PROGRESS OF THE VITIS GERAPLASMA EXPLORATION AND COLLECTION IN GREECE DURING 1983

Grant reference number 83/032.

This program began in Greece during 1982 and it will last for 10 years.

During 1983, second year of the program, we have accomplished the following activities:
1) Exploring expeditions.

It was done in different regions of Greece by the following experts of viticulture:

a) KARANTONIS N. Vine Institute
b) DARIS B.
c) MICHOS B.
d) PANAGIOTOU G.
e) KOTINIS Ch. Extension service of the ministry of Agriculture
f) ARGYRAKIS EM. Institute of Viticulture, Heraklion
g) MATTHEOU Ant. Agric. Res. Center, Thessaloniki

In 36 departments of our country and especially in the regions of 170 villages, the expeditions have revealed the presence of 491 unknown rare grape varieties.

For each of these varieties 1-3 vines were marked with a metal tag, bearing a number in order to take the grafting material at the appropriate period, and a collection form was completed.

Photos were taken of certain these varieties and they were attached to the collection form.

On maps, that are attached to the present report we present the regions and the villages, where these rare varieties were found and the numbers correspond to the numbers marked on the metal tags of the vines.

2) Other activities

a) During 1983, we continued the study of indentification on the 270 Greek grape varieties included in the ampelographic collections of the Institute, according to the system that was adopted by the IBPGR meeting in Calgary.
In order to establish the collection of the rare varieties, we found during summer 1983, of 2ha in the vicinity of our Institute, which belongs to the Institute of Agronomical Sciences.

This area was disposed to our service, free of charge for some decades and we had to make all the necessary labours on the expenses of the program.

These labours are nivelation, deep cultivation, basic fertilisation with superphosphates and potassium, stone removal etc.

A part of these expenses was covered by the funds of 1983, after the approbation of IBPGR.

We hope that in Spring 1984 we shall plant a part of the discovered varieties.

3) Difficulties on the realisation of the program

a) Most of the rare grape varieties are existing on remote and mountainous regions, where the use of a car is difficult and their discovery takes a lot of time.

b) the best period for the identification is during grape maturing and on the same period the scientific personnel of the Vine Institute is occupied with the current research programs of the Institute.

This fact obstructs the long turn explorations in different regions.

4) Activities for 1984

a) We shall continue the exploration of other viticultural regions of the country

b) We shall try, early in 1984, to take the plant material from most of the found, in 1983, varieties.

c) We shall graft this material to the appropriate rootstock and then we shall plant it in the field. For this stage we need supplementary workers, payed by the fund as the workers of our Institute (payed by our Goverment) cannot do all the work.

d) We shall continue the study of Greek varieties, included in our ampelographic collections.

5) Special remarks

In the program for 1984, that we sent to you for approval, we include also the cost of some agricultural machinery that is indispensable for
the cultivation and the conservation of this gene bank for many years.

The responsible of the project

N. KARANTONIS
Director
of the Vine Institute.