

Short information on activities in 2007 and budget for 2008

GENECAR (CAR-2005-4)

Centre of Advanced Research in Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (<http://www.nordicgenecar.org/>)

Objectives:

GENECAR promote and coordinate collaboration among Nordic forest geneticists and tree breeders, to make their genetic research and tree breeding activities more cost efficient. Besides conducting advanced research, it will also disseminate research results to different end users and stakeholders.

Results

In 2007 we spent 857.802 NOK from SNS for the network, collaboration, joint meetings and webpage maintenance. These SNS funds have been used to support short time visits for young scientist, including researchers from the Baltic region, with the aim to learn new research methods. Moreover, the writing of research proposals (e.g. in Wood Wisdom, EU7FW, national research councils), and the arrangement of a large meeting with 75 participants in Umeå Sweden were supported. This meeting <http://www.skogkurs.no/genecar/index.asp> was coordinated with a TREEBREEDEX SEED orchard conference, where GENECAR paid the travel for two international speakers <http://www-genfys.slu.se/staff/dagl/Umea07/Umea07.htm>. The participants in the GENECAR meeting in 2007 concluded that the DNA research and molecular biology in trees could, within 5 – 10 years from now, come into practical use in tree breeding, at least for some species. GENECAR members have conducted and updated a survey of the Nordic Forest Genetic Research activities in 2007. According to our survey, the GENECAR funds have helped coordinating research for a yearly budget of approximately 64 million NOK (5.7, in Denmark 28.6 in Sweden, 11.5 in Norway and 18.2 in Finland) in the Nordic countries in 2007. We are trying to make this research as coordinated as possible, reducing overlaps if redundancy is identified. Thus, in 2007, SNS funds in GENECAR comprised 1.2 % of the total funding related to Nordic Forest Genetics and Breeding research in 2007.

Nordic aspect

GENECAR has helped Nordic research to network national and international groups in meetings. Those contacts have enabled synthesis of at least two successfully funded EU proposals (TREEBREEDEX, NOVELTREE), and at least one Wood Wisdom proposal (Woven). In addition, supporting the proposal writing process, and joint meetings has helped to formulate important, joint study themes suggested for major proposals in future EU calls as well as national calls. During the GENECAR period, the funding of Forest Genetics has increased substantially. The meeting we had in Umeå in 2007, proved to be a suitable opportunity to network with the researchers in the Nordic countries, in Europe, Canadian, and the US, with special focus on the advance research in molecular genetics, molecular biology and DNA markers. The Nordic research in Forest Tree Genetics is of high quality and relevance and is not lagging far behind what is going on at a global scale, and specifically Sweden and Canada are collaborating well in functional genomics. GENECAR have had one coordinating meeting in 2007.

Contacts

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Budget 2008

We have available 590.000 NOK for the activities in 2008. This funding will be used to support short term scientific visits, writing proposals, support one GENECAR meeting in Denmark (“Genetic conservation and management of sparsely distributed trees and bushes”, one GENECAR meeting in Finland in conjunction with PATHCAR (“Breeding for resistance to pathogens”), as well as a partial support of a meeting in “Vegetative propagation of forest trees” in Finland. We will also continue to support researchers from the Baltic countries to attend important meetings for forest genetics and breeding in 2008, and cooperate with TREEBREEDEX and NOVELTREE (EU-projects where all the Nordic GENECAR-partners are involved). The SNS funding in GENECAR will thus coordinate research for about 60 millions NOK in 2008 (1% of total activity).