



COST ACTION FA1103

Endophytes in Biotechnology and Agriculture

Minutes of the Core Group Meeting

Place: Institut für Pflanzenkultur
Solkau 2, 29465 Schnega, Germany
4-5 July 2012

1. Welcome to participants

The participants of the inaugural meeting of COST Action FA1103 were welcomed by *Carolin Schneider*, the Chair of this Action.

2. Meet and greet the companies

Tour through lab and greenhouse/fields, science and application, endophytes, mycorrhiza and micropropagation

3. Endophytes-definition and focus of FA1103

After a presentation of definitions and suggestions of “endophytes” by *Matthias Döring* and a discussion on this topic, the Core Group members propose the following definition of “endophytes”:

Endophytes are microorganisms (bacteria, fungi, unicellular eukaryotes), which can live at least part of their life cycle inter- or intracellularly inside of plants usually without inducing pathogenic symptoms. This can include competent, facultative, obligate, opportunistic and passenger endophytes. Endophytes can have several functions and/or may change function during their lifecycle.

The Core Group agreed, that the COST Action will focus on as yet underexplored endophytes. Tripartite interactions involving well explored endophytes such as mycorrhizal fungi and rhizobia will be covered.

The Core Group appreciates a publication on that, Matthias Döring was so kind to agree to prepare a draft.



4. Budget

Presentation of updated budget plan by *Carolyn Schneider*: New: Publication in International Innovation Report (category dissemination, 2.250,00 €)

Grant budget plan:

A.	Number	actual BUDGET
(1) MEETINGS	5	100.750,00 €
(2) SHORT-TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSIONS	10	12.000,00 €
(3) TRAINING SCHOOLS	0	0,00 €
(4) PUBLICATIONS, DISSEMINATION, OUTREACH	2	4.250,00 €
(5) OTHERS		0,00 €
B. TOTAL SCIENCE EXPENDITURE (sum of (1) to (5))		117.000,00 €
COST Grant for Science Expenditure		117.000,00 €

5. Workplan discussion – current state and proposal for 2013

WG1: Ecology of endophytes

WG2: Identification of new competent endophytes

WG3: Development of new microbial inocula

WG4: New industrial products in life sciences

All WGs discussed several topics and tools for the workplan 2013 either on the meeting in Reims and/or via email. The Workplan for 2013 must be ready for submission to COST office until the end of September 2012.

6. Short term scientific missions

- The application deadline for STSM is 15th of September, 9.500 € are available for that call with an average budget of 1.000 € per Person.
- An article about the “current definition of endophytes” is planned and could be written in combination with an STSM. Matthias Döring will create a draft for a framework of the article. It will be sent around to find a senior scientist who will write the article.
- The Core Group agreed that STSM should not be limited to ESR.



7. Future Workshops and ideas

- Carlo Leifert is working in an FP7 project about nutrient efficiency (NUE-Crops) and wants to offer a workshop about tripartite-interactions. As Leo van Overbeek is working in a similar project, both may be combined in one workshop.
- Carolin Schneider announced that it is possible and appreciated to have workshops only for Early Stage Researchers which are organized by themselves (guided by Senior Scientists, as well as keynote lectures), single sessions could be on career-specific topics.
- All local organizers should think on the possibility to organize joint meetings with existing FP7 projects, when appropriate.

8. Report on Annual Progress Conference (APC), Carolin Schneider

Glasgow, 27 – 29 June 2012

Domain Food and Agriculture (9 Domains + 1 Transdomain)

- 26 COST Actions are running in this Domain
- 28 Chairs/Vice Chairs meet with the 36 Domain Committee members yearly
- 33 presentations and a session 'Chairs meet Chairs'
- Action Rapporteurs give reports
- 2013 APC will be in Jerusalem

9. Inter-COST networking

- Two Chairs of other COST-Actions will send invitations to joint meetings/workshops that are already organized by them.
- There is a possibility for a cooperation with the COST-Actions “Chemical Biology with Natural Products” (CM0804) and “Epigenetics: Bench to Bedside” (TD0905).

10. Miscellaneous

- On 27 – 29 May 2013 a symposium of Plant Protection and Plant Health in Europe with the title “Endophytes for plant protection: the state of the art” will take place in Berlin. It is organized by the Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft (DPG). This COST Action will have its own sections.
- To find a logo for this Action, a competition will be held.
- The invitation of external experts is possible if the expert is coming from a not officially approved COST organization (not more than 4 per meeting, the same person twice in the life time of an Action).

*Carolin Schneider
Sven Wartenberg
July/August 2012*



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List of participants to the meeting:

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