

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

THE N.I. VAVILOV INSTITUTE OF PLANT INDUSTRY (LENINGRAD)
and
THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

on

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME

This Memorandum of Understanding is made the fourth day of June one thousand nine hundred and ninety (1990), between the N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Industry, Leningrad (hereinafter VIR) and the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (hereinafter IBPGR).

Whereas VIR is an entity established as the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Plant Industry with responsibility for the preservation of plant genetic resources for the present and future generations.

Whereas IBPGR is an autonomous international scientific organization created by and operating under the aegis of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), with responsibility to promote and coordinate an international system of genetic resources centres to further the collection, conservation, documentation, evaluation and use of plant germplasm and thereby contribute to raising the standard of living and welfare of people throughout the world.

Whereas both VIR and IBPGR, recognizing that they have common objectives in connection with many different facets of plant genetic resources activities, have determined that the interests of each will be advanced by intensified collaboration between them, and also recognizing the interest of VIR in linkages with the international plant genetic resources community and the interest of IBPGR in promoting such links, both parties have agreed to the establishment of a collaborative programme.

Article 1

IBPGR will seek to collaborate with VIR in the planning and implementation of any research IBPGR wishes to undertake on plant genetic resources and will make the results of such research available to VIR as promptly as possible.

Article 2

IBPGR and VIR agree to consider joint research where complementary objectives could best be achieved through collaboration. Such joint research could include taxonomic studies of selected taxa, particularly within the USSR; biosystematic studies of selected taxa where information is lacking; investigation of the status for individual species, which can lead to a strategy for further collecting and evaluation and investigation of genetic variation at the population level of selected taxa.

Article 3

IBPGR undertakes to provide VIR with information stemming from IBPGR's strategic research, especially in relation to conservation methodologies.

Article 4

Where possible both parties will seek to conduct ecogeographic surveys linked to collecting missions which will:

- a. collate relevant research reports and other published material on the taxa chosen and produce (or identify) a suitable summary of information on habit, breeding systems, ecology and general distribution;
- b. identify herbaria with material of the chosen taxa, make contact and where appropriate arrange visits to examine specimens;
- c. establish herbarium collections of the chosen taxa.

Article 5

IBPGR agrees to provide VIR with passport data, when requested and if available, from IBPGR-supported missions.

Article 6

Both parties agree to the participation, where possible, of scientists representing the respective organizations in joint collecting missions throughout the world. When possible IBPGR will provide through its Regional Offices logistical support to collecting missions organized by VIR.

Article 7

VIR will seek to ensure that all germplasm collected and/or conserved pursuant to its overall workplan is effectively characterized, evaluated and documented and that full information concerning such germplasm is made available to scientists and genetic resources centres seeking such information for scientific purposes. IBPGR will seek to ensure that similar information concerning the germplasm of genetic resources centres and genebanks is made available to VIR.

Article 8

VIR will seek to ensure that conservation, regeneration and other facilities supported by IBPGR are maintained in accordance with the standards approved by IBPGR for the operation of such facilities.

Article 9

Through the medium of this Memorandum of Understanding VIR agrees to become a full member of Phase IV of the European Cooperative Programme/Genetic Resources (ECP/GR); and in so doing will:

- a. where possible and in the fullness of time make available in computerized form the passport data on accessions held in VIR collections for the crops dealt with by the ECP/GR (namely *Allium*, *Avena*, *Hordeum*, *Prunus*, *Vitis*, *Pisum*, *Brassica*, *Helianthus* and various forage grasses and legumes), to the respective European databases;
- b. where possible and in the fullness of time send characterization and evaluation data as requested by the recognized Working Groups within the ECP/GR;

- c. participate in at least three of the ECP/GR Crop Working Group meetings during Phase IV on the understanding that IBPGR will send a letter of invitation at least three (3) months in advance for each meeting, that VIR will provide its crop specialists with travel funds, and that ECP/GR/IBPGR will provide the same crop specialists with full accommodation costs during the time of the meeting.
- d. nominate a person to the role of Fruit Tree Liaison Officer to provide liaison between the USSR fruit tree germplasm collections, and the European *Prunus* database, the *Prunus* Working Group and IBPGR;
- e. nominate a person to the role of ECP/GR Country Coordinator for the USSR. This Coordinator will systematically liaise with IBPGR, as the ECP/GR co-ordinating body, and with the Chairpersons of the Working Groups to advance the development of USSR collaboration within the ECP/GR programme.

IBPGR recognizes that VIR by accepting these commitments will provide a valuable contribution in lieu of cash contributions given by the European governments and, therefore, such cash contribution will not be incumbent upon the USSR for its participation in the ECP/GR.

Article 10

VIR agrees to participate in the IBPGR-sponsored crop genetic resources networks by accepting membership of the Barley group and the *Beta* group and expresses its willingness to participate in additional networks as required.

Article 11

IBPGR will, where possible, assist VIR with the acquisition of small items of equipment which will facilitate the VIR conservation programme.

Article 12

From time to time, and at intervals not exceeding two (2) years, IBPGR and VIR representatives designated by the Director of VIR and the Director of IBPGR will meet to discuss proposals and plans of action. This instrument will be in addition to invitations extended to meetings of either organization on an *ad hoc* and *ex parte* basis.

Article 13

With the assistance of IBPGR, VIR will attempt to assemble the documentation on all its germplasm, and as a start to this process IBPGR has agreed to supply a micro-computer to VIR's documentation programme during 1990.

Article 14

IBPGR will, whenever necessary, assist VIR in conducting training courses. In accordance with its specific mandate and in conformity with its training policy, IBPGR welcomes collaboration with VIR in the area of human resources development through training for the benefit of technicians, researchers and leaders of national germplasm programmes particularly from developing countries, in recognition of the special expertise of VIR in conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources.

The framework for such collaboration may be outlined in the following manner:

I. Training at VIR

Types of training to be provided at VIR may be - group training by means of non-degree specialist short-courses of 2-3 weeks' duration and internship assignments (one year extendable to a second year). In the latter case knowledge of Russian is required.

Target population - technicians and researchers of genebanks who are responsible for collection, conservation and utilization of crop germplasm.

Selection of topics, type and duration of training and candidates - will be made on a case by case basis, sufficiently in advance and in full consultation between IBPGR and VIR.

Language of instruction - in view of its wider global use, English would be the language of instruction. VIR and IBPGR hereby agree that lecturing and practical classes be given by the teaching staff in Russian with the use of simultaneous translation into English. Proceeding from evaluation of previous courses held with the United Nations Environment Programme funds (1987-89), it is required that illustrations such as transparencies for overhead projector, slides, posters, charts, etc. which are used in teaching be made in English to attain maximum benefit for trainees.

Practical orientation - it is hereby underlined that all training programmes organized at VIR under this Memorandum of Understanding will have a predominantly practical orientation, i.e. provision of laboratory- and field-based technical skills to trainees relative to theoretical teaching. This is in view of the specific needs of national germplasm programmes. As a guiding principle, any course curriculum should allocate as a minimum 40% of teaching time to laboratory classes and field exercises.

Evaluation of training - each of the collaborating institutes, VIR and IBPGR, has its own method of course evaluation. An exchange of the results of both systems of evaluation should follow upon the termination of each course with a full discussion of the findings as a mechanism for a continuous enhancement and improvement of collaborative training.

Funding/Administration - funding towards trainees' travel costs of training in the USSR including publication of teaching material will be made available through the USSR Center for International Projects. Costs of travel and subsistence for IBPGR representatives will also be met by this fund locally.

II. Training in other countries

As a part of the IBPGR training programme, a number of MSc fellowships, specialized short-courses, individual programmes, research internships are organized annually. IBPGR would inform VIR of its annual training operations well in advance including information regarding method of application, eligibility criteria for selection and cost of training etc. However, in view of IBPGR's training commitment to developing countries, VIR will bear the financial costs of its participants on IBPGR courses.

IBPGR, in specific cases, might request VIR to send one or more of its scientists/staff to teach on an IBPGR-organized training course hosted by a collaborating research institute/university outside the USSR. Prior consultation, including financial implications and how best to meet the costs, will be on a case by case basis and given enough time in advance.

Communication/Liaison Mechanism

For implementation of collaborative training operations within the framework of this Memorandum of Understanding, the IBPGR Training Officer will liaise for IBPGR and the Head of External Relations for VIR.

Article 15

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding may, by mutual consent, add, modify, amend or delete any words, phrases, sentences or articles in this agreement.

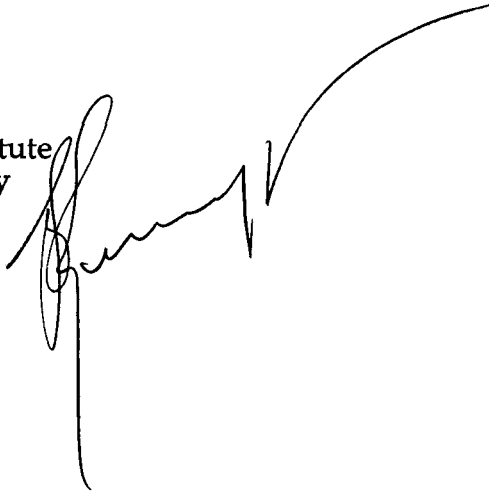
Article 16

This Memorandum of Understanding will take effect from the date of its signature and will remain effective until either VIR or IBPGR serves notice in writing on the other of the intention to terminate it, in which event this Memorandum of Understanding shall stand terminated at the end of one (1) year from the date of issue of such notice.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective organizations have signed this Memorandum of Understanding and attached thereto their seals.

Signed at Leningrad, on the fourth day of June 1990, in two originals each in Russian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

V.I. Krivchenko
Director
N.I. Vavilov Institute
of Plant Industry
Leningrad
USSR



D.H. van Sloten
Acting Director
International Board for
Plant Genetic Resources
Rome
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