

The relevance of quality management systems for AEGIS

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This presentation

- The AEGIS concept
 - rationale
 - objectives
- Results so far
- Conditions for progress
 - policy level decisions
 - quality management decisions

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The AEGIS concept: rationale

- Towards a more efficient European genebank system
 - 2M of the global 6M accessions stored in European genebanks
 - national approaches resulted in > 50 genebanks
 - EU should provide a political framework for closer collaboration
 - AEGIS was developed as ECPGR project

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The AEGIS concept: objectives

■ Shared tasks

- identification and agreed conservation of unique and most appropriate samples
- coordinated planning and execution of tasks
 - collecting, regeneration, storage, characterization, evaluation, distribution
- more cost-efficient use of facilities and expertise

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Results so far

- Strategic framework paper developed
- 4 model crops identified
 - *Allium, Avena, Brassica, Prunus*
 - 3 high maintenance-cost crop complexes
- Curators identified most appropriate samples
 - best regeneration history x best conservation prospects
- No decisions for actual task sharing
 - all work “preparatory”
- Decisions to be made by Steering Committee

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Conditions for progress

- Collaboration at three levels
 - curators, institutional management, policy makers
 - mutual trust is needed
- Detailed analysis of existing collections
- Policy support
- Institutional support
 - quality of operations

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AEGIS and QMS

- Trust political
 - guaranteed access
 - “secured” funding
- Trust is technical
 - agreement on procedures
 - assurance that agreed procedures are applied

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AEGIS and QMS

- Bottom line: not only funding but also cooperation may depend on quality of operations
 - some sort of quality system necessary
 - performance indicators may play key role

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