Preface letter for Plant Domain Communities

Dear colleagues,

We would like to ensure that you are aware that a working group (WG) of the International Standards Organization (ISO), ISO/TC276 *Biotechnology*/WG2 *Biobanks & Bioresources* has been developing a draft standard, ISO/AWI 20387, *General requirements for biobanking*. This document specifies general requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of biobanks to ensure appropriate quality of sample collections.

The input of technical experts in all domains is critical to the development of a comprehensive and relevant standard that has broad utility. With this in mind, we request feedback from those who have yet to contribute their expertise. As an expert in the plant domain, we seek your input on the applicability of ISO/AWI 20387 for research collections.

We suggest that you address the following in your feedback:

1. Does your activity fit into the scope of ISO/AWI 20387? Is the scope / objectives aligned with your needs?
2. Do you have any interest in applying this document to biobanking in the plant domain for research and development? Which additional (critical) points need to be addressed?
3. For those who have access to a complete draft of ISO/AWI 20387:
    a. Is there anything that needs to be added or addressed?
    b. Are there requirements that are not achievable for the plant domain? How / why?

The draft standard's foreword (containing some basic information on ISO), scope statement and draft table of contents are attached as Annexes A, B, and C respectively. To obtain access to the entire draft document, or to actively participate in its development, please contact your national Standardization Organization (or appropriate ISO/TC 276 Mirror Committee) at catherine.protic@afnor.org (Catherine Protic - AFNOR).

We look forward to your response, which is requested by 17th March 2017. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Annex A. Foreword of ISO / AWI 20387

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents). Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment,as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 276.

For further information, please consult the ISO Technical Committees website: http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards_development/list_of_iso_technical_committees/iso_technical_committee.htm?commid=4514241

Annex B. Scope Statement of ISO / AWI 20387

1 Scope

1.1 This document specifies general requirements including quality control requirements for the competence, impartiality and consistent operation of biobanks to ensure appropriate quality of sample collections.

1.2 This document is applicable to all organizations performing biobanking activities, including biobanking of human, animal, plant and microorganism resources for research and development.

1.3 Biobank users, regulatory authorities, organizations and schemes using peer-assessment, accreditation bodies, and others can also use this document in confirming or recognizing the competence of biobanks.

1.4 This document does not apply to biological material intended for food production or therapeutic use.

NOTE 1 International, national or regional regulations or requirements may also apply to specific topics covered in this document.

NOTE 2 For entities handling human materials procured and used solely for diagnostic and treatment purposes ISO 15189 and other clinical standards apply first and foremost.

Annex C. Draft Table of Contents of ISO/AWI 20387

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