

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1. Action objectives

#### WP1:

- **Objective 1:** Development of crop databases for spinach, *Cichorium* and minor leafy vegetables and updating the existing International *Lactuca* database.
- **Objective 2:** Prioritize accessions for regeneration, characterization and evaluation. If necessary, special selections or core collections will be made for the evaluations of the different crops with the help of these databases.
- **Objective 3:** Link results of the characterization and evaluation activities of the project to the respective databases.
- **Objective 4:** Establish a functional system of safety duplication of the leafy vegetable crops in cooperation with the ECPGR Leafy Vegetables Working Group.
- **Objective 5:** Identify gaps in the collections also in cooperation with the ECPGR Leafy Vegetables Working Group, to broaden the collections.

#### WP2:

- **Objective 1:** To regenerate and characterise parts of partner's gene bank collections, for improving conservation and utilization.

#### WP3:

- **Objective 1:** To evaluate germplasm of the leafy vegetable crops for pest and disease resistance and abiotic characters for a much more effective utilization of the gene pools.

#### WP4:

- **Objective 1:** To evaluate material for utilization and marketing purposes resulting in specialized and regional products, increasing the diversity of products for the consumer. This includes the evaluation for organic farming systems, which will result in products to fulfil consumer demands in this area.

#### WP5:

- **Objective 1:** Effective management of the project.

- **Key results achieved and outputs**

**WP1:**

- **Result 1:** The International *Lactuca* Database (ILDB) was updated and new databases for spinach, chicory and minor leafy vegetables were developed. The passport data of 17,530 accessions from 129 collections were collected for the four databases combined.
- **Result 2:** Fifty-five data files generated within the frame of the project in workpackages 2 (Characterization), 3 (Evaluation) and 4 (Utilization) were linked to the databases in downloadable Excel format. The option was included in the on-line search tool of the databases to select only accessions with project data, and access to the Excel files was provided in the accession information screen of the search results.
- **Result 3:** An inventory of the status of safety duplication of leafy vegetables accessions was carried out among the project partners. Safety duplication arrangements were initiated by three project partners during the course of the project.
- **Result 4:** A gap analysis of each of the four leafy vegetables databases was carried out and priorities for acquisition were identified.

**WP2:**

- **Result 1:** In total 131% of all accessions involved in the project have been regenerated (111%) and/or characterized (152%) within the duration of the project.

**WP3:**

- **Result 1:** Both for pest/disease resistance evaluation and quality/abiotic evaluation, tests and evaluations realised by all the involved partners (P0, P1, P2, P4, P5, P7, P8, P9 and P10) permit to reach during the 2007-2010 period 117 % of the aim for lettuce (*i.e.* 110 accessions finally), 104 % for spinach (*i.e.* 332 accessions finally), 102 % for chicory (*i.e.* 271 accessions finally) and 114 % for minor crops (*i.e.* 57 accessions finally). Finally, 784 accessions for all these species have been evaluated *i.e.* 106 % of the initial aim.

**WP4:**

- **Result 1:** The target numbers for evaluation utilisation and marketing (WP4) were exceeded for all crops: for lettuce 44 accessions were evaluated (target 40), chicory and endive 136 accessions evaluated (target 125) minor crops 57 accessions evaluated (target15). Furthermore all NGO partners involved in WP4 identified genebank accessions that had potential for development for their local markets.

**WP5:**

- **Result 1:** The project was managed by one coordinator and four WP leaders. To ensure an efficient flow of information among all eleven partners five general and four workpackage leader meetings took place during the four year project time. Also a project website was developed which became functional early during the project. The website proved to be valuable as it functioned as a platform for the project partners. E-reports were also used to enhance the flow of information among the partners. The communication between the project partners and the EC commission took place via the project coordinator and this communication proved to be effective as it solved the minor problems that occurred during the project time quickly. The interaction of the project with the general audience took place via a considerable number of professional (in journals, newspapers and on the web), via the project website, via scientific publications, via oral presentations at symposia or via the national radio and via events initiated by the various project partners.

