

UK Plant Genetic Resources Group

Minutes of meeting on Wednesday 9 March 2016 Defra, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London

Nigel Maxted, University of Birmingham (Chair; NM)
Sophie Legiul, Plant Heritage (SL)
John Dickie, Kew (JD)
Matthew Ordidge, University of Reading (MO)
Sean May, University of Nottingham (SM)
Charlotte Allender, University of Warwick (CA)
Adrian Turner, JIC (AT)
Mike Ambrose, JIC (MA)

Julian Hosking, Natural England (on phone; JH)
Gaynor McKenzie, JHI (on phone; GMc)
Tom Christie, SASA (TC)
James Armitage, RHS (JA)
Penny Maplestone (PM)
Gerard M. Hoppe, AFBINI (GH)
Julian Jackson, Defra (JJ)
Sarah Cunningham, Defra (SC)

16/01 Apologies (NM)

Milika Buurman, Lydia Smith, Neil Munro, Ianto Thomas, Ruth Eastwood, Frances Gawthrop, Abi Johnson, and Feli Fernandez.

16/02 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2015 (NM)

Minor corrections were suggested and then the minutes were agreed.

16/03 Matters arising (NM)

ACTION JD: share Kew gene bank standard guidance with the UKPGR group (15/22)

15/24: At the previous meeting NM reported that a revised on farm concept had been resubmitted and rejected. The ECPGR Secretariat has since agreed to re-write this report and the on farm group will have an opportunity to comment.

15/26: Add to agenda discussion points for H2020. It would have been useful to have prepared ideas before this meeting, but instead we will have a superficial discussion today and invite other contributions later.

15/03: NM still hasn't received information from the publishers on the format for the intended landrace publication.

16/04 UK Landrace Conservation and use Concept Note (JH/JJ/NM)

NM: JH was unable to attend the meeting as NE is no longer supporting his genetic resources work. NM suggested writing a letter to NE highlight the role that NE should play in conserving genetic resources conservation and the link with Defra policy drivers.

JH updated the group on the top fruit genetic diversity meeting that he is organising to bring together those working on top fruit conservation. Funding opportunities to support this work were discussed.

16/05 Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (JJ)

UK ratified Nagoya on 22nd February. The EU Regulation and Statutory Instrument have been in force for 7 months. JJ will share the Commission guidance with the UKPGR group once it has been finalised. The new lead for Nagoya at NMRO is Katie Beckett and she has offered to give a presentation at the summer technical meeting.

16/06 Updating the UK National Inventory and EURISCO (NM)

Ianto has accepted an offer to join the EURISCO advisory committee for EURISCO.

16/07 Dialogue between *Ex Situ* collections / Defra over germplasm export in England / Wales (MA)

MA joined APHAs export policy committee 1 year ago and he gave an overview of the achievements to date which include securing the extension of health certificates for seed life beyond 2 years. MA also explained that the committee discussed the current billing system, and that fees will increase in October.

APHA are aware that they need to make efficiencies to speed up their processes and a fundamental review of the system will take place in summer 2016.

16/08 ECPGR Update (JJ)

MO and FF were both successful in the second project funding round.

JJ agreed to circulate the ECPGR questionnaire to the UKPGR group by the end of next week.

ECPGR steering committee meeting will be at the end of May, and papers are not available at present.

The group discussed difficulties with the current ECPGR working groups, particularly the large size of the groups which make it difficult to put project bids together.

16/09 Feedback on Plant Treaty (SC)

Reviewing the MLS is a key task this biennium. An EU PGR working group meeting took place last week, and a wide range of different options are being considered at the moment. We will be contacting stakeholders shortly in order to develop a UK position.

16/10 PGR applications/project news (NM)

Each member of the UKPGR group gave an update on current projects and activities.

16/11 Update on European funding opportunities (CB)

CB gave the group an overview of H2020 timescales for agreeing future work programmes. The aim is to adopt the 2018 – 2020 work programme in the last quarter of next year. NM suggested that priorities should be discussed at UKPGR meeting in July in order to feed suggestions in to the process.

16/12 Harvesting Diversity II (NM)

NM attended the last FAnGR committee meeting, and gave a presentation on the work of the UKPGR group. The FAnGR committee indicated that they would like to work more closely with the UKPGR group and they will be in touch with NM. The FAnGR committee thought that there would be value in Harvesting Diversity II and agreed to come back to NM with further comments.

DEFRA: circulate NM PGR presentation to the group

16/13 Summer Technical Visit (LS/NM)

This meeting will take place on 7th July.

16/14 AOB (NM)

MA: A conference of all the Defra supported Genetic Improvement Network took place on the 22nd February. MA thanked Defra Crops team for organising this event

NM: thanked JJ for getting Arabidopsis data in to EURISCO.

The group agreed to Andrew Daymond (Cocoa Genebank) joining the UKPGR following a request from MO.

ACTION Defra: email Andrew Daymond and add him to the mailing list.

MO initiated a discussion with Genebank managers regarding using click-wrap and shrink-wrap for SMTAs. JIC use click-wrap and shrink-wrap, and send SMTAs through third party beneficiary.

ACTION Defra: add MLS review and easy SMTA use to the agenda for summer meeting

MO: JH & MO attended Defra's environment plan launch, but there were not any opportunities to flag up genetic resources.

The group indicated that more needs to be done to promote genetic resources and Defra highlighted that they are working to ensure that genetic resources are included in the plan.

16/15 Date of next meeting (NM)

Summer technical meeting: 7th July.

Nobel House meeting: 5th October.