

Sustainable growth: unlocking the potential of plants

Workshops series on societal challenges
European Parliament / European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future'

Concept (05.11.2015)



Rationale

- Global and European Challenges and contributions from the plant sector to help addressing these in and beyond Europe (food and non-food)
- Follow on from the [European Parliament's report on plant breeding](#) (vote 24.2.2014)
- Jointly co-organised between MEPs (Across parties and committees), and the [Plants for the Future European Technology Platform](#) (three main stakeholders in there are: academia led by EPSO, farmers led by CopaCogeca, industries led by ESA)
- Discuss how the challenges can be addressed by manifold practices and technologies, with emphasis on "challenges first" and considering a combination of available solutions
- Inclusive approach – combine impact/role of all available technologies and traditional approaches – maintain and make best use of the diversity
- Series of workshops in the European Parliament: two p.a. (spring/autumn), 2 hours duration
- Aim for good outreach to citizens and media (e.g. via websites [workshop information hub on Plant ETP website, linked to other websites], social media, networks of each of the three Plant ETP stakeholders across Europe to reach the national / local level)

1st Workshop: Climate change – The role of crop plants

Time: 1 December 2015, 19:00-21:30 incl dinner

Venue: Renaissance Hotel, Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels

Climate change poses great challenges to agriculture and food production in Europe. The speakers of the first workshop will provide current examples on how plant science and plant breeding can help society to cope with climate change by emphasizing breeding goals that encompass mitigation, such as reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions, as well as crop adaptation to emerging/spreading diseases and increasingly severe weather conditions.

Invited speakers:

- Wilhelm Gruissem, Professor of Plant Biotechnology, ETH Zurich
- Thijs Simons, Senior Advisor, Plantum
- Luc Peeters, Chair Phytosanitary questions Working Party at Copa-Cogeca

Participants will be high-level policy makers from the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States, as well as experts from the three main Plant ETP stakeholder groups.

Contacts 1st workshop:



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Future workshops of this series in the European Parliament:

The second workshop will link to an interactive exhibition at the European Parliament held in May 2016, highlighting the success of the Fascination of Plants Day 2015 (www.plantday.eu).

2nd Workshop: Food and Nutritional Security

- May 2016

- Quantity and quality: New is the emphasis on combining yield with nutrition
- Equally important for Europe and developing countries (underutilized crops)
- Dependency of Europe from other producing regions

3rd Workshop: Reduce environmental foot print without reducing yield

- Autumn 2016

- Plants for food AND feed AND non-food applications (all part of bioeconomy)
- Sustainable intensification of agriculture: Smart plants (improved resistance and water productivity, perennial crops); Precision agriculture (for resource use efficiency); Plant microbe interaction beneficial (e.g. for soil health)

4th Workshop: Plants for Human Health

- Spring 2017

- Plant Made Pharmaceuticals
- Healthy nutrition: Increase nutritional value in plants (overcome malnutrition; beneficial secondary metabolites; whole grain products); Reduce non-beneficial compounds in plants (mycotoxins, toxin precursors, allergens)

5th Workshop: Stewardship and use of Biodiversity in Agriculture

- Autumn 2017

- Conservation and use of crop genetic diversity (resources)
- Biodiversity – related agronomy practices
- Increase diversity by crop rotation, improving underutilized crops, perennial crops

6th Workshop: One Health

- Spring 2018

- Improve nutrient pathways from plants → animals → humans
- Reduce disease spreading from plants → animals → humans
- Plants and agriculture in a systemic approach for sustainability (good environment with healthy and nutritional plants lead to healthy animals and healthy people)

