

From: [Scott Allen Jackson](#)
To: [Hannes Dempewolf](#)
Subject: Re: DivSeek expression of interest
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 10:12:30 AM

Just that they want to and are waiting on State for their approval to do so.
scott

On Oct 29, 2014, at 10:09 AM, Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org> wrote:

Ok, I agree. Although we are hearing positive noises out of the USDA, I don't think they have signed the letter yet. Are you aware of different information?

Hannes

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Hannes Dempewolf
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Conserving Crop Diversity, Worldwide

On 29.10.2014, at 14:02, Scott Allen Jackson <sjackson@uga.edu> wrote:

Ah, they are saying that they cannot sign something if they will have proposals submitted to them that would focus on the initiative. Those that are not part of the initiative could say its an unfair advantage. I'm sure this is from the lawyers. At this point, with the USDA on board, I'm not sure it is a big deal to not have them especially as they are interested in the outcomes and in contributing by funding relevant activities. We should still invite them as participants to appropriate meetings to ensure they know what is going on.
scott

On Oct 29, 2014, at 9:48 AM, Hannes Dempewolf
<hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org> wrote:

FYI. I am not sure I fully understand their argument. I guess they are worried about a perceived conflict of interest?

Hannes

--

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Okamuro, Diane" <dokamuro@nsf.gov>
Date: 29. Oktober 2014 13:42:28 GMT
To: DivSeek <divseek@croptrust.org>
Cc: "Silverthorne, Jane" <jsilvert@nsf.gov>
Subject: RE: DivSeek expression of interest

Dear Hannes,

On behalf of NSF/BIO and the Plant Genome Research Program, thank you for the kind invitation to participate. Unfortunately, we cannot join the discussion since it is likely that participating U.S. academic and not-for-profit organizations could submit proposals to NSF for funding that are focused on addressing the goals of the Initiative through basic research. We would however be interested in the outcomes of the discussions and would appreciate any updates that the consortium may wish to share.

Thank you again for your interest in NSF.

Sincerely,

Diane Jofuku Okamuro, Ph.D.
Program Director
Plant Genome Research Program
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Integrative Organismal Systems
Room 690
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Tel: (703) 292-4400
Fax: (703) 292-9062
Email: dokamuro@nsf.gov <<mailto:dokamuro@nsf.gov>>
Web: <http://www.nsf.gov/bio/dbi/dbi_pgr.htm>

From: DivSeek [<mailto:divseek@croptrust.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 5:46 AM
To: Okamuro, Diane; Silverthorne, Jane
Subject: Re: DivSeek expression of interest

Dear Drs. Diane Okamuro and Jane Silverthorne,

As the deadline for the DivSeek expression of interest is approaching at the end of this week (31st of October), I was wondering whether you think NSF may still consider

signing the letter before then? We have so far received letters from an impressive list of 52 partners and we would very much like to see NSF come on board as well.

Please let me know.
Thank you and best wishes,
Hannes

- 1 Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics
- 2 Australian National University
- 3 Australian Plant Phenomics Facility
- 4 Australian Society of Plant Scientists
- 5 AVRDC
- 6 BBSRC
- 7 Bioversity International
- 8 CATIE
- 9 Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands
- 10 CGIAR consortium office
- 11 CIAT
- 12 CIMMYT
- 13 CIP
- 14 Clemson University
- 15 Common Reference Ontologies for Plant Biology (cROP)
- 16 Consiglio per la ricerca e la sperimentazione in agricoltura
- 17 Cornell University
- 18 Dalhousie University
- 19 European Bioinformatics Institute
- 20 Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany
- 21 Genome BC
- 22 Genome Canada
- 23 Genome Prairie
- 24 German Federation of Private Plant Breeders (GFP)
- 25 Global Crop Diversity Trust
- 26 Global Plant Council
- 27 ICARDA
- 28 ICRI SAT
- 29 IITA
- 30 Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development
- 31 INRA
- 32 Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources, Italian Council of National Research
- 33 International Center for Biosaline Agriculture
- 34 iPlant
- 35 IRRI
- 36 ITPGRFA secretariat
- 37 James Hutton
- 38 Jülich Research Centre
- 39 Kasetsart University
- 40 Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK)
- 41 National Institutes of Genetics, Japan
- 42 Pioneer
- 43 Queensland Alliance for Agriculture & Food Innovation

44Secretariat of the South Pacific
45Syngenta
46University of British Columbia
47University of California, Davis
48University of Georgia
49University of Minnesota
50University of Missouri
51University of Naples Federico II
52WorldAgroForestry Center

On Tue, Sep 23, 2014 at 5:57 PM, Hannes Dempewolf
<hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org> wrote:
Dear Drs. Diane Okamuro and Jane Silverthorne,

We are writing to you today to inform you about DivSeek, an initiative to enable breeders and researchers to mobilize a vast range of plant genetic variation to accelerate the rate of crop improvement and furnish food and agricultural products to the growing human population.

DivSeek aims to unlock the potential of crop diversity stored in genebanks around the globe by developing a unified, coordinated and cohesive information management platform to provide easy access to genotypic and phenotypic data associated with genebank germplasm. DivSeek aims to bridge the gap between the information requirements of genebank curators, plant breeders and more targeted upstream biological researchers, to support applied germplasm curation, forward-looking breeding programs and strategic research. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to make such crop diversity available to all so that it can be utilized to enhance the productivity, sustainability and resilience of crops and agricultural systems. A white paper that describes the initiative in greater detail is available at www.divseek.org.

The DivSeek initiative is conceived as open and participatory, and will work with existing, emerging and future initiatives. The mandate and activities of your institution are of relevance to DivSeek and thus, we are keen on seeking your expression of interest in the initiative.

After two scoping meetings in January and April 2014 and formation of a joint facilitation between the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, DivSeek is moving towards the establishment of a permanent governance structure. A first Partners' Assembly will take place in early 2015, to review and approve a Charter setting forth the principles and values of DivSeek, as well as its institutional mechanisms. In parallel with the Assembly, a technical working group will launch a series of scoping activities that will constitute the initial programme of work.

We would appreciate your views on how and when your institution might most effectively engage in this venture. If you believe that your institution should be represented in the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly and the technical activities that will ensue, we ask you to return a signed copy of the letter that is attached, by 31 October. Please identify the appropriate person who can sign on behalf of your organization. Signature of the

letter constitutes a simple and non-binding expression of interest in DivSeek. Please submit the signed letter to divseek@croptrust.org and pgrfa-treaty@fao.org.

For any question and feedback, please contact the DivSeek joint facilitation unit at: divseek@croptrust.org and pgrfa-treaty@fao.org.

We look forward to your engagement.

Kind regards,
Marie Haga, Shakeel Bhatti, Ruth Bastow and Wayne Powell

On behalf of the joint facilitation unit:

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Hannes Dempewolf
Scientist and Project Manager
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