Culture Collection of Agricultural Microbiology - UFLA, Brazil, is implementing a QMS based on ISO 9001:2008

Cledir Santos, Juliana Tensol, Ivani Gervais, Nelson Lima and Rosane Schwan

The Culture Collection of Agricultural Microbiology (CCMA-UFLA) is a Culture Collection of Microorganisms in Brazil, which belongs to the Federal University of Lavras-UFLA. It is headquartered at the Agricultural Microbiology Unit at the Department of Biology of UFLA. CCMA-UFLA is a public service collection that holds more than 4,000 yeasts, filamentous fungi and bacteria isolated mainly from fermentation processes involving coffee, cocoa, silage, fruits from Cerrado's biome and indigenous beverages.

CCMA-UFLA is now registered at World Data Centre for Microorganism-WDCM under the number "WDCM 1083" CCMA-UFLA has also been approved as WFCC affiliate member and its WFCC number is: 1244. CCMA-UFLA operates at national and international level for nearly two decades, it acts as an university infrastructure with the mission of accept deposits, preserve and provide microbial strains and its associated information for research and educational purposes in agricultural microbiology and related fields.

Moreover, in order to go further and have a harmonised procedures with its national and international partners, CCMA-UFLA is implementing a Quality Management System (QMS) based on ISO 9001:2008. This process has been developed in collaboration with the Portuguese Fungal Culture Collection *Micoteca da Universidade do Minho* (MUM, Portugal), which is an international fungal culture collection of reference.

According to Dr. Cledir Santos, Visiting Assistant Professor at the Post-Graduate Programme of Microbial Agriculture of UFLA and QMS Quality Manager for ISO 9001:2008 of CCMA-UFLA, the collection already operates globally under national and international regulations. "In a short time but with hard work and great effort we have managed to bring CCMA-UFLA to the national hall of Biological Resource Centres (BRC) Network", Dr. Santos said.

Concerning BRCs establishment in Brazil, the country is following the policy where a BRC will be one collection with a recognised label by Brazilian Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI, Brazil), with the accreditation system put in place by the Brazilian Institute of Metrology (INMETRO, Brazil). Although Brazil has no recognised BRCs yet by the government rules, CCMA-UFLA is working throughout to be first certified under the ISO 9001:2008 standard and then, as a next wise approach step will establish the Brazilian Standard NIT-DICLA-061 (Requirements for accreditation of testing activities and production of reference materials performed by BRCs), to fully become a BRC in Brazil.

For Dr. Cledir Santos, based on the effort and positive results that have been succeed in place, very soon CCMA-UFLA will be working full steam ahead as an international reference in the microbiological resources in the area of agricultural microbiology.

As a result of this effort, last November 2014 members of the Culture Collection of Agricultural Microbiology - Federal University of Lavras (CCMA-UFLA, Brazil) presented in the 3rd Brazilian Congress of Genetic Resources – III CBRG, http://www.cbrg.net.br - in the city of Santos (Brazil), the communication entitled ***"Culture Collection of Agricultural Microbiology of UFLA (CCMA-UFLA): from the requalification to the certification based on ISO 9001:2008"***. In the communication during the congress, members of CCMA-UFLA's team presented the ongoing process for the implementation of the QMS.

Some of the members of CCMA-UFLA's team during the III CBRG. From left to right: Ivani Gervais (Technician), Prof. Cledir Santos (Quality Manager) and Juliana Tensol (Curator).

According to Professor Rosane Schwan, Full Professor at UFLA and Director of CCMA-UFLA, the main aim of presenting this work was to disseminate the latest advances in planning and actions undertaken at CCMA-UFLA for its certification under the ISO 9001:2008 standard. "A PhD student has already been selected to develop the thesis on the certification process. This thesis is supervised by Professor Nelson Lima, who is Full Professor at University of Minho (Portugal), Professor Schwan said. Currently Professor Lima is living in Brazil as an International Visiting Professor at the Post-Graduate Programme of Microbial Agriculture of UFLA, which has a label of "Excellent", according the Brazilian Minister of Education based on international ranking scores.

Professor Nelson Lima during his conference entitled "Fungal taxonomy and the next generation of omics" at the III CBRG.

During the III CBRG, Professor Nelson Lima, President of European Culture Collection's Organisation/ECCO, presented two conferences as invited speaker, namely: ***"Fungal taxonomy and the next generation of omics"***, and ***"Innovation and Business Plan for Microbial Cultures Collections"***. Professor Lima, Director of MUM (Portugal), has also acts as Head of the International Advise Committee of CCMA-UFLA and is working close to WFCC to help the collection to be engaged in the future in the global BRC network, taking into consideration the international and the Brazilian regulations for BRCs.

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Merge of the Japan Society for Culture Collections (JSCC) and the Japan Society for Microbial Systematics (JSMS)

Takashi Itoh and Ken-Ichiro Suzuki

The Japan Society for Microbial Systematics (JSMS) which began as a workshop on microbial taxonomy in 1980 and became a society in 1985, as of January 1, 2015. It will now merge with the Merge of the Japan Society for Culture Collections (JSCC) and JSCC will also change its society name on this occasion,

The journal from JSCC (i.e. Microbiology and Culture Collections) allows a submission from non-Japanese national who is not a JSCC member if there is a letter of recommendation from a JSCC member. Therefore, the merger will be a news worth knowing for WFCC members.

Celebrating 60 Years of Mycology and the URM Culture Collection in the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil

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The Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Recife, Brazil has hosted a fungal culture collection since 1954 as part of University of Recife Mycology (URM) (http://www.ufpe.br/micoteca/). URM was established by the late Prof. Augusto Chaves Batista in 1954 with 297 well characterised fungal strains at the former Institute of Mycology, and was register later in WDCM as number 604. URM was recognized as a legal entity of the Brazilian Union for the deposit of genetic resources by the Genetic Patrimony Council of the Ministry of Environment in 2010. The collection now holds approximately 25000 named strains of yeasts (25%) and filamentous fungi (75%) to species level. All major taxonomic groups are represented. Each strain is preserved by at least two techniques: water and mineral oil storage were used initially, while freeze-drying and freezing at -80 ºC have become the preferred techniques for recent acquisitions. Special care is taken to ensure that cultures recovered from preservation conform to the characteristics of original deposit.

This collection offers a range of services including: acceptance of free and confidential deposits; supply of strains for academia, industry and other services; support of research and education (graduate and post-graduate students, and advanced training courses); and identification services and confidential contracts (e.g., fungal medical diagnosis, cultures for agro-industry companies, etc.).

The OECD initiative related to guidance for the operation of Biological Resource Centres (BRC) is now key for this