

National coordination of plant genetic resources conservation of cultivated species and their crop wild relatives

In 2018 both the National Coordination Structure and the CTPS Section for Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) Conservation continued to build on its positive momentum. In particular, the first conference for stakeholders involved in PGR conservation took place on 29 November in Paris.

CTPS PGR Section

The CTPS PGR Section and the four working groups of the Section met regularly in 2018 and made significant progress. The first version of the glossary, establishing a common vocabulary, was posted online in September 2018 on the GEVES website. It will be updated as and when the terms are validated by the Section. The technical regulation on the official recognition of managers of plant genetic resources collections was approved by order of 28 March and published in the official journal on 12 April 2018. It allows managers to file an application for official recognition, either individually or on behalf of a conservation network. There are two application periods: in spring and autumn. The relevant documents are available on the GEVES website.

Management of orphan species and endangered collections

The GeLenHa study made it possible to draw up an inventory of the actors and collections of pea, lentil, and bean PGR, and to propose conservation schemes best adapted to the three species. The three groups of species are in a variety of situations. For beans, the creation of a public-private cooperation network for resource management has been noted and is being formalised through the approval of a charter and the drafting of rules of procedure. For the other two groups of species, the number of stakeholders is not sufficient, various solutions are under study.

In the case of onion plant genetic resources, the approach was inspired by what was accomplished in the GeLenHa study. This led to a rapid agreement in principle on the creation of a public-private cooperation network for the management of this collection.

Support funds for resources maintained in situ and in collections

Following the call for applications in support of collections launched in February 2018, 8 projects were selected, after significant work in accompanying the applicants, for a grant of just over 115 000 €. The projects financed mainly concern actions to safeguard and characterise collections. A new call for applications was launched in September 2018. It is funded by both the Ministry of Agriculture and Food for an amount of 300 000 € and by a GNIS support fund from the interprofessional seed and plant sector for an amount of 170 625 €. 28 projects were submitted to this call for projects, representing a funding request of over 730,000 €.

Inventory of stakeholders and collections

The first conference for stakeholders involved in PGR conservation and valorisation took place on 29 November 2018 at FIAP Jean Monnet in Paris. On 29 November 2018, over a hundred people came together to discuss issues related to the management and promotion of PGRs, to meet with other stakeholders, and to learn about the national and international legislative and regulatory framework. A diversity of stakeholders were present with regard to the type of structures represented, the species conserved, and the activities developed. Elements reported during the day and the satisfaction survey will be used to set up practical workshops for collection managers in 2019 adapted to their concrete needs.

Representing France at EU Level

The ECPGR steering committee took place on 15-17 May in Thessaloniki, Greece. At this meeting, the objectives and operations of the ECPGR and the budget required for phase X (2019-2023) were validated. Two new species groups were set up in 2018 for maize and berries. Similarly, the creation of an EU PGR evaluation network in public-private partnership (VAS) has been endorsed. It aims to prioritise the resources of the European AEGIS collection (<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/resources/european-evaluation-network/>). This collection, launched in 2009, is struggling to take shape with regard to the number of stakeholders (countries and associate members) and the size of collections. At a meeting organised in December in Madrid, various participants including France helped to remove implementation barriers and challenges, and to propose solutions.

