

**Special Interest Group on Vegetable & Ornamentals**  
**Meeting Minutes: 25 January 2017 at 14:00 - 16:30**  
**Venue: APSA Office**

**Attendees:**

1. Mr. Michel Devarrewaere (Chair), MDV
2. Mr. Jack Metzelaar (Co- Chair), JM
3. Mrs. Heidi Gallant, APSA Director, HG
4. Dr. N.K. Dadlani, APSA Director Technical Affairs, ND
5. Yan Shupeng from Haidian Seed Chamber of Commerce (via GoToMeeting)
6. Isao Iuchi from Sakata Seed (via GoToMeeting)

**Agenda of the meeting**

- A. Approval of Agenda
- B. Review of APSA SIG V&G Meeting in Seoul
- C. Collaboration with other SIG Group (How's DOs and DON'Ts) and maintenance of our group and selection of member and committee of working group
- D. Ideas for topics to be discussed in Next APSA in Manila
- E. Participation of SIG in ISF (Seed Production Group)
- F. Publication of Seed Production Good Practice (follow up of Szabolcs)
- G. Publication of Child Labour Policy on APSA website & Practical guideline
- H. Program and Organization Study Tour 2017
- I. VSAT (Vegetable Sector Acceleration Taskforce) Meeting Myanmar Update
- J. ASRT (Asian Solanaceous Round Table) Thailand Update
- K. Work on regulatory issues we might want to address
- L. APSA AVRDC (new name: World Vegetable Center) Collaboration
- M. Other matters

**Notes from the meeting**

**A. Approval of Agenda**

- Agenda was approved.

**B. Review of APSA SIG V&G Meeting in Incheon:**

- The meeting agreed that APSA secretariat and SIG Chair should review the Minutes of the SIG Meeting in Incheon. There had been no time to do that yet.
- **Action:** APSA secretariat and SIG Chair to review the Minutes of the SIG Meeting in Incheon by next meeting
- Agenda D of Incheon meeting RE: report from APSA R&D working group and more cooperation with India ICAR (Indian Council of Agriculture Research). Dadlani had discussion with Director General ICAR and explained that the cooperation sought is not to deal with individual companies but with APSA (in the same vein as what APSA did with AVRDC). APSA would be the signing party, and its members can contribute to the project and the funding for research will

be received by the signatory party through APSA.

After having clarified this, DG ICAR, said he was keen on it and asked APSA to prepare the general proposal highlighting the *Modus operandi*, so he could process this with Indian higher instances.

As a general remark, it should be noted that for any breeding collaboration to work with any Indian Institute, the project and their parties should operate within the scope of the National Biodiversity Act. ( i.e in case any germplasm is the result of this project , it cannot be used outside of India)

**Action:** APSA to fine tune the General Proposal (MOU) with the R & D Advisory Group to present to ICAR. It should be a template that we could use to approach other Research Institutes (e.g. IRRI) based on the model we used with AVRDC. To be updated in next meeting.

### **C. Collaboration with other SIG Group (How's DOs and DON'Ts):**

- Heidi updated the activity of each SIG Groups.
- Trade and Marketing Group had a first meeting based on the Phytosanitary Expert Consultation. They would like to have next meeting in June instead of March and form a Working Group, which will meet every 2 weeks from now.
- IPR and Biodiversity (co -chaired by Casper van Kempen from AIB) have not had the first meeting yet but proposes to have meeting and workshop in Pakistan, where most of members are not aware of the implications of and complying with PVP laws. This activity is to create awareness of IP situation together with the Seed Association of Pakistan. The first meeting of the SC is set on 3rd February for their member to decide the activities throughout the year.
- Field Crop Group: Heidi has talked to Bill Fuller from Australian Seed Federation and he is very keen on the study tour to bring these groups together.
- On working better together, the meeting agreed to share minutes of SIG V&O meeting with the Chair / Co - Chair of other SC / SIG Groups and these will also be posted on APSA website.
- **Action:** Share the minutes of this meeting on APSA website & other SCs / SIGs.
- On seeing how the SIG groups and SCs are working during APSA Congress, and the little time there is for real discussion, Heidi proposed to spend 1.5 days on technical program and presentations for all SIG/SC groups and another half day for the meetings set in meeting rooms for committees to meet. However, it

seemed that in APSA Congress usually the same people attended different SIG/SC meetings so holding concurrent meetings would not be possible.

- Jack updated the meeting on the AIB Board meeting that took place last week in Europe. AIB in Europe (Anti Infringement Board) is set up as an organization to detect and fight PVP infringement cases in Europe. It is funded by seed companies but does not represent any seed company in particular. There is an interest to establish an AIB office in Asia and many breeding companies are willing to support that initiative even with some funding. The question now is which country in Asia should be the first country to set up an AIB office, and what exactly is going to be the role of that office in Asia as we know enforcement in the region is usually very weak (awareness?) .
- The meeting agreed to recruit more members to join the SIG V&O meetings.
- Jack mentioned the SIG Veg could establish a Working Group of Integrated Seed companies addressing specific issues of companies who have all functions. A similar group is working in European Seed Association.
- **Action:** Heidi will get more info about this WIC for discussions in next meeting.

#### **D. Ideas for topics to be discussed in Next APSA in Manila:**

- Shupeng suggested the topic on how APSA could support small & medium seed companies to run business in other regions.
- It was suggested that a theme be chosen for the SIG Veg in Manila: like “Food Safety” and “Global Warming”. We should keep this topic alive and make sure we identify speakers early on for quality presentations.
- Isao agreed to identify a suitable speaker from Japan for presentation on ornamental crops.

#### **E. Participation of SIG in ISF (Seed Production Group)**

- Next ISF is in May. Michel will attend in the Seed Production Working Group and Heidi will be in Seed Production & Plant breeding and Phytosanitary groups. This should strengthen the relationship between the two organizations.

#### **F. Publication of Seed Production Good Practice (follow up of Szabolcs)**

- The document is already published on the APSA website.

#### **G. Publication of Child Labor Policy on APSA website & Practical guidelines**

- The Position Paper and the guidelines are both now available on APSA Website.
- It was suggested to print QR code linking both, Seed Production Good Practice and Child Labour Position Paper, to be added in next APSA Magazine.

**H. Program and Organization Study Tour 2017:**

- Jack will set up meeting with Dadlani next week to set up the program for upcoming study tour in France. The tour will target one week with tentative dates of 11-18 June. Maybe all participants arrive in Paris and take a train to Angers to seed production areas. The counterpart to help organize the tour will be the UFS and GNIS. Program should be finalized and announced within February.

**I. VSAT Meeting Myanmar Update:**

- VSAT is the Vegetable Sector Acceleration Task Force, which is setup to work on promoting the vegetable industry in Myanmar and funded primarily by Grow Asia.
- We encouraged APSA (secretariat) to support setting up of the Myanmar Seed Association and get seed companies attend the meetings in this regard. The 1st meeting of the Seed Working Group was on 12 January 2017 and they asked for the founding members of the new Myanmar Seed Association to put the heads forward for the registration and setup. They are planning to start this association in March. The members were asked to check about the legal aspects about association law in Myanmar. Heidi will share the minutes of the 1st meeting. The 2nd meeting is scheduled on 25 January 2017.

**J. ASRT Thailand Update:**

- Heidi shared the program for the ASRT 2 being convened on 23-25 February 2017 at Kasetsart University (KU). So far there are 50 delegates registered with US\$150 fee each and the final number is expected to be 100 delegates.

**K. Work on regulatory issues we might want to address:**

- Most of issues were discussed in agenda.

**L. APSA - AVRDC (new name: World Vegetable Center) Collaboration:**

- Heidi updated on the APSA World Vegetable Center Consortium. APSA hasn't promoted it yet but has signed one-year agreement with WVC on 7 Dec 2016. Large and Small companies pay different price but will get the same benefit i.e. attending the workshop, get advance information and access to research results.
- The detailed information about the Consortium is available on APSA website.