

UK PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES GROUP (UKPGRG) - TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The UKPGRG is an informal group concerned with the conservation and utilisation of plant genetic resource (PGR) collections within the UK. It consists of those with direct interests in ex situ and in situ genetic resources. The Group aims to meet at least twice a year and may invite representation from government Departments, NGOs and other interested organisations.
2. The Group will work to the following terms of reference (which shall be kept under review):
 - i) to act as the forum for discussion on PGR issues and exchange of information within the UK PGR community, industry and other interested organisations within the UK, and, as appropriate, other European countries;
 - ii) to provide advice (on both technical and policy matters, whether domestic or international) as appropriate and when required to Defra, DARDNI, WAG, SGRD and other interested Government departments;
 - iii) to address and exchange information on scientific and technical issues relating to PGR (both national and international), including relations with equivalent groups abroad;
 - iv) to encourage the co-ordination of PGR conservation through networking of collections and other initiatives;
 - v) to encourage the utilisation of collections by industry and other stakeholders groups;
 - vi) to coordinate the provision of data to the National Inventory, and provide suggestions for improvements etc to the UK Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Portal;
 - vii) to be instrumental in the delivery of the UK's commitments under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the European Cooperative Programme on Genetic Resources and PGR issues of the Convention on Biodiversity.
 - viii) to develop contacts and co-operation with other informal groups which pursue a common aim of PGR conservation;
 - ix) to review these terms of reference by 31/12/10.
3. The Secretariat to the UKPGRG will be provided by Defra. In addition, a Technical Secretary is elected by members of the Group. The Chairman and Technical Secretary are elected every three years.

Redrafted 18/10/07