

on parameters such as resource characteristics, goals, geographic focus, structure and management, access requirements, and the terms of contribution and use. Steve Visscher and Cindy Bell line out some pre-conditions under which BBSRC and Genome Canada might be interested in funding selected DivSeek projects.

As mentioned, Tables 1, 2 and 3 of Annex A contain more details and should serve as a quick reference to identify potential communalities and complementarities among ongoing efforts and prevailing ideas.

The discussions after the presentations revolved around the following topics:

- What should be the balance among different crops, and how can minor crops learn from larger ones?
- The community represented during the meeting probably was incomplete; there is a need to draw in more partners, particularly from developing countries
- DivSeek should bring together previously unconnected stakeholders, particularly those who have good access to germplasm with those who have good access to technologies
- DivSeek should provide easy access to genotyping services for those who otherwise do not have good access (i.e., similar to what has been done by the Generation Challenge Program)
- What other data types (beyond genotypic and phenotypic information) should be included (transcriptomics, proteomics)?
- Integration across information domains is critical and requires elements such as (i) well-defined data about samples, (ii) data-quality descriptors, (iii) QC systems, (iv) training and engagement, (v) data curators who are familiar with study objectives, (vi) data scientist working hand-in-hand with germplasm specialists, (vii) sufficient opportunities and iterations for exchanging data to identify and learn from mistakes, etc.
- There's a need to link data across different communities who typically do not collaborate much and do not have a common business model
- It is important to identify the highest-impact opportunities and focus on them first: what are the low-hanging fruits for the first year? What are the expectations?

## **Part 2: Analysis of feedback received**

You may remember that the questionnaire included the three following questions:

- *How can DivSeek help you to increase the impact of your work?*
- *What could you contribute to DivSeek?*
- *What should be the three top priorities for DivSeek to work on?*

A total of 31 written responses to the questionnaire, some of them extensive, were received. We identified 59 individual topics or ideas in these answers (e.g., "elaboration of data standards", "sharing of lessons learned", etc.) and counted how often each of them was mentioned across all survey participants (in total, there were 229 references to individual topics or ideas). We then

grouped these topics into categories and ranked the categories according the number of “hits” they got. Here is a high-level summary:

- Information management: 50.2%<sup>1</sup>
- Community & networking: 19.2%
- Research strategies: 15.7%
- PGR-related rights: 5.2%
- Funding for projects: 3.4%
- Crop data sets: 3.5%
- Capacity building: 2.6%

Clearly, the area of information management (data standards, data bases/repositories, analysis tools, etc.) seems to be on the majority of almost everyone’s mind, followed by topics related to building a DivSeek community by creating synergies among individual efforts and promoting joint action and advocacy efforts. Annex B contains more details from this analysis, including individual topics/ideas you’ve put forward.

The results from this questionnaire provide a basis upon which the incoming *Steering Committee*, with support from the *Joint Facilitation Unit*, will develop an initial program of work for DivSeek.

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<sup>1</sup> i.e. 115 of 229 hits

Withers, Brandi L

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**From:** Peter Wenzl [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 12:26 PM  
**Subject:** Your presentations at the DivSeek meeting in San Diego

Dear all,

We are about to send a summary of the technical part of the DivSeek meeting in San Diego, including an analysis of the (sometimes quite detailed) written feedback obtained via the questionnaire that was circulated.

We have received several requests for copies of the presentations given and would thus appreciate **if we could make PDF copies of your presentations available** for downloading when we distribute the meeting summary.

Could you please let us know **until Wednesday, 18 Feb**, in case you prefer not to share your presentation, so that we can circulate the meeting summary, together with a link to download the presentations, on Thursday?

Many thanks and best wishes,

Peter

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