



Maccarese, 22 May 2019

Mr Kent Nnadozie
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Subject: your reference IT/GB-8/GLIS DSI

Dear Mr Nnadozie,

With reference to your request of information on “the current application of DOIs to crop germplasm in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing for which DSI/GSD are available in compatible information systems”, the below information is provided on behalf of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR), in consultation with the EURISCO Coordinator, Mr Stephan Weise and with the Chair of the Documentation and Information Working Group, Mr Theo van Hintum.

The use of DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers) for germplasm accessions is increasingly accepted by genebanks. ECPGR is promoting and supporting the adoption of DOIs by the genebanks in Europe by presenting the importance of the DOIs in documentation training workshops and other occasions. Furthermore, as of May 2019, EURISCO is offering a service aiming at supporting data providers with registering germplasm accessions for a DOI using GLIS (in collaboration with the IT Secretariat).

Currently, EURISCO contains 51,590 accessions with a DOI (as of 22 May 2019). Only passport data and phenotypic data are available in EURISCO. The connection of these data with genetic information via DOIs, however, is very promising. Various publicly available sequence repositories exist around the world. There are three “global players” – NCBI GenBank, EMBL-ENA and DDBJ – which synchronise their data daily in the frame of the International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC). In this context, a task for the Global Information System could be to promote the use of the accession DOIs as metadata for sequencing/genotyping consortia, thus improving the later integration with these data.

Throughout the world, efforts are made to bring the “classic” genebank data closer to genetic information, which we believe will make the work of genebanks much more efficient, both in terms of conservation and in terms of promoting sustainable use. In this light, EURISCO is seeking for additional funding with the aim of presenting data from different domains together, including the possibility to create an interface that allows queries involving data from EURISCO and x-omics data, thus improving access to plant genetic resources (also for users without bio-informatics knowledge).

In summary, ECPGR sees the importance of DOIs, promotes and facilitates its adoption, and is looking for ways to use them in the interfaces of EURISCO.

With best regards,

Lorenzo Maggioni
ECPGR Secretary