



“HARNESSTOM presents his views at The Workshop on IP and access to Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) workshop that took place in Dresden, Germany”

Harnesstom project coordinator Antonio Granell has participated in the Workshop “*Pre-breeding materials: a grey zone between Genetic Resources and Cultivars - Introduction on regulatory aspects and protection of Intellectual Property*” organized by the EU-funded sister project [BreedingValue](#). The meeting took place at the University of Applied Sciences, HTW Dresden Campus Pillnitz, Germany, on the 15th of March 2023 with over 50 people attending on the premises and 100+ connected via zoom.

The meeting has been a success with high-level representatives of the [ECPGR](#), [FAO](#), [CPVO](#) and the EC presenting their views on the current international regulatory framework and its consequences for IP management of pre-breeding materials that were followed by presentations from [HARNESSTOM](#), [GEN4OLIVE](#) and [BREEDINGVALUE](#).

Presentations included the EC strategy to enhancing the use and access to GenRes that was presented by Gisela Quaglia from DG Agricultural and Rural Development. During her presentation Gisela acknowledged the work done by the commission on R&I for conservation and use of PGR and made a clear mentioning to the HARNESSTOM project. Marco Marsella and Francisco López from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations presented the regulatory framework of the International Treaty and presented a tool recently developed for easy use of Standard Material Transfer Agreement (sMTA). Basically, the FAO representatives covered the Nagoya Protocol and International Treaty including very practical and informative issues. Interesting aspects of the exchange and use of GR within a public /private partnership environment were presented by Sandra Goritschnig from Alliance Biodiversity-CIAT focusing on the EVA network’s experience, although not clear conclusions about how they deal with the IP issues mostly because the information produced in the frame of EVA was considered not sensitive for the company’s interest. Specific aspects of the registration of varieties process were covered by Ursula Braun-Mlodecka from the Community Variety Office who covered the specifics on the regulation and evaluation of plant varieties. Finally, within this block of presentations, Marliese con den Driesch from the German Federal office for Agriculture and Food presented how the Nagoya protocol is being implemented in the EU and more particularly in Germany. Including monitoring and eventually fining those not complying with the protocol.

In the afternoon session the coordinators or representative from HARNESSTOM and two other sister projects funded in the same EU-GenRes call presented their views on the IP landscape for the three type of crops (tomato-[HARNESSTOM](#), berries-[BREEDINGVALUE](#) and olives- [GEN4OLIVE](#)) in the context of their projects on the IP landscape in their respective fields. All of them agree that there is a common understanding of the regulatory framework for IP Management of new pre-breeding material and more specially in those materials developed in the frame of EU-funded projects. Antonio Granell project coordinator and researcher from CSIC, Spain, presented his view of the situation in HARNESSTOM /tomato. Describing first the complexity of what we know as tomato today results from the evolution from the wild ancestors *Solanum pimpinellifolium* and *S. Lycopersicum cerasiforme* from their site of origin in Meso and SouthAmerica. But later from further domestication and breeding by traditional farmers in Europe where additional variability was generated and selected for. Later in the last century scientists in the academia realized the importance of GenRes and open the way to new GenRes available for tomato wild relatives from South and Central America and currently available in SeedBanks all over the world. Harnesstom is complying with the Nagoya protocol in those cases where the materials used





fit or not under the scope of this protocol and all partners are aware of the legislation and IP related issues through a dedicated Legislation Observatory specifically developed for the project. The structure of the project facilitates the participation of Private companies and Academia groups, each contributing with their own breeding materials through a ring-fence type of subprojects each targeting different and specific traits and typologies. While it is clear that the HARNESSTOM project will not produce final commercial varieties ready to market but mostly very promising pre-breeding materials, the project has been organized to eventually protect the IP of every result, information/knowledge or material produced. To facilitate this all the previous/background information provided by each party at the beginning of the project and the conditions for sharing or further development were already specified in the Consortium Agreement by all participating parties. Gen4Olive on the other hand, represented by Conchi Muñoz, University of Cordoba, Spain, described how their project main goal was to put together the genetic resources available for Olive in different olive genebanks while aiming to increase the presence of the so far underrepresented wild relatives in those genebanks. Increasing the phenotyping in those material was also a very important goal. Lena Prochnow from BreedingValue presented a comparative study on the innovation in academia and the berry breeding companies. Based on the criteria of % granted applications for IP (varieties) and % of granted applications they conclude that EU, and particularly the companies in BreedingValue, were doing quite well for strawberries but not so for blueberries and therefore an additional effort was needed to increase innovation in those berries.

In summary, European research projects with a focus on GenRes share their views on the IP landscape in their respective fields and the need to continue further interaction in this and in issues related to Genetic Resources.





Image1: Bruno Mezzeti, Università Politecnica delle Marche, coordinator of Breeding Value and organizer of the Workshop presenting the workshop and introducing Gisela Quaglia.

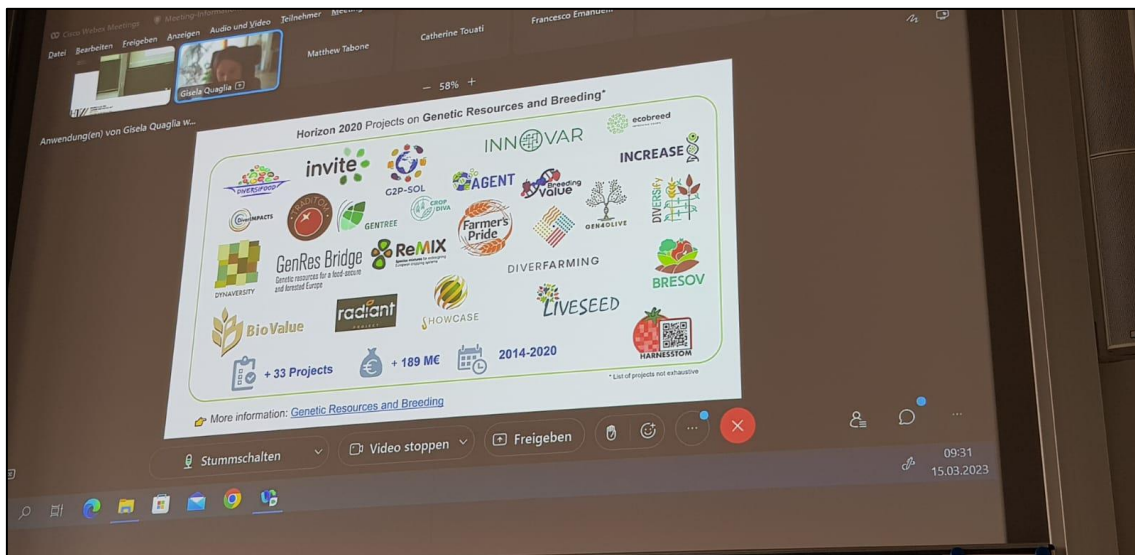


Image 2: Gisela Quaglia from the DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission presenting online the EC view on the R&I for conservation and use of plant genetic resources and highlighting the projects funded to cover this topic including the tomato projects Traditom, G2PSOL and HARNESSTOM but also other project networking to HARNESSTOM.



Image 3: Sandra Goritsching, Alliance Biodiversity-CIAT presenting on Exchange and use of GenRes with a public-private partnership: The EVA network’s experience during the Workshop.

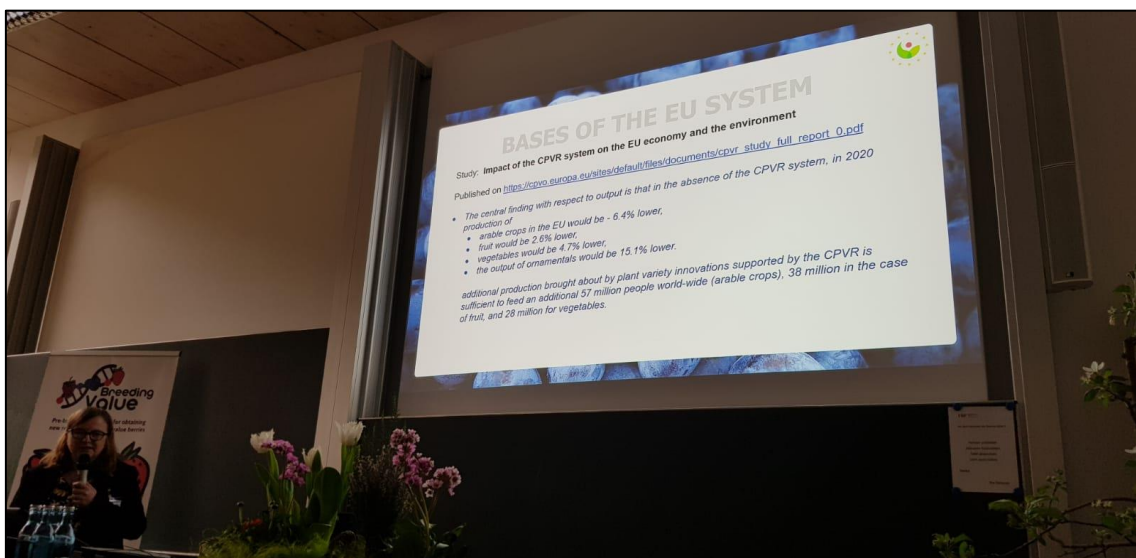


Image 4: Ursula Braun-Mlodecka from the Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) presenting the Plant Variety regulation and evaluation processes.



Image 5: All meeting assistants.