

ICGN Steering Committee Meeting November 25, 2005

Teleconference

Present:

André Charrier, ICGN, coordinator

Nicolas Roux, ICGN Secretary

Ehsan Dulloo, IPGRI representative – Rome, Italy

Charles Agwanda, WG1 (Biodiversity) representative – Nairobi, Kenya

Thierry Leroy, WG2 (Genetic mapping) representative

Philippe Lashermes, WG3 (Physical mapping) representative

Alan Andrade, WG4 (Transcriptomics) – Brasilia, Brazil. *Tried to connect but could not so he sent an e-mail which will be included in the minutes*

Hervé Etienne, WG5 (Gene Validation) representative (in place of H.L. Sreenath)

Lucas Mueller, WG6 (Bioinformatics) representative – Ithaca, U.S.A.

Serge Hamon, temporary secretariat.

Alexandre de Kochko, temporary secretariat.

The conference started at 1p.m. (GMT). The following points were discussed:

The agenda was as follows:

1/ Members of the steering committee still missing

2/ The web site and its utilisation

3/ ICGN membership procedure and criteria (please see the registration form attached)

4/ Very brief presentation of each Working Group, proposals by each WG representative followed by options to be taken and constraints encountered (For this part each of the WG representatives should speak not more than 5 minutes)

5/ 2nd ICGN meeting in Trieste: 21st and 22 February 2006 proposed by Georgio Graziozi to discuss objective of ICGN, refine proposals of all WGs and investigate possible sources of funding.

1/ Steering committee nomination:

One of the main questions was to solve the problem of how to complete the steering committee, as some members were still not nominated.

- - WG6 representative: four names were given during the Paris meeting. For the consuming countries, Lucas Mueller will contact Brigitte Courtois and they will set up definitively this matter, Lucas volunteered to be that representative. It was suggested that Da Silva from Brazil and Raj Kumar from India also contact each other to decide who will be the representative of producing countries in this WG6.
- - Private companies' representative: The secretary of the private sector consultative board of the ICO will provide a name for assuming this task before mid February 2006.
- - No suggestions were given for the consumers end growers representatives. Alan Andrad would like Brazil to participate in the selection of a growers' representative

2/ Web site:

It was of a general agreement that the Web site is the main link between the all the members; A link with the recently posted data on the SOL website has to be established through a mirror site or a webservice.

All the available genetic maps, including QTLs, should be also posted on the site (genome resources section).

Cirad will put, in two weeks from now, its molecular markers data bank and the description of its *Coffea canephora* BAC library as well as the procedure to get it.

The website is a key factor for fostering the network's development.

3/ Membership:

- The Steering Committee decided to have two different types of application forms: one for individual membership and one for institutional membership. Both are available on the web site: <http://www.coffeegenome.org/about/members.php>

We hope that you will register as soon as possible.

- The procedure for membership is as follows: the applicant fills out the form on line and once submitted, it is validated by the Steering Committee and if accepted, put directly on the web site
- Membership criteria are intended to be as open as possible in order to serve coffee and non-coffee scientists and persons or institutions interested by coffee genomics.

4/ WG activities update:

WG1: Lizz Johnson is no longer working at CATIE; a new coordinator should be nominated for this WG, preferably from North or Central America. Ehsan will contact CATIE to follow-up on this.

A proposal was circulated throughout the group but only Uganda and Kenya endorsed it. Problems linked to germplasm circulation were evoked. It was suggested to make a list of existing germplasm collections, if possible their inventory, and a description of how to access them.

WG2: IRD offered to use its mapping population for *C. Arabica* as a reference. No clear acceptance was formulated but it was not rejected either. To date it remains the best candidate.

The *C. canephora* segregating population that could be shared by the network could be the one from Indonesia but it still needs to be confirmed by them. They were approached by Nestlé.

Cirad performed a new cross between new genitors of *C. canephora*, F1 seeds are now available.

WG3: Two BAC libraries exist, one for each cultivated species. Both are accessible. Their availability will be posted on the website. The same accessing procedure used for the Global *Musa* Genomics Consortium (GMGC) will be used as model for the ICGN: establish a genomic resource centre and the use of MTAs for the exchange of resources.

WG4: Unfortunately Alan Andrade couldn't connect to the teleconference but he could provide the following comments after by e-mail:

The first task proposed: Identify available ESTs and pool the data. There was certainly some delay on the progress of the WG4, due to some compromises that were made during the Paris meeting that have not been fulfilled in due time (June, as stated!) This fact is now over as Tanksley's group truly made the first move and released recently (November!) the data they had promised. Alan firmly stated that this move has significantly contributed to changes in the mood of the Brazilian Coffee Genomics Committee in the sense of following the same path more aggressively.

In view of the new developments of this group, Alan thinks quick progress on the WG4 goals can now easily be achieved. Different initiatives are taking place and should be discussed within the Steering Committee once they are developed.

WG5: In addition to France, Brazil and India showed interest in this WG. The different teams are involved in the improvement of genetic transformation which still remains a tedious tool. India is mainly interested in resistance against pests [insects (Bt strategies)] and diseases, as well as in coffee quality, whereas France will use the tool to validate genes involved in quality and resistance to rust and nematodes.

WG6: A tight link between each WG and bioinformatics is indispensable. This WG needs a strong presence on the website. Lucas Mueller suggested sharing the information available on SGN (Sol Genomics Network), the way forward needs to be discussed. One possibility is through a mirror site or a Webservice.

5/ Next ICGN Meetings:

- Prof. Giorgio Graziosi informed the ICGN coordinator that UNIDO accepted to organize the next ICGN meeting in Trieste to which the participants of the Paris meeting should attend. The only date possible for UNIDO is around February 20th. At this meeting it is proposed to discuss the objectives of ICGN, to refine the proposals of all WGs and investigate the funding options of the various proposals. The opportunity to invite possible donors to the Trieste meeting was discussed but if it is the case, it was strongly advised that research proposals susceptible to be financed should be ready to be presented.
- The next SOL meeting will be held in Madison (Wisconsin, U.S.A) in July 2006, a coffee satellite meeting will be organized similarly to what was done in Ischia, Italy in 2005.
- The 21st ASIC meeting will be organized in 11-15 September 2006 in Montpellier; a special session is scheduled for ICGN Steering committee to meet and for a general assembly (15-16 September 2006).
- Brazil is also committed to host an ICGN meeting, whenever necessary.

After a conclusion address, the telephone conference ended at about 3:15 pm.