

Database of European NWFPs

Quick survey

The COST Action is committed to the creation of a database for European NWFPs but there remain many open questions about the number and range of species or products it should contain, what level and type of information on each species/product is readily available, the target audience and uses for the data and how we will fill it with useful information. The database needs to be a collective effort and we are asking people to volunteer their time to create it. So the Database task force has decided to send out a quick survey to the network to see what you are able to contribute and how you would like to see this facility develop. Please may we ask for a few minutes of your time to answer the following questions – note we are not asking for any information at this time just an indication of what is available and your ideas of what would be included in a useful database – a good test is whether you see yourself consulting it as part of your work in the future.

First some personal details:

Name: Email: Country:

- 1) There are literally thousands of NWFPs in Europe... listing them all in the database is impractical – so we need to restrict the number of records. But how to do this – are we interested in the species most often picked for personal use? Products with high levels of commercial use? Species of greatest cultural significance? These are all valid reasons for listing – what is most ‘important’ or ‘significant’ is essentially a value judgement so perhaps the best approach is to ask you directly what you would like to see in the database and ask you to indicate your reasons for listing it. Please list species/products you would like to see in the database in the table (add more rows if needed).

WG1 = Mushrooms; WG2 = Tree products; WG3 = Understorey plants; WG4 = Animals

| Country | WG | Species | Product (use) | Why should this be included? | Tick to indicate you are able to provide this information |
|---------|----|---------|---------------|------------------------------|---|
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- 2) The database can contain as many fields as we like – please indicate your ranking from the following list of candidate fields and give your reasons. Please add extra rows if needed.

Suggested ranks are:

0 = not necessary

1 = incidental interest

2 = marginal interest – only include if very easy to obtain

3 = general interest – but can be obtained from elsewhere

4 = necessary – not available from elsewhere

5 = essential

Form of information is whether the record needs original text / coded information / hyperlink to existing database / link or listing of literature resources

| Field (item of information) | Form of information | Ranking | Reasons for ranking | Accessibility of these data for species listed in Table 1 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------|---------------------|---|
| Latin name of species | | | | |
| Local name(s) | | | | |
| Photo of species | | | | |
| Taxonomy | | | | |
| Identification features | | | | |
| Ecology | | | | |
| Production system | | | | |
| Geographical extent | | | | |
| Processing | | | | |
| Use | | | | |
| Markets | | | | |
| Volumes | | | | |
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- 3) A database is a tool for accessing information – there should be a clear demand for information and we need to be able to design the interface and layout to meet the needs of defined user groups. To this end please complete the following table to indicate how you think the database might be used in your country. Please add more rows if needed.

Ranks for level of use

0 = doesn't exist in my country

1 = exists but at very low level

2 = exists but they have their own databases (**also see Q4**)

3 = exists – they may use the database (marketing to them would be needed)

4 = moderate demand

5 = high demand

| Potential database users | Rank for level of anticipated use | How might they use the information? |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Academic researchers | | |
| Post-graduate students | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Under-graduate students | | |
| School pupils | | |
| Foragers (collectors for personal consumption) | | |
| NWFP processing/wholesale companies | | |
| Survival/bushcraft courses | | |
| Outdoor education providers | | |
| Recreation providers | | |
| Consumers seeking | | |
| Craftspeople | | |
| | | |
| | | |

- 4) There are a number of NWFP databases already on the web. Please provide information in the following table for all NWFP databases you are aware of. This will ensure there is no duplication of efforts and that the information is original, useful and targeted.

| Database name and web address | Topic | NWFP type | No. of records | Data Display (text/tables/charts) | Type of Search (simple/advanced) | Image and maps possible (Y/N) |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| mycobank.org | taxonomy and DNA sequence | mushrooms | unlimited | in form of text | advanced | no |
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Many thanks for your time!

NWFPs Network Database Task Force