

## **Conclusions and recommendations**

GeneMine final workshop at 24 and 25 June 2004.

### **GeneMine software system**

It was noted, that:

- The finalisation of the GeneMine interface system is worth the investment, since the individual components are considered (and partially already have shown) to be useful for the user community. The full integration of the components into one system will further increase the use and the size of the user population.
- The paradigm shift during the GeneMine-project from preferable development of commercial software to open source software, is seen as a good phenomenon from the perspective of the users out of the developing world and might contribute to a more sustainable software development and maintenance situation.
- The development of software systems such as that of GeneMine is hindered by deadlines at which funding stops such as those in an EU-project. Software development almost never reaches its goals within the time and budget constraints set at the beginning, and the absolute character of these constraints in an EU-project cause an “all or nothing” dilemma to find oneself in “nothing”.

It was recommended that

1. The software along with produced documentation and example studies should remain accessible on a web site. The developers should be accessible as well to report bugs and errors to. This will allow the produced software to “stay alive”.
2. In next projects such as GeneMine, the way to go is to establish a community of software developers, users and sponsors that via a “peer group” develop the product in an open source-like way. This will reduce the distance between users and producers, it will decrease the vulnerability to single software engineers and it will broaden the time horizon beyond that of the initial project.

### **Lactuca subproject**

It was recommended that

3. A monograph on the research on wild lettuce will be written and published with support from IPGRI.