TerraGenome—The International Soil Metagenome Network:

An NSF Research Coordination Network (RCN)

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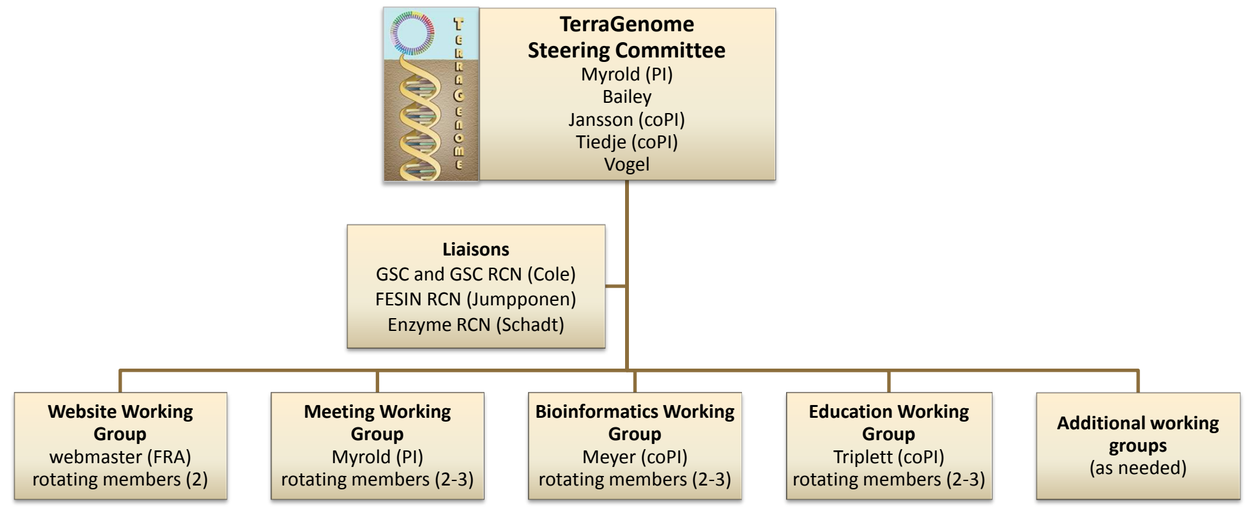
Introduction

TerraGenome has its roots in a meeting of interested scientists gathered in Lyon, France in December 2008. Our website (www.terragenome.org) was launched soon afterwards. Subsequent meetings in Uppsala, Sweden in 2009 and Seattle, Washington in 2010 resulted in recommendations for soil metadata requirements for soil metagenome research (Cole et al., 2010), which is available on our website. These meetings also catalyzed a group of us to submit a proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support our coordination efforts. The TerraGenome RCN (research coordination network) was funded a month ago by the NSF.

The purpose of the TerraGenome RCN is to facilitate activities that will increase our knowledge and understanding of the soil metagenome. This will be accomplished by holding periodic meetings to plan strategies and share information, coordinating sequencing and bioinformatics activities, hosting workshops to train students and other scientists in metagenomic analysis, and generally enhancing communication and information sharing through our website features.

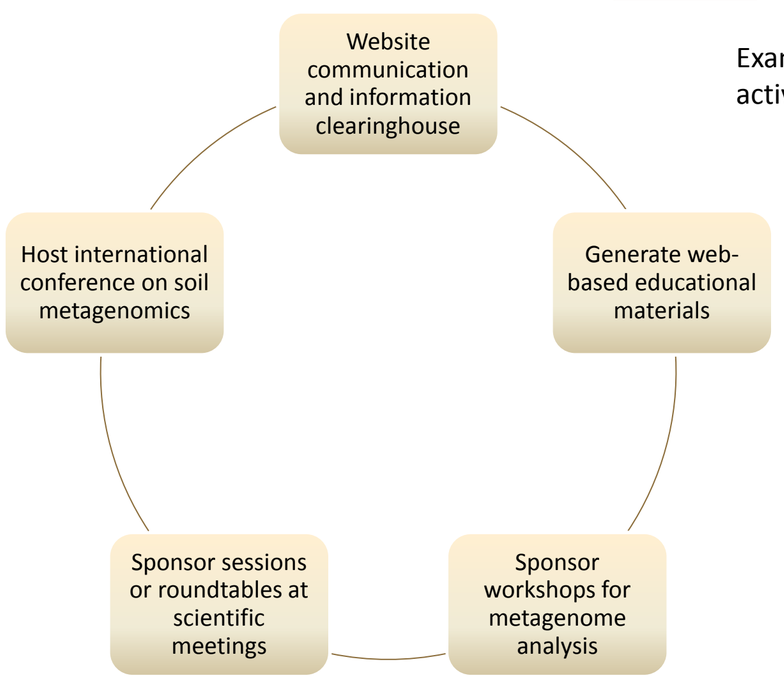
Cole, J.R., D.D. Myrold, C.H. Nakatsu, P.R. Owens, G. Kowalchuk, C. Tebbe, and J.M. Tiedje. 2010. Development of soil metadata standards for international DNA sequence databases. p. 5-8. *In* Proceedings of the 19th World Congress of Soil Science, Soil Solutions for a Changing World (R.J. Gilkes and N. Prakongkep, eds.) Brisbane, Australia.

Structure



TerraGenome is an all volunteer organization. Several individuals, including those who wrote the RCN proposal, have assumed roles within the organization. As you can see from the organizational chart above, more volunteers are need. If interested, please contact Dave Myrold at this meeting or at david.myrold@oregonstate.edu.

Activities



Examples of potential TerraGenome activities:

- Enhance website information by adding useful links to upcoming meetings, bioinformatic tools, publications, etc.
- Start a soil metagenome blog
- Roundtable at ISME-14
- Sessions at 2012 meetings of ASM, ESA, SSSA, etc.
- Partnering with on-going training workshops on bioinformatics
- Hosting international conference on soil metagenomics in summer 2015

Ideas for TerraGenome

TerraGenome will only be as successful if the soil metagenome community gets involved and participates. Please share your ideas below or to Dave Myrold at david.myrold@oregonstate.edu: