

Commission Plant Genetic Resources
Business Meeting 18 August 2014 5:10-6:20pm Brisbane Australia

There were about 20 members of the Commission present.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction of the new Chair and Vice Chair
2. Update on activities of the working groups
3. Other activities of the Commission
4. Future activities and plans for symposia

1. The Chair of the Commission, Dr. Hannah Jaenicke, welcomed the participants to the meeting. She introduced herself and the current Vice Chair, Dr. Barbara Reed and introduced the new Chair, Dr. Damiano Avanzato and Vice Chair Dr. Sandhya Gupta.

2. The Commission has currently three working groups.

2.1 PG1: **Genebank Management.** This PG had one joint symposium with Commission Molecular Biology and In Vitro Culture (CMMB) in 2013. No other symposia are currently planned and the cryopreservation symposium will in future be organized primarily through CMMB. Participants discussed whether or not to continue PG1 and which activities/symposia could be organized. Finally, it was agreed to continue the working group and revitalize it through new relevant symposia. The incoming Chair was requested to follow up.

2.2 PG2: **Genetic Resources of Ornamentals.** This PG had a symposium in 2012 in Beijing. Prof. X. Zhang, the working group Chair gave a brief update on upcoming activities. The second symposium on Ornamental Germplasm will be convened by Prof. Donglin Zhang at Georgia University, Atlanta, Georgia USA. It is planned for 8-12 August 2016, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the ASHS. It is co-sponsored by ISHS Section Ornamental Plants (SEOP). Dr Avanzato noted that in the document given to ISHS Council for approval the date is 8-11 August, so an amendment to correct the date to 8-12 August would be sought by Council in the meeting on Friday.

2.3 PG3: **Underutilized Plants.** This PG had a symposium in 2008 in Arusha, Tanzania and in 2011 in Kuala Lumpur Australia. Dr. May Taylor, the working group Chair gave a brief update on further activities. The third symposium of that series was initially planned to be held in the Caribbean but the convener pulled out after several months planning. A new convener was then found in Dr. C. Ravindran of Tamil Nadu University. Following clarification about Acta submission for an earlier ISHS symposium convened by the same convener the ISHS has now given green light for this symposium to proceed. The earlier planned date of January 2015 has now been shifted to September 2015. In the following discussion, Dr SK Malik, NBPGR, New Delhi, India, offered his institute's collaboration to the convener. Dr. Jaenicke also informed the participants that the MS Swaminathan Foundation had initially been very interested to convene the symposium and would be a very valuable Indian partner.

3. Dr. Jaenicke then informed the participants of other activities of the Commission outside symposia. The Chair of the Commission was instrumental in re-negotiation an MOU between ISHS and the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT) on the development of conservation

strategies for horticultural crops following an earlier MOU that Dr Kim Hummer initiated and that led to the development of the Strawberry Strategy. Currently, work is in progress on a strategy for Citrus and work is planned for Apple. The MOU requires regular revision and the Executive Secretary of ISHS with the Chair of the CMGR will continue the dialogue with GCDT.

4. Dr. Jaenicke proposed that the series of Commission-wide symposia on Plant Genetic Resources would be continued with the 5th ISHS International Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources during IHC2018 in Istanbul. The participants agreed and Dr. Avanzato was asked to do the needful to register this interest with the IHC2018 conveners.

Dr. Avanzato then gave a brief overview of some of the plans he has for new symposia in the Commission. These range from looking into genetic resources for waste-land regeneration to crop-specific symposia on apricot and carob genetic resources and seeking dialogue to discuss ethical and moral questions of plant breeding and genetic engineering. Dr. Avanzato will seek Council approval for several symposia that already have a convener and planned date. The participants applauded Dr. Avanzato for his initiatives and suggested that some of the topics could be discussed through electronic discussion forum with the CMGR members before deciding whether or not they would attract sufficient interest to convene a symposium.

With no further questions from the floor, Dr Jaenicke then thanked Dr. Reed for her inputs as Vice-Chair and wished the incoming team Avanzato/Gupta good luck in their upcoming term. The participants thanked Dr. Jaenicke for her activities.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20pm.