

UK Plant Genetic Resources Group
Summer Technical meeting on Tuesday 9th July 2019, 14:00– 16:00
Gogerddan Campus, IBERS, Aberystwyth

Nigel Maxted , University of Birmingham (Chair: NM)	Julian Hosking , (JH)
Danny Thorogood , Aberystwyth University (DT)	John Dickie , Kew (JD)
Charlotte Allender , University of Warwick (CA)	Noam Chayut , JIC (NC)
Matt Ordidge , University of Reading (MO)	Caroline Liddell , Defra (CL)
Sarah Trinder , University of Warwick (ST)	Solomy Nantege , Defra (SN)
Sean May , University of Nottingham (SM)	Lesley McCarthy , SASA (LM)
Lin Huang , Aberystwyth University (LH)	
Catrina Fenton , Garden Organic (CF)	

19/13 Apologies (NM)

Simon Toomer (National Trust), Joanne Russell (James Hutton Institute), Penny Maplestone (BSPB), James Williams (JNCC), Felicidad Fernandez (EMR), Abi Johnson (NIAB EMR), Gerard Hoppe (AFBI Crossnacreevy), Frances Gawthrop (Tozer Seeds), Ian Taylor (Natural England), Glenn Bryan (James Hutton Institute), Alessandro Moscuza (DFID)

The meeting was chaired by Nigel Maxted (NM).

19/14 Minutes of the meeting held on 8th April 2019 (NM)

Minutes from the last meeting agreed.

19/15 Matters arising (NM)

No matters arising

19/16 Defra update (CL)

The Nature Strategy 2030 will include a chapter on genetic resources for food and agriculture. The UKPGR group was informally asked to provide guidance in autumn 2019, Rachel Davis will discuss with the Group when she is back from leave and produce a draft paper relating to conservation of PGR for publication in spring 2020. The group was pleased about the inclusion of genetic resources in the strategy.

Action Defra: CL to circulate an email requesting for the task and finish group volunteers, copying in Clare Trivedi who is currently seconding at DEFRA.

19/17 UK National PGR strategy (NM)

NM informed the group about the GenRes Bridge project, a strategy integrating the conservation and use of plant, forestry and animal genetic resources for all the countries in Europe. Forestry, animal and plant genetic resources national coordinators will be asked to provide their existing strategies to help inform this European integrated strategy.

He also urged the group to consider producing a UK PGR strategy and provided them with an outline of what could be included. Members recognised the value of having a UK PGR strategy but noted the lack of time to effectively contribute towards this and the Nature Strategy 2030. It was suggested to discuss this in detail at the general UKPGR meeting in October 2019 to gauge interest and form a sub-group who'll take both this and the Nature Strategy 2030 forward.

Action NM: To provide guidance for the GenRes Project checklist and circulate an excel spreadsheet showing what information is already being recorded e.g. data provided to FAO and an estimate of how long it would take to complete the remaining elements in order to aid discussions and help set priorities at the October meeting.

19/18 ECPGR Update (NM)

A new chair for the Executive Committee has been appointed to replace Eva Thorn who is retiring. There has also been requests for a 'vision and mission' statement suggestions.

19/19 Orchard network update (MO)

MO reported on the recent Orchard Network meeting that looked at habitat management and the ongoing genetic fingerprinting of material, with 1200 of the 3200 samples screened so far found to be unknown in relation to the National Fruit Collection and other UK collections.

An expert panel will meet in August and November 2019 to agree actions on the unique genotypes discovered through this exercise and thus help generate a landraces inventory. Further information can be found at <https://fruitid.com/#main>

19/20 Awareness raising/opportunities, including Natural Capital Committee (JH)

JH explained what natural capital is; an account of all natural resources beneficial to people and assigning a value to these. However, genetic resources haven't previously been considered natural capital and/or assets, but he urged the group to use the Nature Strategy 2030 and the UK National Strategy to work towards changing this.

19/21 PGR applications/project news (NM)

Each member of the UKPGR group gave an update on current projects and activities e.g. LH's application to grow *Miscanthus* in certain parts of Africa, NC's application for a Horizon 2020 project which passed the 1st stage, CA leading on an extended ECPGR Umbellifer Crops WG project after receiving additional funding, NM's application to Darwin Initiative on landraces and crop wild relatives conservation in South America, etc.

19/22 AOB (NM)

- JH expressed interest to be involved in the future nature strategies task & finish group.
- Some groups in the Orchard Network are looking into community based organisations and structures for managing and owning traditional orchards and are keen to know more about conservation governance. A sub-group will also be reviewing the agri-environment scheme for orchards and providing recommendations for improvement.

19/23 Date of next meeting (NM) – 24th October 2019