Gene banks work together

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The Svalbard Global Seed Vault - established in the permafrost in the mountains of Svalbard, is designed to store duplicates of seeds from seed collections around the globe.
Maps of all of the Countries of Europe
Baltic Countries
British Isles
European Union
Mediterranean Sea
Scandinavia
Ex-U.S.S.R and Iron Curtain Countries
Europe Map Puzzle
Print Maps of Europe and the Countries of Europe
Arctic Map
Maps of All Countries
Map of Europe
Methodology transfer & development
Documentation
Evaluation
Capacity building
Conservation
ECPGR
Collection & Conservation

• Collecting together: *Expertise, increasing collection diversity*

• Conservation: *Expertise, task sharing, resource use*
  – The Svalbard Global Seed Vault
  – The CGIAR center collections
  – Dutch-German potato collection, Allium collection at Olomouc

Crop conservation strategies?
Crop conservation strategies

• Identifying important collections and gaps
  ➞ Avoid duplicate work, capture the diversity

• Linking *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation

• Rational, secure and good quality conservation
Documentation

• Gene bank management systems – local development

• Descriptor lists – agreed formats, ECPGR central crop DBs

• Portals for users – many directions
Characterization and evaluation

- Regional and international collaboration – EU support
- Important traits?
- Data availability in the information systems?
- Progress?

How can we serve you?
Methodology development

• Project based activities e.g.
  – Conservation methods
  – Regeneration methods
  – Molecular methods
  – Diversity analyses
  Etc.
Common Research Strategy

• A tool to prioritize the work and avoid overlapping

• A tool to communicate with the funding agencies
  – Urgent needs
  – Support to national and common EU policies
Capacity building from the Nordic perspective

• Nordic - Baltic Cooperation on Plant Genetic Resources

• SADC Programme for Conservation of Plant Genetic resources in Southern Africa

• South East European Development Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SEEDNET)
Capacity building benefits

Direct benefits
• Technical facilities
• Human resources
• Funding

Indirect benefits
• Future collaboration partnerships: “We know already each other”
• New perspectives on genetic resources – utilization
• Cultural knowledge
• Tradition and means for co-operation
Co-ordination

Regionally
- Bilateral arrangements
  - The Dutch - German Potato Collection
- Regional gene banks
  - The Nordic model
  - Establishment support
- Continent wide collaboration
  - ECPGR and AEGIS

Globally
- IPGRI/Bioversity International
- CGIAR
- FAO -SoW
What should we know of each other?

- Tasks and scopes of different gene banks
- Research and innovations
- Human and technical capacities
- Services provided: users, other gene banks
- Policies
Driving forces

• Biodiversity loss
  – Uniform agricultural systems
  – In situ conservation of CWRs
• Climate change
  – Regional in situ & ex situ plans
• Nutrition and food security
  – Plant breeding
• Political and economical changes
  – Public awareness
• Changes in PGR user community
What should Gene Banks should do?

• Intensify co-operation in order to carry out their basic task in most rational and cost-effective way

• Take care of the interests of all the PGR users including the coming generations

• Work for global “gene bank information centre”? 
Conclusions

• Gene banks have a long tradition for collaboration at technical level

• A clear co-ordination body would benefit the overall progress in PGR conservation and use
Thank you!