Re.: Nordic Public – Private Partnership for Prebreeding

The Nordic Council of Ministers for fishery, agriculture, food and forestry (NMR, EK-FJLS) decided at the meeting 11 February 2011 to strengthen pre-breeding activities in the Nordic countries by establishing a Public-Private Partnership for pre-breeding of crop plants, PPP (Abstract of EK-FJLS proposal and decision attached). This decision is based on the recommendations from the report “Measures to promote Nordic Plant Breeding” (attached). NordGen will be carrying out the role of secretariat for the partnership and Nordic Council of Ministers has provided funds for this task.

The partnership is open for all Nordic plant breeding entities, private companies and public institutions carrying out plant breeding and variety production for the benefit of agriculture and horticulture in the Nordic region.

To establish, administer and promote the purpose of PPP a steering committee must be appointed, representing the Nordic countries, the Nordic Breeding entities and the Nordic agricultural universities. The Nordic countries are in process of appointing their 5 national representatives, 1 representative from the universities is to be appointed, and 4 representatives from the plant breeding entities are to be appointed. For further details on the role, tasks and obligations of the steering committee please see the attached document “Framework for PPP”.

To initiate this process, a commitment from each participating plant breeding entity is required, and we hereby invite you to join the partnership by signing the attached participation form and return it in form of an attached pdf file to NordGen (morten.rasmussen@nordgen.org) before 25th May 2011, together with your suggestions for plausible steering committee members representing the Nordic plant breeding community. A more comprehensive document will be prepared at a later stage.

Hereafter your information will be compiled, and all participating entities will be informed on participating plant breeding entities and proposed steering committee representatives. NordGen will as soon as possible hereafter arrange a joined telephone meeting to elect the 4 representatives from the Nordic plant breeding community to PPP steering committees.
As soon as the steering committee is up and running, decisions on specific pre-breeding collaboration projects can be taken. During the process of establishing the PPP, several topics of relevance to pre-breeding activities were identified. Of these topics, 2 had major interest from all counties: pre-breeding for emerging diseases in Barley, and adaptation of Ryegrass to northern conditions. It is, however, the ambition and expectation that the PPP can expand into any other crop of importance for the Nordic region. For this reason we urge all breeding entities in the Nordic region to participate.

NordGen welcomes this new development and is eager to get the work started. We wish as many plant breeding entities as possible will join the partnership and help developing it into a strong and important platform for collaboration and development of new crop varieties for our region.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Morten Rasmussen
Head of Plant Section
NordGen - Nordic Genetic Resource Center

Attached documents:

Decision from EK-FJLS to establish PPP
Report: Measures to promote Nordic Plant Breeding
Framework for PPP
PPP Participation Form

The Nordic Genetic Resource Centre (NordGen) is the joint Nordic institution for conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources. Biodiversity and the underlying genetic diversity are the base for all human existence and the base for constant adaptation to changes. Access to genetic resources is a prerequisite for adaptation to new growth conditions, to climate change, providing resistance to new diseases on plants and domestic animals, to increased food production, to low environment impact or to meet new requirement from our consumers. NordGen contributes to safeguarding the livelihood in our region today and for our future.