

UK Plant Genetic Resources Group

UKPGR summer technical meeting on Tuesday 26th June 2018, 10.45 – 12.25

Millennium Seed Bank, RBG Kew, Wakehurst Place,
Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TN

Nigel Maxted, University of Birmingham (Chair: NM)
Catrina Fenton, Garden Organic (CF)
John Dickie, Kew (JD)
Charlotte Allender, University of Warwick (CA)
Ianto Thomas, Aberystwyth University (IT)
Gaynor McKenzie, James Hutton Institute (GM)
Glenn Bryan, James Hutton Institute (GB)
Rachel Davis, Defra (RD)

Kalani Seymour, Plant Heritage (KL)
Matt Ordidge, University of Reading (MO)
Noam Chayut, JIC (NC)
Julian Hosking, (JH)
Tom Christie, SASA (TC)
Ruth Eastwood, Kew (RE)
Felicidad Fernandez, EMR (FF)
Margaret Dunn, NIAB (MD)
Caroline Liddell, Defra (CL)

18/13 **Apologies (NM)**

Apologies: Jeremy Clitherow (NE), Andrew Daymond, (Univ. Reading), Peter Hoebe (SCRUC), Joanne Russell (James Hutton Institute), Penny Maplestone (BSPB), Simon Toomer (NE), James Williams (JNCC), Sean May (Univ. Nottingham)

The meeting was chaired by Nigel Maxted (NM).

18/14 **Minutes of meeting held on 15th March 2018 (NM)**

The minutes were reviewed, it was questioned whether the event mentioned under **18/04**, "Defra will host a Nagoya specific stakeholder event on topics around the Protocol" had taken place. RD advised she will investigate and advise. No other queries were raised.

18/15 **Matters Arising (NM)**

It was requested that Neil Monroe be removed from the distribution list.

Action: Secretariat to remove Neil from distribution list

A question was raised as to whether the plant network slides had been issued. NM advised that they should be the network. NM will check and circulate.

Action: MO to redistribute the plant network slides to the group

18/16 **Outcome of Plant Agrobiodiversity Indicator Discussion (NM)**

NM thought the discussion was useful, the view was that the current indicator wasn't working. There were discussions on the *in situ* and *ex situ*, the *in situ* is on hold until action begins.

Development of the new indicator for *ex situ* is on the basis of;

- In any year, the absolute number of accessions held in UK gene bank
- The number of taxa in gene bank represented by these accessions
- Additional accessions added to collections in that year

IT gave the assurance that he had the necessary data from the previous year to enable back-casting. James will work up the revised indicator in collaboration with Ianto.

18/17 Breadth of Material included in UK National PGR Inventory (NM)

There are concerns about extending the breadth of material included.

NM suggested that he circulate the current list for all to review and then a further discussion of the topic will be held at the next meeting in October. This should also cover what the Group's remit actually is: PGRFA or PGRFA+?

Action: NM to circulate current list

Action: All to review list prior to next meeting

Action: Secretariat to include as agenda item for next meeting

MO also requested the group consider whether other individuals or groups representing additional collections / interests should be invited to join the Group, again this will then be discussed at the next meeting.

18/18 EU Exit

Defra to provide an update at the next meeting in October on the following:

- MD reported ornamental registrations will be leaving NIAB and the UK from the end of 2018, probably moving to the Netherlands. This will leave no DUS testing facilities for fruit in the UK – the Group requested some information on what will happen going forward.
- NM wondered whether funding to UK researchers from Horizon 2020 would continue following EU exit. The Group asked whether Defra will be providing funding for research for 2020.
- FF says she receives many questions from industry about DUS testing and recognizing new varieties particularly of soft fruits post EU exit for which we do not have answers.

Action: Defra to provide an update at the next meeting on the impacts of EU exit on: 1) Access to research & funding, 2) plant variety protection, 3) phytosanitary issues in relation to sending material to the EU from the UK

18/19 ECPGR Update (NM)

NM provided some feedback on the meeting, advising that the following decisions had been agreed;

- 2 meetings of the ECPGR Chairs per Phase, 1 to take place before the Steering Committee, allowing recommendations to be submitted to the Steering Committee.
- An additional maize working group was to be established.
- AEGIS – concerns over the lack of accessions being added.
- An ECPGR generic evaluation network was to be established that would feed user orientated data into EURISCO.
- MOUs was signed between ECPGR and ESA – this will support closer conservation and use linkage.
- Communications Strategy was being developed for ECPGR.

The following was also discussed at the meeting;

- The objective was reviewed for phase 10.

- The mode of operation of phase 10.
- Hosting arrangements for EURISCO – recent moved IPK, Germany was a success.
- ECPGR Secretariat – currently at Bioversity – will stay there for the foreseeable future.

NM also advised that a discussion was held regarding the budget going forward, NM had argued for no increase on behalf of Defra, with Greece requesting an increase of 5%. An increase below inflation was agreed meaning the ECPGRs budget has actually shrunk. However, the award of the H2020 GenRes Bridge project would mean a slight funding increase.

ECPGR also suggested developing capability of DOIs, a unique number that would stay permanently with the accession.

IT advised that he will circulate a link to the website that explains in more details. This will then be discussed further at the next meeting.

Action: IT to circulate link to website

Action: Secretariat to include agenda item at next meeting

18/20 Enriching the UK's Biodiversity meeting feedback (JH)

JH provided feedback on the meeting he attended on behalf of the Group, although the meeting was mostly based around wildlife it provided a good opportunity for networking.

JH advised that Mark Stephenson (Defra) will be attending the October meeting – can we provide context on what we require from him.

JH explained that they provided information on species and taxa and how to recognise them. This is a large volunteer resource, JH asked if we could harness some of it and suggested setting up some meetings with key individuals.

The group agreed that it needs to raise its awareness, perhaps linking in with BSPI, Plantlife, and National Plant Monitoring Scheme. NM suggested that JH lead on this going forward with support from the Group.

JH stressed that we need to get PGRFA and genetic diversity included in all biodiversity policies. The UKPGR group should contribute to the “State of Nature” report to be published in 2019/20 and make sure the concept of genetic diversity is included.

Action: JH to ensure this is provide to Mark Stevenson prior to next meeting.

18/21 Awareness raising/opportunities, including Natural Capital Committee (JH)

JH advised that this follows on from the previous item – getting recognition is important, explaining that NCC have recognised the importance of animal genetics. JH will follow-up with Director of Science in a bid to getting PGR recognised.

Action: JH to follow-up

JH explained that would logically lead on to what are the current risks and what do they lead to? These can then be issued out to policy makers etc.

Animal genetic resources are included in natural capital, plants are not. The same breeds at risk list needs to be developed for plants as already exist for animals, plant genetic resources urgently need to be included in natural capital.

18/20

AOB (NM)

NC advised that the fees and charges for exporting plant material outside of the UK are increasing. A stakeholder group has been established, NC suggested that Group reps get involved, NC will canvas the Group, so far NC, MO and CA have agreed.

NC will lead and provide update at next meeting. Agenda item requested.

Action: Secretariat to include agenda item for next meeting

NM asked IT if his replacement had been agreed yet by the University. IT advised that nothing had been agreed. NM advised he will contact the University directly advising on the importance.

Action: NM to contact Dean at Aberystwyth University regarding a replacement of IT