Minutes
Working group meeting of the ad hoc group for
grain legumes
21 November 2017, via Skype

Participants:
Country representatives: Matti Leino, WG chair (ML), Nordiska Museet, Sweden; Pertti Pärssinen (PP), Boreal, Finland; Ingunn M. Vågen (IV), NIBIO, Norway; Georg Carlsson (GC), SLU, Sweden; Gert Poulsen (GP), Frøsamlerne, Denmark. NordGen: Anna Palmé (AP) and Ulrika Carlson-Nilsson (UCN)

Agenda
A. Welcome
ML welcomed everybody to the meeting.

B. Appointing a secretary
AP was appointed secretary

C. Comments on the agenda of this session
No comments on the agenda

D. Issues to follow up from the last meeting
- ML: regeneration of the fava bean Brottby is ongoing. Seeds will be sent to NordGen.
- PP will send evaluation data of his soy bean trial to NordGen.
  In total 16 soy bean accessions has been evaluated in Jokioinen during two consecutive years (2015 and 2016). The accessions include two accessions from NordGen’s collection and accessions from the Vavilov institute. The yield was good 2016 but not 2015. Height, yield, flowering time and time of maturity was evaluated.
- GP will contact Jens Christen Nørgaard Knudsen regarding the material from Toft Plant Breeding that was on the way to NordGen. Why has it not been sent to NordGen?

Decision: the minutes from the last meeting was approved.

E. Reports/updates on the fava bean evaluation 2017
a) Jokioinen (PP)
  The evaluation has proceeded according to plan and all observations was performed as agreed. The harvest was delayed due to the cold weather but all accessions were
successfully harvested by hand by the end of October. Analysis of the seeds will be performed during December 2017 – January 2018.

b) Grimstad (IV)
The growing season was good until autumn, when there was heavy rain and wind. This lead to seed loss. The accessions that were still green during the stormy period survived best. All accessions matured and were harvested, even though the harvest were late compared to normal years. All traits were measured according to plan. Seeds will be sent to PP for protein analysis.

c) Alnarp (GC)
Also in Alnarp the evaluation was successful in 2017 and mature seeds were harvested from all plants (late September). Most of the observations were made according to plan. Also Aphid abundance were measured and it was clear that some accessions were more susceptible than others. Threshing and analysis of the seeds will be done in January 2018.

F. Information from NordGen (AP and UCN)
NordGen has hired a new staff member dedicated to communication and also a person that will work part time on documentation in SESTO. Next year a new staff member will be hired to work in the field and greenhouses (most likely a gardener focused on vegetables).

The problem of NordGen’s backlogs and how they can be reduced has been discussed with the secretary general in the Nordic council of ministers. NordGen was asked to present different scenarios on how to work in the future and the secretary general have decided that NordGen should aim to develop according to one of the scenarios (scenario 2). Among the goals under this scenario are: the backlogs are solved, NordGen is gene bank operating according to European high standard, evaluation and characterization of the collection is performed. This scenario assumes that NordGen is provided with additional funding but also that the current collection is reduced.

A document on the reduction of the collection has been produced by NordGen and will be discussed at the next Board meeting (30/11). After that the document will be modified and circulated for comments to all WG members, the Nordic National Coordinators and NordGen’s Board.

The Arctic Pea project is progressing according to plan. During 2017, 90 accessions have been cultivated in Denmark. The harvest was successful and the seeds are soon to be delivered to NordGen for further analysis (yield and tgw). Basic evaluation was conducted in the field to facilitate further cultivation and leaf samples were collected for DNA analysis. Two applications have been send to apply for additional funding for the project: one to "Stiftelsen Adolf Dahls fond" (KSLA) and one to COP21 (NMR)

G. Working Procedures of NordGen’s Working Groups: discussion
NordGen has drafted a text describing the routines and working procedures of the Working Groups. This document has been circulated to the WGs, the Nordic National Coordinators and NordGen’s Board for comments.

Comments from the group:
• It should be emphasized in the document that the WGs have an important role for the continuity of the work at NordGen. The members in the WGs have often been involved in
NordGen’s work for a longer time than the staff at NordGen, due to the 8-year rule, and function as NordGen’s memory.

- Good to have this document to clarify what rules apply to WG work
- Important that the Nordic National programs are consulted regarding this text and asked for feedback
- It needs to be clarified that the cost of the WG meetings are covered by NordGen.
- Item 5 (mandate changes). It is important to develop a routine for the process of mandate changes and to make this as simple as possible. NordGen should summarize the background information on the accessions that are suggested for mandate change. The WG should not have to take decisions on individual accessions but rather on groups of accessions.

H. Plans for next year
All WG project funding will be used for the Arctic Pea project in 2018 and 2019

In 2018 efforts will also be made to analyse the data and publish the results from the fava bean evaluation conducted 2016 and 2017

I. Other issues
IV: Evaluation of fava beans and peas for the project FoodProFuture was conducted in 3 locations in Norway this year. Also soybean evaluation was conducted but the cold season was a problem resulting in late harvest, and for a few cultivars no yield.

ML has obtained a pea collection. It is most likely from the 1950s and includes very well marked glass containers with peas. It is about 50 accessions and includes landraces, cultivars and breeding lines. ML will donate it to NordGen’s historic collection.

IV informs the group that the COST action application that was planned for this year was not sent in due to lack of time. There might be a new effort to send it in next year.

IV: EUROLEGUME will finish by the end of the year. One of the outputs will be a “Handbook “for each of the crops where all the evaluated accessions will be listed with pictures and basic information as well as evaluation data. A number of NordGen fava beans and peas have been evaluated (13 pea, 15 fava bean) and will be included in the book and the book will be sent to NordGen when it is ready. AP asked if the raw data will be made publically available via some data base, such as EURISCO. IV will check if this is the case.

J. Next meeting
The next meeting will be a joint meeting of the WG and the Arctic Pea project group and it will take place (7) - 8 February 2018 in Alnarp. Arrival and dinner will then be on the 7th of February and the meeting on the 8th.

Suggested topics for the meeting are:
- Arctic Peas :
  o During what stage to harvest the seeds in the more northern locations? Suggestion: harvest part of each plot green.
  o List of traits to evaluate in 2018
  o Final list of accessions for evaluation
  o Funding
- Sending of EUROLEGUME data to NordGen (IV)
• Reduction of NordGen’s collection
• Fava bean evaluation
  o Presentation of results
  o Plans for analysis and publications

K. Closing of the meeting
ML thanked everybody for participating and closed the meeting.