

Crop Genebank Knowledge Base

Update 1 – May 2010

Skype Meeting held on 18 May 2010

Objective: To discuss the pending issues on the Crop Genebank Knowledge Base and the next steps for continued maintenance of the CGKB.

Agenda:

1. [Cassava pages](#)
2. [Translation](#)
3. [New crop best practices](#)
4. [Inclusion of further GPG2 products](#)
5. [Copyrights](#)
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Participants: Alexandra Jorge, Elizabeth Goldberg, Jean Hanson, Imke Thormann, Geert Claessens, Esther Gacheru and Ehsan Dulloo.

1. Cassava pages

The cassava pages are well advanced, but a few gaps have to be filled and the content be revised before they can be published. As this was a commitment of the GPG2 and some money is still available to contract an expert to carry out this work, it was agreed that Ehsan contacts Clair Hershey or Rupert Best to see if they are available and willing to do this, estimating a week of work. We should decide on this very soon as funds need to be committed before end of May. Ehsan and Imke will draw up the terms of reference.

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2. Translation

Some GPG2 funds might still be available to be allocated to translation of part of the web site. The number of pages that can be translated will depend on the final amount of funds available. CIMMYT (Tom Payne) is interested in collaborating and has already identified a Spanish translator who also has expertise on wheat and maize crops. Priority should be given to the translation of the crop pages, then management strategies and procedures if time and funds are available. Earlier email exchanges

identified priority crops to translate into Spanish as follows: Maize and Cassava (when/if ready)> Forage legumes/grasses > banana, wheat, rice > barley, chickpea. Although the translations could be done at CIMMYT, other centers located in Spanish-speaking countries could also become involved in the quality control of the Spanish pages on the crops of their expertise (like CIAT for forages and cassava). CIAT also has a well-established translation facility (Lynn Menendez is the contact point). It was mentioned that it would be very useful to have an interest group from the South American-based CGIAR Centres that would help on the quality control of the translation of the Spanish pages.

The technical implementation would require the installation of a language component that will only take about a day of IT time. A button would be added to the top of the web site, above the banner, to switch to the Spanish version at any moment. Then all pages that have been translated, will be shown in Spanish, the other pages are either shown in English or show a text saying something like “translation in preparation”. Further languages can be added at any time. It requires that the whole menu be translated into Spanish also. Only existing English pages can be translated into Spanish, i.e. we cannot have new pages that will only exist in Spanish. The translated pages will be mirrors of the English pages. Geert mentioned he can prepare a tutorial to explain how the translation component can be added, to use in the future for other languages.

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3. New crop best practices

It was agreed that it would be desirable to focus on Annex 1 crops as a first priority, including also other crops managed by CG Centers, but not included in the CGKB to date. Since this may depend on available funding, which would need to be raised, we need to take a more pragmatic (and somewhat opportunistic) approach to expanding the best practices for other crops. This would include consulting with various partners that might be interested to expand the CGKB into their relevant crops. The following opportunities for production of additional crop best practices were suggested:

- The next crop that will be added is radish. The radish best practices were compiled by a CAAS intern, who visited Bioversity for three months in 2009. A first draft with contributions from various genebanks has been compiled and after a further revision, the content will be uploaded to the web site, following the structure of the other crops, very soon. Another CAAS fellowship for 2010 is being discussed and might provide for the opportunity to repeat that experience with another crop.
- GEF tropical fruits project (NBPGR, India): Ehsan to check with Bhuwon, if there is material for the production of best practices and if they would be interested in contributing to the expansion of the CGKB.
- Ehsan will be meeting with Jean Louis Pham of IRD. He will ask him about IRD developing a best practice, for example, on millets for West Africa.
- A manual for coffee cryopreservation is being compiled with Florent Engelmann at IRD and can also be added to the CGKB once it is ready.
- Approaching the Treaty secretariat for funding. For this purpose we need to develop a concept note which takes into account the inputs and costs involved to produce the best practice for one crop. It was suggested to develop the concept note as a mini-project (can use the Bioversity CN

template) (action: Imke). It would make sense to focus on Annex I crops and target those for which we have already developed regeneration guidelines. Prior support from the Trust for the regeneration guidelines could also be mentioned in the rationale.

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4. Inclusion of further GPG2 products

During the ICWG in May 2010 in Rome, it was proposed to include some relevant products of GPG2 activities into the CGKB, to give them more visibility and facilitate dissemination. Final products (strategy documents) about genetic stocks, non plant taxa (rhizobia, microbes) and neglected and underutilized species will be linked to the CGKB (preliminary discussions were already held with Fen Beed and Nicolas Roux in Rome). The appropriate place will be under Management Strategies, providing for 1 or 3 new menu items. Jean will circulate the executive summaries of these documentations, which will allow the group to decide how many menu items to add and how to name them. Documentation about in vitro/cryopreservation of 5 crops (banana, yams, sweet potato, cassava, potato) will be linked to the conservation pages under Procedures. A short paragraph will be added to the appropriate pages and a link provided to the PDFs. Additional links to these PDFs will be added to the respective crop (banana and cassava) pages as well as relevant in the regeneration guidelines pages of these clonal crops.

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5. Copyrights

Jean reported about a meeting with Victoria Henson-Apollonio a few weeks ago in Rome. Victoria recommended removing the text from our copyright page and providing only the links to the centers, so we do not need to update that text, which might change over time. She recommended contacting all contributors and asking them whether they have any objection to use the creative commons for the web site. Victoria agreed further to check the draft message to the contributors that Jean agreed to draft.

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6. Collective ownership

Importance of collective ownership was stressed. The contact persons need to be engaged in further web site content maintenance and development. Following suggestions were made:

- Contact persons should regularly check the content updates of their respective pages (as mentioned in the terms of reference they agreed to earlier). They will need periodic reminders from Imke to do that.
- It's important to inform contact persons about changes to the web site. A listserv of focal points and editors of the CGKB should be established to share information, take care of the site and make decisions in the future about the CGKB, to assure a collective group takes responsibility of the CGKB. Minutes from meetings such as the one today, should be shared via email with contact persons to keep them abreast of planned developments.
- Set up a repository place on the web site where these regular updates can be archived and are accessible to all contact persons, with a password protection.

- A summary of these updates could be posted on the blog that is publicly visible to inform users and contributors about what is happening on the CGKB site.

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7. Server maintenance

Server maintenance is secured for 2010. The annual costs are about 5000 USD. This cost could in future be shared among the centers who contributed to the CGKB. It is suggested to postpone further discussions about this issue until after decisions on mega programs have been made.

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