanitary legislation
 - ✓ seed marketing legislation
 - ✓ ABS legislation
 - ✓ IPR legislation



Summary of recommendations



- **Recommendations deal with**

- ✓ Recognising special nature of GRFA
- ✓ Promoting conservation and utilization of GRFA in the value chain
- ✓ Capitalising on available capacities and expertise
- ✓ Raising awareness
- ✓ Strengthening cooperation
- ✓ Developing strategy and mobilizing funding
- ✓ Creating supportive policy and legislation



Conclusions



- Genetic resources for food and agriculture are essential for future food and nutrition security and sustainable production
- Europe has a rich genetic resources history and actors to build on
- EU has a natural coordinating role
- Growing public awareness should be exploited
- Many frameworks to promote conservation and utilization of genetic resources in existence, but focus on genetic resources for food and agriculture lacking
- All recommendations within reach

