

Communication and Delivery (Objective 1, March 2007)

To establish and promote effective communication between the major players responsible for the genetic improvement of pulse crops.

This first objective is not a scientific activity *per se* but it is essential to the relevance, application and delivery of the scientific activities of the PCGIN. Its activities are to

- a) establish and promote good communication between UK breeders in the pulse crops and the research base, both basic and applied, and ensure all have the opportunity to provide feedback throughout the project
- b) establish a close liaison with SASA to ensure coordination and integration of our activities
- c) establish a database of ongoing research in the area of pulse crops especially in the UK, but also at an international level
- d) establish a web site, updated every 4 months and linked to the other Defra crop improvement networks
- e) enable interaction days for management and stakeholders groups, providing opportunities to view and discuss genetic material
- f) develop associated projects linking participants

PROGRESS:

The web-site (www.pcgin.org), providing links to the other Defra-funded crop improvement networks: Wheat Genetic Improvement Network (WGIN: www.wgin.org.uk); Oilseed Rape Genetic Improvement Network (OREGIN: www.oregin.info) and Biomass for Energy Genetic Improvement Network (BEGIN: www.biomass4energy.org), has been used to expand the number of registered interested parties. This has facilitated communication within the network, as well as advertisement of relevant meetings and events. Registered members can access certain preliminary documents within the password-protected areas. This allows for input and feed-back on key PCGIN decisions. The registered part allows us also to post preliminary data for discussion and other scientific information and data prior to publication in journals.

Three formal meetings were held to discuss organisational aspects of the other objectives. These meetings have been logged through the web-site. In addition, there were informal meetings to view and discuss the plots at the three locations, and to make decisions on the choice of parent lines for crosses.

The PCGIN has been advertised through additional interactions, including poster presentations, hand-outs and displays at a PGRO members' day (June 2006), Cereals 2006 (June 2006). JIC contributed lectures to the HGCA/PGRO Oilseeds and Pulses Conference: 'Facing New Challenges' (March 2006) and to the Vegetable Agronomists Association meeting (November. 2006).

Seeds from a collection of diverse legume germplasm were assembled to provide both demonstration material at various meetings and conferences, and a postcard to advertise PCGIN.

The PCGIN was linked formally to EU-GLIP (www.eugrainlegumes.org) through joining the Technology Transfer Platform (GL-TTP). Contacts were availed of to inform UK representatives of solutions being adopted for the control of bean bruchid in France. PCGIN research has contributed to the launch of the GL-TTP with a first workshop 'Targeting science to real needs' planned for April 2007, aimed at the breeding and end-user industries.

A joint Unilever/JIC studentship set-up during the formation of the network has resulted in the development of genetic maps that are being exploited by industry.