

Report of the VII Coordination Board Meeting, of FAO-CIHEAM Nut Network

CIHEAM-IAMZ, Zaragoza, Spain 3-4th November, 2009

Participants: Alvaro Ramos Monreal* (Deputy DG for International Affairs, INIA, Spain), Dunixi Gabiña (Deputy Director, CIHEAM, Spain), Antonio López-Francos (Cooperative Research Administrador, CIHEAM, Spain), Mercè Rovira (Nut Network Coordinator, IRTA, Spain), F.J. Vargas (Liaison Officer of Almond, IRTA, Spain), Ignasi Batlle (Liaison Officer of Genetic Resources, IRTA, Spain), Bekir Erol Ak (Liaison Officer of Pistachio, Harran University, Turkey) and Sven Mutke (Liaison Officer of Stone Pine, INIA, Spain).

Gabriele Beccaro (Torino University, Italy), substitute of Giancarlo Bounous (Liaison Officer of Chestnut), can not attend the meeting due a strike at Torino airport. A.I. Koksal (Ankara University, Turkey) and Nevena Alexandrova (REUT, FAO), excused their attendance to the meeting. These 3 people send to the Nut Network Coordination, their communications to the meeting.

(* Alvaro Ramos, attended the Meeting only the first day (3 November))

The meeting followed the agenda proposed.

1.- Opening the Meeting

Dunixi Gabiña, welcomed to the participants to the Meeting in the CIHEAM headquarters, Alvaro Ramos expressed his gratitude to be in the Meeting, and Mercè Rovira, welcomed also all people attending the meeting, especially, B.E. Ak and S. Mutke, the new Liaison officers of Pistachio and Stone Pine, respectively.

2.- Brief information about FAO-CIHEAM-INIA Meeting held on July, 2009.

Mercè Rovira informed to the participants about the meeting, and exposed the financial situation about the network. Since 2004, INIA, do not give support to FAO, for the Nut Network. Since then the activities has been developed with the remaining from other years and with CIHEAM support. **We accorded that Alvaro Ramos, will write to the Director of INIA, asking him to continue the financial support to the FAO for the Network and Mercè Rovira, will write to the IRTA's Director to request to the INIAS's Director the same support.**

3.- Nut network report.

Mercè Rovira presents the Nut Network report from 1990 since 2009. In the different activities exposed, she presents a list of the researchers that received some financial support to attend meetings of the Network. From the report, several thinks can be pointed out:

It is necessary to look for a new Liaison Officer of Walnut. Since E. Germain from INRA, France, was retired, the responsible of walnut has been changed several times. J. Chat replaced E. Germain, but only for about some months due to their change in the job. At that moment, the

Director of INRA Bordeaux, M. Legrait, proposed M. Lafargue for this post, but never she attended any meeting neither she answered any message. **So, it was accorded to look for another person. We agreed that M. Rovira will prepare a letter to Alvaro Ramos, and he will send it to the Director of INRA Bordeaux, asking him for some other person to be appointed as responsible of this crop. If it is not any person in France available who could do this job we will look for another country.**

Referring to Economics, M. Rovira informs that L. Albisu, Liaison Officer of Economics since now, does not work more in nuts, after considering that he has done a very good work on the Network, and thanks him for his effort, the participants consider that it will be important to look for another person to occupy this post. **All participants will suggest for a substitute.**

4.- Subnetwork Liaison Officers' reports of activities: past and prospects

Liaison officers present the activities of their Networks. In addition, M. Rovira presents those from A.I. Koksal and G. Beccaro (nor present at the Meeting). Ignasi Batlle, express his will to stop working for the Network, since he is not longer working on nuts. He considerer that as Liaison Officer of Genetic Resources, he has made a contribution in relation the Inventories Germplasms of different crops, and at this sense the work can considered quite finished (only Pistachio Inventory is still pending). Also he expresses his will to resign as Editor of NUCIS. He informs to the participants, that M. Rovira will be the new NUCIS editor. M. Rovira, and all members of the Network, thanks Ignasi Batlle for all the effort he has made for the Network over the last 15 years.

5.- Other Issues

Nucis Newsletter. All participants agree that this Newsletter is very important for the Network, as it gathers all people working in nuts, and it is important not to stop to edit it. M. Rovira propose that all crop Liaison Officers would be involved in the newsletter, asking for some articles to be published, and also, in collecting information, notes, scientific works, etc. concerning their crop. Liaison Officers, agree to look for this information, and to help in the edition of NUCIS. It was evoked that liaison officers may take the opportunity of international conferences and symposiums to ask for contributions. It is planned to publish the next issue, during 2011. It would be interesting to maintain colour illustrations for the on-line version.

FAO-SCORENA Web site. M. Rovira inform about SCORENA activities, and about the last Meeting that has been held in Poznan (Poland) in April, 2008. The current situation is that there is no budget for Network activities, but one of the aims of SCORENA, is to create a web page with all the information concerning the Networks activities. Looking at this web page, we realize that SCORENA uses the web page of CIHEAM, concerning the activities of the Nut Network. **We decided to improve this page in the following aspects: obtain a direct link to the Germplasm Inventories edited by FAO, and to the Descriptors edited by IPGRI and**

Biodiversity International, this work will be carried out by CIHEAM. M. Rovira will sent, also, to CIHEAM the Data Base concerning the articles published in NUCIS, to be accessible for all people interested.

Presence of Nut Network in International Research projects. M. Rovira informs about the International projects where people having responsibilities in our Network are involved: **SAFENUT** Safeguard of hazelnut and almond genetic resources. European Community, in the frame of (AGRI GEN RES 068- SAFENUT) (April 2008- April 2010). **COST ACTION (873)** European Community: "Bacterial Diseases of Stone Fruits and Nuts" (2007- 2011). **AECI (Agencia Española de Coordinación Internacional)** (2009) Spain-Tunisia. IRTA- Institut de l'Olivier , Sfax Tunisia (2008-2009). Two Proposals for 2010: Spain-Tunisia and Spain-Morocco, were recently submitted. **It will be interesting to insert also links to the research and development projects in which the Network is involved, in the web page of CIHEAM.**

6.- The future of the Network

Renewal the Liaison officer for Walnut and Pecan. In relation of walnut a letter will be sent to the Director of INRA-Bordeaux, asking for some person in France, to be the responsible of this crop in the Network. If it is no possible that a French representation could occupy this post, we will look for another country. In relation to Pecan, the participants agree that at the moment there is not necessary to have a Liaison Officer, the Pecan culture is no so much important, and the activities of this crop are very few.

Pistachio Inventory. B.E. Ak, and N. Kaska, started the inventory some years ago. B. E. Ak, is committed to finish the inventory during next year (2010). He will ask information to Iranian people and UC Davis repository. It will need also, to up date the inventory, M. Rovira and B.E. Ak, will request to people involved in the inventory to up date the data.

Inventories: actualization and digitalization. The Germplasm inventories have been edited some years ago and it is time to actualize them. All the data are now in an old informative system. M. Rovira and I. Batlle will collect all the informatics data that exist now, and will sent to CIHEAM to try to adapt this information in a current informatic system. These files will be used to add new information on the Germplasm inventories.

Courses. Members of the Network agree that the two courses about Nut Production and economics, have been very useful for all people who attended them, and it would be interesting to organize another one. We discuss about the content of this new course, species (all nuts or not), themes, etc. Finally, we accorded to central the course on almond, pistachio and stone pine and focus it on production and economics, making special attention in harvest, postharvest, nut quality and health. CIHEAM, will study the proposal of organising and hosting the course. A tentative date could be 2011-1012.

International Meeting on Mediterranean Stone Pine for Agroforestry systems. Sven Mutke, expresses his will to organize an International Meeting on Stone Pine. His aim is to organize

not a big International Congress, but more a work shop (40-50 people), to discuss about the situation of Stone Pine. A probable date could be in September-October 2011, in Madrid (Spain). Sven Mutke will have all the support he will need from the Network (Coordinator and CIHEAM).

VX GREMPA Meeting of Pistachio and Almonds. Last GREMPA Meeting was held in Athens, so it would be preferable to organise next one (2011) in a country from North Africa. L'Institut de L'olivier in Tunisia was proposed, to be the host, but its Director seems not to be convinced on that. CIHEAM will write to him saying the advisability to organize the Meeting, and offering all their support.

Punctual actions. M. Rovira received the requested from O. Kodad (Morocco) about the possibility to have financial support from the Network to establish an Almond Collection in ENA (École Nationale d'Agriculture), in Meekness. This request has been rejected by the Network members, as it was agreed that the cost of this action is not high and the ENA should be able support it.

Proposal for the VIII Coordination Board. All participants agree in the convenience to meet together each two years, in order to follow better and have the opportunity to talk about the different activities carried on in the Network. At this sense the next Coordination Board, will be held in 2011.

CD of the Meeting. By the end of the VII Coordination Board Meeting, a CD of the presentations given by the participants was prepared and delivered by the CIHEAM to the participants.

The meeting was close on Wednesday, 4 November at 12.15h.

Mercè Rovira

FAO-CIHEAM, Nut Network Coordinator

IRTA-Mas de Bover, 18th November, 2009