

REVIEW OF AUSTRALIAN PASTURES GENE BANK FINAL REPORT - SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES



AUSTRALIAN
PASTURES
GENEBANK

June 2018

Summary of outcomes of draft recommendations from the Final Report of the “Review on the Australian Pastures Genebank” (APG), as agreed by APG Steering Committee members.

REVIEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATION	APG SC OUTCOME
Draft recommendation 1.1	
That more process and transparency is communicated to external stakeholders on accession regeneration prioritisation in the APG, potentially through delivery of an open prioritisation biennial meeting attached to the TAC.	AGREED - proposed that APG Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) set the priorities as per current policy and then seek comment through Australian Seed Federation.
Draft recommendation 1.2	
That urgent resolution takes place around deposit of the DAFWA Base collection and is addressed within the agreed APG program timeframe.	RESOLVED
Draft recommendation 1.3	
That the APG load the currently finalised passport and other database data into GRIN Global ASAP and then update the database again when finalised and that consideration is given to how the previous tropical forages database (formerly www.tropicalpastures.org) can be operationalised into the APG GRIN Global ASAP.	AGREED Note: Action COMPLETED Subject to funding, incorporation of non finalised passport data and trait and performance data into APG GRIN Global to be considered in Phase 2.
Draft Recommendation 2.1	
That the APG seek to secure the DAFWA Base collection under the existing agreement to ensure its physical preservation.	RESOLVED
Draft Recommendation 3.1	
That the APG program reviews its current cost model including all in-kind contributions to fully account for the current and future cost of operations.	AGREED – APG curator to email all states with a standardised template for responses in relation to additional FTEs/in kinds to be included. Note: Action COMPLETED
Draft Recommendation 3.2	
With difficulty in accessing current detailed pasture investment impact studies, APG partner RDCs should jointly consider commissioning a new impact study including detailed survey of the research/producer community to build confidence and value in not only the APG investment, but associated pre-breeding and production systems investment.	AGREED – subject to funding to be built into APG Phase 2 work and communication plans.

REVIEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATION	APG SC OUTCOME
Draft Recommendation 3.3	
All RDCs give consideration to a second phase of investment of at least the current levels (read \$1.014M per annum over the life of the project) plus CPI accounting for matching in-kind investment from partners.	AGREED.
Draft recommendation 4.1	
The APG SC should oversee an audit of all in-kind research partner contributions to the APG to quantify the actual current and potential future costs of APG operations.	AGREED. Addressed through the response to 3.1.
Draft recommendation 4.2	
The APG should develop a table of revised costs based on seed delivery and regeneration, with revised activity based cost structures.	AGREED. Revised costings were developed by curators of the APG and Australian Grains Genebank (AGG) and presented within a discussion paper to the APG Review working group 'Options for new APG Revenue Sources'. It was decided that the APG and AGG will not implement any new cost recovery charges to users Note: Action COMPLETED
Draft recommendation 4.3	
Consideration be given to the development of commercial options for 'trusted' commercial companies or breeding companies to conduct seed regeneration under contract agreement with associated APG protocols and inspection requirements (costs paid by the company), enabling more timely access to accessions and reducing confidentiality conflicts to third parties.	AGREED - Where seed companies can demonstrate capacity to undertake activity to APG regeneration protocols, it was agreed they should be contracted to do so. Can be expanded to other Government agencies and be considered in Phase 2. Subject to funding APG curator to prepare seed rescue protocols and quality control procedures in Phase 2.
Draft recommendation 4.4	
The APG increases resources for strategic prioritisation of seed increase in collaboration with other international GRCs (eg CIAT, ILRI and MFGRC) to reduce longer term resource requirements.	AGREED to be considered in Phase 2 subject to funding. Alliances will be explored with temperate and tropical international institutes to establish MoUs for responsibility for conservation of a species in consideration of strengths of each country, aligned breeding programs and biosecurity implications. Agreed APG Curator to initiate discussions with Margot Forde Genetic Resource Centre (MFGRC) in New Zealand for temperate species. Subject to funding, a clear strategy and implementation plan to be developed in Phase 2 for Steering Committee consideration.

REVIEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATION	APG SC OUTCOME
Draft recommendation 4.5	
<p>The APG develop and implement a targeted communication strategy to its stakeholders, local and international, but in particular end user producers detailing the value, impact and risk management of the APG program, incorporating a new impact study detailed in recommendation 3.2. This communication strategy should provide the rationale and benefits for any change to the APG business model.</p>	<p>AGREED to be implemented in APG Phase 2 subject to funding, with a focus on whole of industry benefits.</p> <p>It was agreed that RDCs can include consideration of the APG in their business processes. APG is not always recognised in project designs and reports. It would be good to raise awareness and have industry report back to APG e.g data where germplasm is being used.</p>
Draft recommendation 4.6	
<p>Any changes the SC recommend to the APG business model and cost recovery model should be first discussed with the Australian Grains Genebank (AGG) and then formally presented to the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDT) members for discussion under the plant treaty. Increased Australian participation in the international GCDT meetings will be required to ensure effective carriage and support for any changes.</p>	<p>AGREED.</p>
Draft recommendation 4.7	
<p>RDC investors should consider continued investment in APG Phase II based on the indicated ROI and broader industry and public benefits of at least the current APG commitment plus CPI and a consider matching of any in-kind commitment when fully detailed through an APG audit.</p>	<p>AGREED. – Refer to 3.3, subject to RDC agreement to refund. Need to discuss with RDCs regarding timing for investment in Phase 2 prior to the end of Phase 1.</p> <p>Funding presently under negotiation.</p>
Draft recommendation 4.8	
<p>Changes to APG business and cost recovery models should be fully implemented within the first 3 years of a phase II investment. Following a review which demonstrates a sustainable APG investment model has been achieved, Consideration to a rolling 5 year APG investment cycle should be considered.</p>	<p>AGREED – subject to funding an internal review of costs and sustainable funding model to be developed for implementation in Phase 2. Alternative business models to be considered.</p> <p>AGREED APG and AGG will not implement any new cost recovery charges to users. Refer 4.2.</p> <p>Options for new APG revenue sources to be considered in Phase 2. Agreed to consider establishment of an endowment fund or alternative long term funding models. Subject to funding a clear strategy and implementation plan to be developed by SC in Phase 2.</p>

REVIEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATION	APG SC OUTCOME
Draft recommendation 4.9	
The APG steering committee consider inviting representative breeders and end user producers onto the steering committee plus consider and conduct a biennial seed regeneration prioritisation meeting open to all interested parties and stakeholders to increase buy-in on APG strategic management and investment.	AGREED (in part). The recommendation to invite seed industry representatives to the committee was not approved. Agreed that they should contribute to prioritisation of regeneration activities via Australian Seeds Federation (refer recommendation 1.1). Australian Seeds Federation has agreed to circulate species lists to seed companies on behalf of APG.
Draft recommendation 5.1	
Consideration be given to relocation of the TAS seed regeneration site.	NOTED – a site closer to Mount Pleasant to be considered and this is under the control of Tasmania Institute of Agriculture (TIA) Currently being considered by TIA and refer 5.3 for capital funding to support this activity
Draft recommendation 5.2	
Consideration be given to relocation of the WA seed regeneration site and explore long term arrangements for APG service provision.	NOTED - APG has in principle support for regeneration activities to be relocated and undertaken at University Western Australia Shenton Park Field Station. Subject to funding relocation to be incorporated into a Phase 2 Project Plan.
Draft recommendation 5.3	
That RDC and partner consideration is given to capital investment particularly focussed on seed cleaning, sorting and processing to offset future labour costs at SARDI; UTAS/TIA; QDAF. Additional infrastructure for land, irrigation and pollen houses should be explored by UTAS/TIA. A business case for future cost savings should be developed for each state program and presented this to the APG investment partners for consideration in offsetting future costs.	AGREED. Capital investment to support regeneration efficiencies at SARDI,UTAS/TIA and QDAF to be incorporated into a Phase 2 Project Plan for consideration of funding. COMPLETED Implementation subject to funding with 50% funding sought through APG and 50% States.
Draft recommendation 5.4	
The APG adopts the implementation of bar coding of accessions through the entire process and resources this for inclusion into the annual operational plan.	AGREED and subject to funding to be included in Phase 2.