

INPUT/BRIEF PROCINORTE

Agenda item

Task Force on Genetic Resources (NORGEN)

Annual Report from Task Force and Proposed Activities for 2019

The three Task Force representatives are:

- Mexico: Dr. Ramón Ignacio Arteaga Garibay, Director, Centro Nacional de Recursos Genéticos, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP), Tepatitlán de Morelos, Jalisco
- United States: Dr. Peter Bretting, National Program Leader, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington DC; and
- Canada: Dr. Axel Diederichsen (Task Force Leader), Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon; Leader of NORGEN Task Force since June 2015.

For 2019, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) allocated a budget of USD 6,000 for the NORGEN Task Force.

1. What activities has the TF undertaken over the past year?

1.1. Virtual Meeting NORGEN Task Force and PROCINORTE Secretariat, June 05, 2019

The changes in the PROCINORTE Secretariat were communicated to the Task Force Leader in Mexico, Canada and the US.

1.2. Survey about PGR training priorities administered in Canada and in Mexico under the auspices of NORGEN

Patrick Burne (Colorado State University) and Gayle Volk (USDA, Fort Collins) prepared a survey to learn from stakeholders about training priorities required in the field of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The taskforce members in the US, Mexico and Canada distributed this survey in their respective countries and beyond to relevant stakeholders. A total of 425 survey responses was analyzed, representing academia, genebanks, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector. 78% of the respondents were from the U.S. and Canada and 22% of the respondents were from Asia, Europe, Latin America, Oceania, Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa/Middle East. The survey documented a clear need to provide plant genetic resources training materials on both a national and international scale. The funding of USD 3,000.00 for translating this survey from English into Spanish and French was not used, because the survey was very short and easy to understand.

1.3. Learning materials for plant genetic resources conservation and use

The specific objective of this project is to develop a learning module on the conservation of crop wild relatives and their use in breeding programs. The module will include a variety of formats (videos, images, explanatory text, infographic) organized into an e-book chapter. The module will be designed to function as a stand-alone lesson or to form part of a coordinated series of lessons. We envision that the materials developed in this project will be useful in training personnel of the three germplasm systems. The learning material will be completed by end of December, 2019. Costs: USD 3,937.00.

1.4. Study on maize germplasm flow among the countries and impact on cropping systems diversity

An outline for such a project has been presented in Spanish language but needs further discussion among the Task Force members.

2. Planned activities for 2020:

Suggested activities for 2020 could include:

- Outreach to Latin American countries based on training material developed by USDA/Colorado State University
- Continuation on interaction with Three Sisters Project of AAFC
- Training on GRIN-Global
- Participation in two-day event: "Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC) 50 Years Anniversary Symposium and Workshop" August 5 and 6, 2020 at Saskatoon
- Study on maize germplasm flow among the countries
- Training on GRIN-Global genebank software at Saskatoon

A Task Force Meeting in late October will discuss these options.

Prepared by:

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306-385-9465
16 October 2019