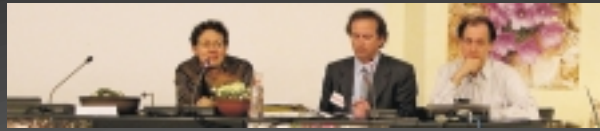




Poster presented at the
First International Conference
on Crop Wild Relative
Conservation and Use
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this poster are
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A national Italian Network to improve seed conservation of wild native species ('RIBES')

Building a national network... the story so far ...

1st meeting in Trento 1-2 April 2004

- Opportunity for all Italian groups involved in **wild species** seed conservation to meet and get to know each other.
- Introducing the idea of a **network**.



The meeting held in Trento was attended by 96 participants, 7 guest speakers from the UK, France, Spain and Poland, and attracted 14 Italian seed conservation and research institutes.



2nd meeting in Rome 1 October 2004

- Discussion on how to set up and manage a national network.
- Proposal to sign a memorandum of understanding to formalise the **commitment** of all groups.



NETWORK FOCUS Provide a national framework to conserve the seeds of

rare and endangered wild species

non endangered wild species

for

reintroduction, strengthening reducing pop.

for

habitat restoration, land reclamation

19 Institutions make up the network

They are mainly University Botanic Gardens but also include local governmental agencies, national parks, no profit organizations and private companies. They represent most Italian regions.



Pavia Memorandum of Understanding

The network is **NOT** focused on CWR, but it will doubtless include CWR, therefore it **AIMS** to **LIAISE** with the CWR community to integrate overlapping areas of interests and produce mutual benefits.



4th meeting in Pavia 8-9 February 2005

- Official signature of the Memorandum of Understanding to create '**RIBES**' that stands for "Rete Italiana Banche del germoplasma per la conservazione *Ex Situ* della flora spontanea Italiana".
- Discussion of a charter, regulations, and an action plan
- Last step: (Autumn 2005) legal registration in front of a Public officer.



The network aims to operate jointly on a national scale in connection with the **CBD National Focal Point** (Ministry of the Environment)



contributing to the national implementation of the GSPC (targets iii, viii, xiv, xvi).



The signature of the RIBES Memorandum of Understanding in Pavia on 9 February 2005 - 18 Institutions officially signed it.