EU-China FAB Task Force
26/03/2019

Report session on genetic resources
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Three questions...

1. Common challenges (EU-China)
2. How R&I can address them
3. Best way of jointly tacking these challenges/expected output
Overview of common challenges from the EU and China

Genetic resources – as main element of biodiversity – are the very basis of agriculture. They are needed to constantly adapt to changing demands.

Within-species diversity allows crops to be cultivated in a range of different regions, in different climates and in different types of soils
Overview of common challenges from the EU and China

Challenge 1: Multiple and simultaneous changes

- Climate
- Socio-economic
- Environment
- Modes of production

These changes do not only increase pressure on adaptability of crops / agriculture but also threaten genetic resources.

We are losing GenRes at an accelerating speed!
Overview of common challenges from the EU and China

Agriculture increasingly relying on a narrowing genetic basis.

Example from presentation: 80% of apple production in Germany based on 15 cultivars (2,000 cultivars in collections)

Challenge 2: Need to broaden genetic basis of crops

Improve the status of collections in terms of quantity and quality
Overview of common challenges from the EU and China

Challenge 3: Lack of harmonised information
- Need to agree on minimum, common descriptors for genotyping and phenotyping

Challenge 4: Effective utilisation of GenRes
- Speed up use of GenRes (incl. germplasm enhancement)
- Valorisation of material incl. knowledge on GxE interactions

Challenge 5: Transfer of data and plant material
- Political, legal, phytosanitary bottlenecks
How R&I can address these challenges

1. Create a platform for exchange and coordination allowing to organise workshops, staff exchanges or standardise methods and description of plant material

2. Define a common core collection as a basis for
   • testing genetic resoirces in different environments
   • studying GxExM interactions
   • pre-breeding

3. Better understand the biological basis of traits for „adaptability“
How R&I can address these challenges

4. Address specific technical needs for conservation such as:
   • technology for cryopreservation
   • cleaning of plant material (e.g. from viruses)
   • Developing methods for monitoring the performance of wild resources
   • Develop methods to exchange GenRes (in particular on phytosanitary issues)

5. On-field phenotyping technologies
Best way of jointly tackling these challenges

a. Start with a Coordination and Support Action to bring together information and people as a basis for future, more specific technical research cooperation

b. Explore possibilities for building in specific corps core collections/ collections
Thanks!
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