



**Minutes
Management Committee Meeting**

COST Action no. FA1208

Action Title: Pathogen-informed strategies for sustainable broad-spectrum crop resistance

Venue Birnam, Country United Kingdom October 10.

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome to participants
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting
4. Update from the Action Chair
 - a. Status of Action, including participating countries
 - b. Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)
 - c. Non-COST applications to the Actions
 - d. Action budget status
 - e. STSM - procedures and 1st call
5. Update from the Grant Holder
6. Update from the COST Office
7. Update from the DC Rapporteur
8. Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC)
9. Follow-up of MoU objectives
10. Scientific planning
 - b. Action Budget Planning
 - c. Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)
 - d. Dissemination planning (Publications and outreach activities)
11. AOB
12. Location and date of next meeting
13. Summary of MC decisions
14. Closing



1. Welcome to participants

The participants of the 2nd MC meeting were welcomed by the Action Chair. The list of the MC members attending the meeting is joined at the last page.

2. Adoption of agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were adopted without modifications.

4. Update from the Action Chair

a Status of Action, including participating countries

24 COST countries participate to the SUSTAIN Action. In addition, Ukraine, a COST Near Neighbor Country, and Argentina, a country with reciprocal agreement, have joined the Action. Partners from Argentina can ask for additional funds to participate to meetings or training schools of the Action and STSMs involving partners from Argentina can profit from special funding.

b Promotion of gender balance and of Early Stage Researchers (ESR)

From the 120 participants of the SUSTAIN Action 35 % are Women (30% in the MC, 45% in the core group) and 30% are ESRs (PhD 8 years or less). The promotion of gender balance and ESR participation are important objectives of the Action and will be criteria for the attribution of STSM grants and meeting participations. It was highlighted that from the 32 oral presentations at the annual conference 50% were from female scientists and 25% from ESRs.

c Non-COST applications to the Actions

María Eugenia Segretin (Laboratorio de Biotecnología Vegetal, INGEBI-CONICET, Argentina) is applying to join the action. María José Diéguez, (IGEAF – INTA, Buenos Aires – Argentina) and Lilya Pylypenko, National Academy of Agrarian Sciences, Kyiv, UKRAINE have joined the Action.



d. Action budget status

The working and budget plan for 2013/14 has been recapitulated

(1) MEETINGS	€	75,000
(2) SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS	€	16,000
(3) TRAINING SCHOOLS	€	30,000
(4) PUBLICATIONS, DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH	€	1,000
(5) OTHERS	€	0
B. TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE (sum of (1) to (5))	€	122,000
C. Financial & Scientific Administration and Coordination (max 15% of B.)	€	18,000
D. TOTAL EXPENDITURE (B+C)	€	140,000

The actual budget for the Annual Conference in Birnam and the Training School on Plant Genome Editing planned for March 2014 are expected to be close to the estimations. The actual budget for STSMs will depend on the number of applications. It has been emphasized that STSMs are a priority of the SUSTAIN Action..

e. STSM - procedures and 1st call

The first call for STSM applications with deadline November 18 and the timeline and criteria for evaluation and selection have been presented and approved by the MC. It has been emphasized that there is the options to join the STSM committee (contact the STSM coordinator or the action chair).

5. Update from the Grant Holder

See update from the Action Chair

6. Update from the COST Office

The MC members were informed that Ioanna Stavridou, the Action's Scientific Officer could not attend the meeting. She will try to attend the next annual conference. The role of the Action's Scientific Officer was outlined

7. Update from the DC Rapporteur

The MC members were informed that Prof. Dov Prusky, the Action Rapporteur could not attend the meeting. He will try to attend the next annual conference. The role of the Action Rapporteur who will have to report about the activities of this COST Action to DC Food and Agriculture was presented



8. Annual Progress Conference (preparation and/or feedback from DC)

The Action has been presented at the last APC (Jerusalem, 1-3 July 2013). The next APC will be in Plovdiv, Bulgaria 28-30 April 2014. A timeline for preparation of the scientific report which has to be submitted 6 weeks before the APC has been presented.

9. Follow-up of MoU objectives

See scientific planning.

10. Scientific planning

The following topics for workshops and training schools were discussed:

- Bioinformatics: genomics/transcriptomics, identification of effector genes by analyses of RNAseq data
- Comparative genomics of effectors
- Cellular dynamics of effector action and recognition
- Functional Analysis of Effectors - transient assays, heterologous systems, molecular and cellular biology
- Structure-guided investigation of Effector function and Effector recognition (SM).
- Industry/breeder workshops on pathogen-informed resistance breeding, engineering and monitoring.
- Workshop on intellectual property

The core group and potential local and scientific organizers will take up discussions initiated during the MC meeting and will make concrete suggestions for workshops & training schools before the end of the year to serve as a basis of the elaboration of the working plan for the next grant period. All participants were encouraged to make additional suggestions for workshops and training schools.

The following additional activities and topics were discussed and will be followed by the concerned persons and the core group:

- science communication to policy makers > slot combined with the annual meeting
- association with MPMI July: FA1208 session or individual speaker in different sessions
- COST session in breeder meetings (4 July EUCARPIA/EAPR)
- COST session in general phytopathology meeting
- Cross-talk between communities > inviting other experts to specialized meetings
- The involvement of industry in the Action was discussed.
- Involvement of industry in activities & communication with scientific community

11. AOB

Comments: no balance in pathosystems of the scientific program of the annual conference.

Response: selection based on contributions (abstracts) of participants. It is the MC member responsibility to inform others and to spread the word. The same for the STSM call.

Comment: Website is needed

Response: Website should be ready in November

12. Location and date of next meeting

The next MC meeting will be combined with the next annual conference of the Action expected to be held in Autumn 2014. The location of the Conference has not been decided and participants who want to organize this event are searched.



COST is supported
by the EU Framework Programme



ESF provides the COST Office
through a European Commission contract

13. Summary of MC decisions

- STSM: procedure & first call
- Training school: Plant genome editing with TALEN & CRISPR ,Jens Boch March 2014

14. Closing



COST is supported
by the EU Framework Programme



ESF provides the COST Office
through a European Commission contract