National activities in SEEDNet program during 2007. 
Project for Regeneration of Industrials plants accessions.

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by

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(Albanian Industrial Working Group Deputy)

Working Group: Industrials plants
Institution: Agricultural University of Tirana
Partner: Albania

Description of the Project activities
Project title: Regeneration of Industrials plants accessions.
Project duration: 05 January 2007 - 30 December 2008
Participants: institutions/partners:
  Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania
  National Tobacco and Cigarette Agency, Tirana, Albania
  Tobacco Station - Cerrik, Albania
  Tobacco Private Manipulation Company ‘Mika Korça’ - Cerrik, Albania
  Centre for Agricultural Technology Transfer, Fushe Kruje, Albania
  Agricultural Department - Tirana. Albania
  Farmers interested on tobacco growing. Albania

The aim of the Project was:
to contribute to national programme on PGR
to secure the conservation of PGR in the region.
to promote a sustainable utilisation of industrial PGR.
to strengthen collaboration and linkages among various industrial stakeholders

During 2007
Among the tasks carried out during 2007, several national programmes and action plans have been formed.
Inventory of all tobacco accessions at TS and Gene Bank of AUT

PGR Centre of AUT has carried out the regeneration of 100 oriental tobacco accessions at TS of Cerrik.
The activities were focused on
  • Inventorying of tobacco accessions and
  • Seed regeneration
  • Ex situ conservation
  • Characterization and evaluation
  • Documentation and Information
  • Sharing of responsibilities

Industrial WG members and scientists from other institutions carry out the activities and other actions according to the work plan agreed by the RSC.
In general, during 2007, PGR Centre of AU of Tirana has realised the principal aims of the project that were:
  • to contribute to the establishment and strengthening of national programmes on PGR.
• to secure the conservation of PGR in the national and regional level,
• to promote a sustainable utilisation of PGR, and
• to strengthen collaboration/ linkages among various stakeholders at national level.

In addition, two round tables on industrial plants in national level were arranged.

It is also carried out some agricultural information but not in conformation with an international system database.
The project is financially assisted by SEEDNet Project and PGR Centre of AU of Tirana was the executing organization.

**Background**

(Situation)

*Tobacco* is a crop with historical value and traditional importance in Albania. Tobacco is an important economic crop for a great number of Albanian farmers. A lot of local types were grown successfully in different drought areas of Albania. Local types were grown before at more restricted levels of soil fertility and on the hills. In latest decades the local types have been replaced by hybrids and new cultivars. Some local types have clear and precise good quality characteristics. Information we have until now is not conforms to an international system database. Local types are a valuable source of genetic material for a sustainable agriculture.

There are lots of local types conserved in PGR Center of AUT and at TS-Cerrik. Lots of local types at TS and GB (AUT) were/are conserved in low term conditions. Progressive introduction of new cvs, has reduced the surfaces occupied by local types. During last decades lots of old local types have been disappeared. There was an immediate need for their regeneration.

There are a lot of local tobacco types in Albania with great interest to be collect.

The *ex situ* conservation contributes to ensure long term safety of PGR

**For these reasons it was an emergent need to do**

Inventory of all tobacco accessions
Regeneration of tobacco accessions
Characterization of tobacco accessions for some morphological characteristics.
All these were not done before according to an international system database.

**The project dealt with**

Regeneration, characterization, evaluation and documentation of industrial PGR

So there was an appropriate connection of project objectives and SEEDNet program.

**The project-proposal dealt with the following of the Project's strategy of SEEDNet:**

- National inventory of tobacco seeds collections and other industrial plants accessions;
- Secured conservation of accessions at national and regional level;
- Improvement of documentation, characterization and evaluation of ind. accessions;
- Increase of utilization of genetic material in *Nicotiana* national collections.
- Development of education and training of the working group members.
Steps we have taken to reach the objective:
- Surveillance of 2 institutions (TS and GB (AUT) for genetic material stocks
- Identification of original material on their possession
- Compilation of the passport data
- Including of the data
- Transferring of data to EURISCO

Work plan
The objectives of the project were to improve ex situ conservation, characterization, collection and utilization of industrial plants accessions at the national level.

Principal activities
1. Identification of original material on TS and GB (AUT) possession
2. Check of passport data and viability of analyzed accessions
3. Identification of genetic material accessions to be regenerated
4. Regeneration of tobacco accessions for three sub types
5. 

Expected Outcome and Specific Project Objectives

The outcomes of this project are important for conservation of industrial plants accessions. They are important especially for tobacco conservation at the Gene Bank.

This project dealt with regeneration of industrial plant accessions. It was focused on
- Inventory of all tobacco accessions (TS + AUT)
- Regeneration of tobacco accessions

Inventory of all tobacco accessions (TS + AUT)
There were 39 accessions of Nicotiana spp. conserved in Gene Bank
There were 198 accessions of Nicotiana spp. conserved in Gene Bank
Seed samples were conserved at different time/years.
For all these accessions there were only some partial data on geographic origin and status of sample.

Regeneration of 100 tobacco accessions
- Semi-oriental sub-types 30 accessions
- Oriental sessile sub-types 30 accessions
- Small leaf or Basma sub-types 15 accessions
- Petiole or Samsoun sub-types 25 accessions

- This project offered seed stocks for Ex situ conservation in Gene Bank and
- Seed stocks ready to be used by breeders in the national breeding programmers.
- Regeneration provides also some data on morphological and agronomic aspects data
II. Work Plan Table (WPT)

Check of passport data and the viability is realized within one month
Multiplication/ Regeneration of tobacco accessions is realized in 9 moths
Some morphological characterization and agronomic data were realized in 4 moths
Data management is in process of realization and it will be closed in 3 months

Detailed Budget Proposed and Used (DBP)

Regeneration of tobacco accessions during 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Cost/unit</th>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Fact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Surveys and expeditions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>12x20=240</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>480000</td>
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<td>Experts daily allowances</td>
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<td>480000</td>
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<td>Expert's daily allowances (partial)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary technical staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daily allowances technical staff</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local transportation 10 daysx200 km/dayx15 l /100 km</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>96000</td>
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<td>2. Multiplication of accessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tobacco accession TS</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>1899,25</td>
<td>189925</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leguminous and others</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2449</td>
<td>122450</td>
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<td>3. Gene bank material</td>
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<td>Check of passport data/viability</td>
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<td>4. Workshops</td>
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<td>Total costs for consumable</td>
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<td>TOTAL COSTS</td>
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Industrial Working Group Deputy Coordinator of SEEDNet Project

Prof. As. Dr. Belul Gixhari Prof. Halit Sulovari