

**COST ACTION FA0807**

# **Integrated Management of Phytoplasma Epidemics in Different Crop Systems**

**Executive committee meeting  
November, 22-23 - Barcelona - Spain  
Department of Agriculture  
Gran Via 612, Barcelona**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

11:00 – 11:30

Welcome and introduction from the Ester Torres as a local organizer.

11:30-13:00

Presentation of WG3 group meeting for dissemination of information on the phytoplasma disease management advancements.

The preliminary agenda has been presented. The lack of the outlook on detection methodology (sampling, symptomatology, detection and fast identification methods) is missing. It could be linked to the introduction or to the certification procedures sessions of the meeting. In the end, two presentations were proposed: Sampling and detection methods (Bojan Duduk), Improvements in phytoplasma detection achieved in the Cost Action FA0807 just after the program point “the role of propagation material” (Saskia Hogenhout). Other talks were discussed and their scope was amended, also the speakers especially the in the management session of the meeting. MC members should identify at least one organization in fruit tree and one in the grapevine production, plus the plant protection officers and consumers association in their own countries and disseminate the information on the WG3 meeting. Judging from the preregistrations, the previous announcements have not reached the target audience yet.

13:00-14:40

WG4 2<sup>nd</sup> annotation school in 2013 (PGSI) – presentation by Saskia Hogenhout: overview of the achievements of the 1<sup>st</sup> annotation school, the discussion on the goals of the second PGSI. Two possibilities were presented: 1. repetition of the same school as an education endeavour and output of the action; 2. focus on the current genomes with the publication as the COST Action output, with joining WG1&4 to pinpoint sequences for future diagnostics.

Preliminary the preferred idea is to size down the number of participants and do the focus on current genomes and pinpoint targets for future diagnostic protocols (10 participants in total – 7 trainees + 3 trainers).

13:40-14:40

Lunch

14:50-16:00

The WG1 training school on Methodologies to improve phytoplasma DNA extraction from plants and insects was discussed. The dates were proposed: the end of June 2013 (close to the Olomouc meeting on wild plants pathosystems), and some others (July 2013, September 2013) without real agreement on the dates. Reduced attendance was also proposed as in the case of PGSI (3 trainers and 10 trainees).

16:00-16:35

Continuation of the discussion on the WG3 group meeting regarding the maximized involvement of the growers associations and other end users in industry after the input of the Action Chair. The suggestion by Foissac was laid out to enable the growers to present their view of the problems within the sessions of the meeting (2 or 3 presentations from the growers associations representatives, consumers association) and introduce a round table involving 2-3 scientists and a couple of end-users plus a convener to steer the discussion. It would be useful to even involve specialized journalists (radio, TV people). The questions could be collected one week before the meeting and incorporated in the session.

The discussion continued for a longer while on how to really and efficiently ensure the incentive to the growers for attending the meeting and engaging them into the meeting discussions throughout the meeting. The experience from Bordeaux region was presented as an example how organizing the disease management could work within the community, the apple growers association in Germany have no parallel experiences, but the Spanish experiences in vector monitoring exist already up to a point. It would be interesting to see how the growers perceive our future research activities applied in their fields and adjustments to their needs.

16:35-17:00

Coffee Break

17:00-18:35

Discussion about the organization and program of final COST meeting

The expected outputs of the final meeting were clarified by the Action Chair.

One point of the final meeting program should definitely be an agreement on the type of follow-up project/program. The tendency is to support the successful teams and action managers in the follow up programs, so the question regarding the willingness of the present action chair to manage some future program was raised.

Josef Spak shared his experiences on the previous COST Action he was a member of regarding the goals of the final meeting. He warned us that the follow-up COST actions should not be a repetition of the action that has achieved in building an efficient network like this one. Possible follow-up types of projects were discussed within the Horizon2020 framework firstly. Phytoplasmas in the context of global changes in ecosystems regarding the vectors, soil, the plants would probably be of interest within this framework.

Presentations of the working group achievements should be made. Also, shorter contributions can be expected. A presentation on the booklet was also discussed.

The Portuguese organiser of the final meeting proposed the second week of October 2013.

20:30-23:00

Social dinner

## **November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

09:00-11:00

Final discussion of the WG3 group meeting schedule and format.

The agreement on holding two round tables was achieved, one in the morning and one in the afternoon regarding the topics in those parts of the meeting. A lot has been said on how to attract growers and nurserymen and plant protection officers. Each of that end users know the situation and each speaker from the scientific community have to pay attention to give just a short overview and give them some perspective of the new developments and future prospects regarding each topic. The new ideas are communicated to the WG3 co-chair Wolfgang Jarausch by e-mail in order to have his opinion and/or agreement on somewhat changed preliminary schedule before the end of this meeting.

10:30-10:50

Coffee Break

10:50-12:12

Preparation of scientific schedule for the final meeting: topics, invited speakers.

Final meeting dates and venue: October 10 and 11, 2013, Lisbon

In order to present the achievements of the action and to do better outreach it is important to inform: EPPO, regulatory people, COST officers, European young scientists association (MCFA). A 2-day meeting is planned with integrated achievements and scientific presentations:

Preliminary agenda of the COST Action FA0807 final meeting:

Day 1

Introduction about the action

One keynote speaker (max 45 minutes +15 min discussion) is planned on following subjects:

antimicrobials

comparative genomics and synthetic biology

synthetic genomics

pheromones and volatiles, interactions in natural systems

Horizon 2020

WG1-session: the overview of major achievements-10 minutes, a speaker for each task, WG leaders should decide about the speakers and topics in their respective WGs. A speaker for each task within the WG is foreseen.

WG4-session: schedule and agenda similar to the WG1 session.

All WGs - Evening short talk poster session: 2 hours.

Refreshments from each speaker's country should be supplied with the poster. The talks at each poster should be filmed (mobile microphone and projections at two TV or big screens on each side of the room and portable cameras, small non-professional equipment would be ok). It needs to be a celebration of the achievements also.

## Day 2

WG2- session

The same principle as in the first day agenda for the WG1&4 should be applied.

WG3 - session

STSMs – session: Matt Dickinson-an introduction and overview of the achievements, plus the selection of 4-5 talks regarding published results (10-min talks).

“Were to go from here”. One topic per WG as an outlook (e.g. WG1 – LAMP assay, WG2-include monitoring leafhoppers in regular aphid monitoring, WG4-improved phytoplasma detection specificity) should be included.

EPPO and other interested parties (regarding the outputs of this COST Action) are expected to participate. Outsider's response-opinion to our action would be beneficial. Maybe Horizon2020 officer could give his perspective on the Action achievements and chances to follow them up within Horizon2020 framework. It is perceived as lobbying for our cause and getting info from the source regarding the Horizon2020.

Discussion session

Conclusions and closing the meeting

The idea was given on attracting some private sponsors to fund the participation of young scientists or to finance the coffee, refreshments, etc...

12:12-13:30

Publication of the book to disseminate Action achievements. Topics, chapters, editors, printer, timing

The idea of the book was raised. The problem discussed was the goal we want to achieve with the book. Four phytoplasma books have been issued in the last four years. Unanimous decision of the EC was achieved in not wanting a book (100 pages, chapters) for the reason mentioned above.

The final booklet for the COST Action 853 was looked at the COST website. Booklet idea – 20-30 pages, format A5. It would be important to have it also before the final meeting and it developed in the idea of doing it together with the final meeting abstract book. Introduction, 1 pg per task of each WG, 1 pg conclusion should be considered, some pictures should also be inserted.

Also, the idea of the flyer (folded A4 page printed on both sides) was presented. That could be prepared and handed out even before the WG3 group meeting. About 1000 copies in total would suffice. The advantages would be low cost, suitability for promotion of the action.

This developed also into the discussion about the poster. They usually show the flags of the signatory countries, schemes, some text and other concise take home info on the action. The flier should be prepared anyways and it essentially should contain the info found in the posters of other actions.

A film of the final activities could be uploaded into YouTube and that idea was discussed. A link to the Action webpage should be also done.

13:30-15:30

Lunch

15:30-16:30

The discussion from previous section was continued. The final decision on the book type and size will be reached through further e-mail consults over the month of December.

The leaflet should be done and printed before the March WG3 meeting.

New possibilities for inviting speakers for the final COST Action meeting were explored.

16:30-17:00

Closing remarks by the Action Chair

