

**Draft Minutes**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Management Committee Meeting**

**COST Action 872**  
**Exploiting genomics to understand plant–nematode interactions**  
**La Colle-sur-Loup, France**  
**10<sup>th</sup> May 2007**

**Present:**

Dr J. Jones (Chair – United Kingdom), Prof J. Williams (COST Office), Prof F. Grundler (Austria), Prof G. Gheysen & Dr Annemie Elsen (Belgium), Dr P. Abad & Dr E. Grenier (France), Prof D. Cai (Germany), Dr C. Spillane (Ireland), Prof C. De Giorgi & Dr G. Colucci (Italy), Dr G. Smant & Dr H van den Heuvel (Netherlands), Dr C. Magnusson & Dr R. Holgado (Norway), Prof W. Golinowski (Poland), Prof M. Mota (Portugal), Dr B. Geric Stare (Slovenia), Dr L. Robertson & Prof C. Fenoll (Spain), Dr S. Kiewnick (Switzerland), Prof I. Eleckioğlu (Turkey), Dr K. Davies (United Kingdom).

**1. Welcome**

Dr John Jones, chairing the meeting, welcomed all participants.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

This was adopted unanimously.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last MC meeting (Brussels, December 2006) were accepted unanimously as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from these minutes that required discussion.

**4. Report from Scientific Officer (John Williams)**

John Williams reported that there are now 16 signatories to COST 872 and reminded MC members that other countries can sign up to COST 872 for a year following the first MC Meeting (December 2006). John Jones asked MC members to encourage nematologists from countries not signed up to the Action to contact their COST National Coordinators in order to participate in the Action.

John Williams provided information about the current round of applications for new COST Actions and gave details about the success rate in the last round of applications. John Williams informed the meeting that he would shortly leave his post at COST Office and take up a position in INRA.

**5. Budget plans**

There is still some uncertainty regarding the budget position for COST 872 due to the change from FW6 to FW7 funding. John Jones agreed to discuss this further and report back to the MC.

**Action: J. Jones to obtain budget update for 2007-2008 from COST Office and report back to the MC.**

A discussion regarding plans for 2007/8 then took place. It was agreed that COST 872 would fund an “Annotation workshop” (WG2) designed to provide training for researchers in the software used for annotation of the *Meloidogyne incognita* genome. Pierre Abad (FR) agreed to co-ordinate this workshop. Following further discussion it was agreed that the possibility of funding two workshops would be examined at a later date if demand exceeded the capacity of 10-12 persons. It was also agreed that co-ordination between the *M. incognita*, *M. hapla* and *Globodera pallida* sequencing groups would be beneficial in order to ensure that any training provided at this workshop was also relevant to the systems being used for the other sequencing projects. John Jones and Pierre Abad agreed to discuss this further.

Note: In discussions during the scientific sessions that took place the next day the possibility of a WG3 workshop on interpretation and functional analysis of information/genes emerging from microarrays was raised. Florian Grundler will investigate the appetite for a workshop in this area further and, if necessary, the MC will be asked to approve by the written procedure funding for this workshop.

## **6. STSMs**

On behalf of the STSM committee the Chair reported that four STSM applications had been approved to date and that one STSM report has been approved and is available on the website. The MC unanimously ratified the decisions of the STSM committee.

## **7. Publications and annual report**

The annual report for 2006 was accepted unanimously.

A discussion on the merits of producing a book, possibly an update of the “Molecular aspects of plant-nematode interactions” book (produced at the end of a previous Concerted Action award) then took place. Several people including Carmen Fennoll (ES), Manuel Mota (PT) and Florian Grundler (AT) spoke in favour of this. It was decided that producing a book would be more appropriate towards the end of the Action. Some discussions on the merits of an “online” book (such as produced for the *Arabidopsis* project) then took place and John Williams confirmed that this could be held on a COST server. However, it was pointed out that such books are usually held by publishing companies who can look after the technical aspects of producing a publication of this nature. The advantages of a hard copy were also pointed out by several delegates. John Williams described the nature of the support available from COST Office towards producing a book associated with a COST Action. After lengthy discussions about prices, print runs and various publishers it was agreed that Carmen Fenoll and Florian Grundler (who have previous experience in editing a book) would discuss the possibility of a book in this area with a number of publishers. Florian Grundler agreed to look into the possibility of producing an on line book. It was agreed that this would be discussed further at the next MC meeting.

## **8. Evaluations**

John Jones reported that he had made a presentation on the activities of COST 872 to the Food and Agriculture Domain Committee at an evaluation and monitoring meeting in

Antalya in January 2007. John Williams reported that the Action had been evaluated positively. John also reported the appointment of Prof Zdenek Opatny as rapporteur for COST 872.

#### **9. Requests for new members**

No new members were reported although a Nematology group in Greece are reported to be seeking to join COST 872 and are in the process of persuading their COST National Coordinator to arrange for signature of the MoU.

#### **10. Non-COST Country participation**

The formal application of Dr L. Pylypenko to participate in COST 872 was previously approved by the MC and by the FA Domain Committee. This application is still awaiting formal approval by the CSO in order for funds to be drawn under the “near neighbours” scheme. It was also reported that a group led by Mike Jones in Australia is keen to participate in COST 872 once final details of the bilateral funding scheme between COST and Australia/New Zealand are available.

#### **11. Website news**

A functional website has been set up and is currently housed on the SCRI server under the domain name <http://cost872.scri.ac.uk>. John Williams informed the meeting that COST Office plan to house all COST websites at COST Office in future. John Jones raised some concerns regarding transportability of the COST 872 website and the content management system. Following further discussion John Jones agreed to write to COST Office IT unit (via John Williams) to express his concerns.

**Action: John Jones to write to COST Office outlining concerns over plans to host websites at COST Office.**

#### **12. Progress reports from WGs**

As the Action has not been running for long no WG specific activities have been undertaken and no reports were therefore provided.

#### **13. Long term planning**

John Jones had previously contacted the MC inviting any groups interested in hosting a large meeting in 2008 to present details of proposed venues to the MC at this meeting. Barbara Geric Stare offered to host a meeting in Slovenia in May 2008 and presented details of several potential venues. After some discussion the MC agreed to host a combined inter-workgroup workshop and MC meeting in Slovenia in May 2008. Barbara Geric Stare was asked to choose the most appropriate venue based on affordability and ease of access. The final choice of dates and venue will be approved by the written procedure. It was suggested that the current meeting was too short (1.5 days of presentations) and that the 2008 meeting should run for slightly longer.

#### **14. Time and place of next meeting**

The MC agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Inter Workgroup workshop planned for Slovenia in May 2008. Details of the precise time and place will follow once the final booking of the venue has been made.

**15. AOCB**

There being no other business raised the meeting was closed.