

2nd Meeting of the Working Groups 1 and 2 of COST Action 871 (Oulu, Finland, February 21-23, 2008). The meeting covered the topics Fundamental Aspects of Cryopreservation / Cryoprotection and Genetic Stability and Technology, Application and Validation of Plant Cryopreservation

Brief Scientific Report of the Meeting


At the combined meeting of working groups 1 and 2 of COST Action 871, organized by the University of Oulu, Department of Biology together with Agrifood Research Finland on February 21-23, altogether 39 lectures were presented by the scientists of 16 European countries and from USA. 36 researchers were reimbursed by the COST, while the total number of participants varied from 53 to 72 during the meeting days.

EC-meeting occurred the day before the actual meeting (on February 20) and all 7 members were participating. The meeting was started on February 21 at 9 am by the welcoming words of the University Rector Lauri Lajunen and the local organizer. The first day topic was Fundamental Aspects of Cryopreservation / Cryoprotection and the day was started by the invited lecture of Dr. David Ellis (USA). The chairman of the first day sessions was the Action Chair Dr. Bart Panis. During the day there were still two more invited talks provided by Dr Dirk Hinch (Germany) and Dr Keith Harding (UK) and altogether 12 shorter talks on specific topics. At the end of the day we had a high-quality poster session with 6 presentations. The scientific programme was over at 6 pm.

The second day, February 22, started at 8.30 am. Two invited talks were presented by Prof. Katri Kärkkäinen and Dr. Bruno Florin (France) and we also had 11 shorter presentations. The theme of the day was Genetic Stability and Technology, Application and Validation of Plant Cryopreservation. The sessions of the day were chaired by Prof. Paul Lynch. The scientific sessions were followed by the visit at the Botanical Gardens where the head of the unit, Dr. Marko Hyvärinen, was telling us about the plant collections, the role of the unit in plant conservation and challenges of third north-most botanical garden of the globe. The scientific part ended at 5 pm.

The third day, February 23, started at 8.30 am and the previous theme (Genetic Stability and Technology, Application and Validation of Plant Cryopreservation) was continued. The chair of the day was Marjatta Uosukainen. Dr. Tatjana Gavrilenko gave an interesting talk on ex situ conservation in Russian with past, present and future views. In addition, we had 4 shorter talks. The general discussion was preorganized by Dr. Angeles Revilla and Dr. Florent Engelmann. The WG groups chairs Dr. Angeles Revilla and Dr. Florent Engelmann together with Dr. Joachim Keller and Dr. Pawel Pukacki formed the "panel" to lead the discussions. Several important topics were covered (including fundamental and basic research and cryopreservation success, what means safely cryopreserved, genetic stability of regenerated material) and the discussion was lively and active. The action chairs will compose the results of the discussions. The scientific part was ended by the final considerations of the Action Chair, WG coordinators and the local organizer. The day was ended at 3.45 pm.

At Oulu, March 11, 2008


Hely Häggman,
Local organizer