

UK Plant Genetic Resources Group

Minutes of UKPGR summer meeting on Thursday 7th July 2016, 10.30 – 12.00 Sophi Taylor building, NIAB Innovation Farm

Nigel Maxted, University of Birmingham (Chair; NM)
Sophia Abbasi, BBSRC (SA)
Mike Ambrose, JIC (MA)
Jennie Preston, NIAB (JP)
Lydia Smith, NIAB (LS)
Penny Maplestone, BSPB (PM)
James Armitage, RHS (JA)
Charlotte Allender, University of Warwick (CA)
Sarah Cunningham, Defra (SC)
Elizabeth Scott, NIAB (ES)

Frances Gawthrop, Tozer (FG)
Kirsten Ballard, Tozer (KB)
Abi Johnson, NIAB EMR (AJ)
Glenn Bryan, JHI (GB)
Hugh Jones, NIAB (HJ)
Sean May, University of Nottingham (SM)
Adrian Turner, JIC (AT)
Ianto Thomas, Aberystwyth University (IT)
Tom Christie, SASA (TC)
Matt Ordidge, University of Reading (MO)

16/17 Apologies (NM)

Neil Munroe, Gerry Hoppe, Peter Hoebe, Milika Buurman, Julian Hosking, Ruth Eastwood, John Dickie.

16/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2016 (NM)

It was agreed that these minutes will be reviewed at the full meeting in October

16/19 Matters arising (NM)

NM received a letter from the Prince's Trust agreeing to contact Defra, NFC and Garden Organic to see if these organisations are supportive of the UK landrace project. If these organisations are supportive, the Prince's Trust will seek supermarket support to fund this project.

16/20 UK landrace conservation and use concept note (JH/NM)

This item was postponed until to the October meeting.

16/21 Updating the UK National Inventory and EURISCO (IT)

IT gave a EURISCO demonstration highlighting interface improvements. The improvements have highlighted errors/inconsistencies with the data and these need to be addressed before moving forward.

ACTION ALL: Contact IT if you are interested in trailing the new system

16/22 Dialogue between *Ex Situ* collections and Defra over germplasm export in England / Wales (MA)

MA attended a meeting on the 10th May and APHA are taking on board comments regarding efficiencies. The review that is being undertaken is on the basis of the UK remaining in the single market. Currently the plans for the efficiencies and review will go ahead as planned. The review will be discussed at the next meeting in October.

16/23 ECPGR update (CA)

CA attended the mid term steering committee in May and the meeting report and summary are available here <http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/about-ecpgr/steering-committee/14th-sc-meeting/http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/about-ecpgr/steering-committee/14th-sc-meeting/>

16/24 Feedback on Plant Treaty (SC)

The 5th working group meeting on enhancing the MLS will take place in Geneva next week, and the UK will be attending in observer capacity. The Secretariat has produced a new revised draft SMTA which proposes a simple subscription system. Members of the UKPGR group raised concerns about the impact that introducing fees will have on use, and that changes needed to be considered as part of a broader package that includes expansion of Annex 1.

The final meeting of the working group will take place in November 2016 and it will focus on expansion of Annex 1. The intension is that the revised SMTA will be agreed at the next Governing Body meeting at the end of 2017.

ACTION DEFRA: Summarise comments from this discussion and circulate these along with revised SMTA seeking further comments in advance of the Geneva meeting.

16/25 Easy SMTA and review of MLS (MO/MA & SC)

This item was postponed until to the next meeting.

ACTION DEFRA: Highlight this as a discussion point for the next meeting and prompt attendees in advance of the meeting.

16/26 Harvesting Diversity II (NM)

This item was postponed until to the next meeting.

16/27 AOB (NM)

Orchard network meeting: JH and MO are organising a meeting at National Trust HQ to bring together experts that are currently working on orchards. The intension is for this meeting to lead to better co-ordination of activities in the future, and funding maybe required to support projects that the group develop.

ACTION DEFRA: Add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

Julian Hosking retirement: Julian will be leaving Natural England in September. It was agreed that he should remain a member of the UKPGR group following his departure from NE as Julian's' expertise is very valuable to the group. NM intends to write to Natural England requesting that resource is put towards conserving genetic resources in order to continue Julian's work

CWR: CWR in-situ group will be holding a meeting with the Nordic group on CWR conservation and use

BBSRC update:

- UK Research and Innovation- Higher education research bill is due to go through and this will establish UKRI bringing the Research Councils and Innovate UK into a single body.
- Global Challenge Research Fund has been set up using overseas development aid money, and calls are currently live.

16/28 Date of next meeting (NM)

Wednesday 5th October

16/29 EU exit vote

This item was added to the agenda on the day of the meeting.

We went around the table and members commented on the impact of the EU vote. A summary of the comments are listed below:

- The UKPGR group has an important role to play in promoting_ PGR issues over the coming period and looking for opportunities, and activities should be co-ordinated to maximise impact and ensure that do not get overlooked. It may be necessary to form a sub group to take actions forward
- Awareness raising and opportunities should feature as a regular item on the Groups agenda
- It may be sensible to review groups ToR at this time
- Funding concerns and general uncertainty is a major issue (plant health, PBR, DUS and plant movement were raised as specific issues)
- Some members have had negative experiences with EU partners following the vote (i.e. being excluded from consortia, issues chairing EU meetings)
- Some individuals collaborate closely with China and USA and do not think that they will be significantly impacted
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ACTION DEFRA: Add awareness raising to future agendas