

Name of Issue:

What can be done to improve training and education on PGRFA?

Convenor: Jozef Turok

Participants: A Avagyani, Z Akparov, M Anishetty, A Ginetaite, S Maznevskaa, G Popsimonova, A Ganea, GH Savi, R van Raalte, E Lenarczyk Priwiezienc, E Bettencourt, S Strajeru, M Cerne, I Dulic-Markovich, G Zivkov

Highlights from the discussion:

1. Training and education are important components of each national program
2. Different target groups- Different approaches needed,
 - Professionals working on PGRA activities (gene bank staff etc)
 - Policy/ decision makers
 - Farmers
 - University students
 - School children.
3. The national PGRFA program/committee can achieve highest, direct impact in the first two groups
4. “Training of trainers” is the most effective approach:
 - Provide NP with the tools –Training is a process that never ends;
 - Concentrated training course followed by maintenance of the contact within the group;
 - Very effective at sub-regional level (cultural, language, historic, biological similarities);
 - Address relevant techniques as well as policy issues (Implication and new policies such as the treaty and IPRs);
 - Use examples from different local situations –well adapted, motivating – (NPs may have specific needs)
 - Develop training materials
5. Different approach for policy makers –raise awareness, help to understand Implications of new policies – e. g. by organising short visits by experts from abroad (Other National programs and international organisations)

6. University curricula may be influenced by engaging lecturers/ academics in the national PGRFA committee.
7. Farmers –Through extension services.
8. Identification of needs/ priorities and allocation of resources for training are important tasks of the national PGRFA committee.