



## Editorial

EIP on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability – first steps finalised

## EPSO Activities

- 7<sup>th</sup> EPSO Conference in Greece promises high success!
- EPSO first input to Horizon 2020 Work Programmes
- Dublin and Prague will host the 2014 and 2016 Plant Biology Conferences
- Welcome to the UK Plant Sciences Federation as 10<sup>th</sup> MoU society
- Update on SAHYOG activities
- Plant ETP officially recognized by EC as ETP2020
- ETP 'Plants for the Future' workshop on protein crops

## Members' News

- EASAC Report 'Planting for the Future' launched
- Plant Phenotyping Network, DE
- Breakfast debate on Science, agriculture & public engagement
- NZ–Europe collaboration on research & innovation
- Cost Action: Vegetable grafting to improve yield and fruit quality
- ROOTOPOWER for better crop resistance

## Outreach Activities

- FoPD2013: success stories

## National Research Funding

- Panorama of plant research funding opportunities in Belgium

## European and Global Research Programmes

- Horizon2020 calls: preview
- Upcoming FP7 deadlines

## Upcoming Meetings

## Career Opportunities

## About EPSO

## The European Innovation partnership “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability” Moving Agriculture Ahead!

The [European Innovation Platform \(EIP\) on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability](#), set up by the European Commission (EC), finalised its first activity, the development of the Strategic Implementation Plan to give strategic guidance and orientation to the EIP. The EIP aims to build a bridge between science and the application of innovative approaches in practice. It should facilitate the contacts between the different actors (researchers, farmers, industry and government) through '[Operational Groups](#)' at local levels and allow for a broader exchange of visions, taking existing knowledge into consideration. In exchanging best practices the EIP should go beyond the virtual sphere and organise face to face meetings, exchange visits and launch '[Focus Groups](#)' at European level with participants from across Europe. It will enhance innovation-related actions supported by Rural Development Policy (in the Common Agricultural Policy, CAP) at regional level, as well as the 'Horizon 2020' Research and Innovation Programme at European level. Thus the EIP will be important to advise policy makers on strategic research topics.

To develop the Strategic Implementation Plan, the EC set up a high-level Steering Board and a Sherpa Group. As a first step of what became a long term commitment, EPSO, represented by Karin Metzloff, was invited to this Steering Board, together with representatives from Member States, regions, farmers', forestry, environmental, consumer and industry organisations. Astrid Sneyers from EPSO took part in the Sherpa Group to develop the draft Implementation Plan. EPSO co-headed the drafting of the 'Resource efficiency' chapter and provided input to the other chapters. EPSO was always calling for a balanced approach, such as supporting productivity and sustainability as they will both be needed in an integrated way, likewise new and traditional knowledge and technologies, incentives for farmers and scientists, and proposed a task force to address the two narratives of 'productivity' and 'sufficiency' in an integrated way.

At its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in July 2013 the Steering Board had a lively discourse on the content of the Implementation Plan and finally agreed on a compromise text presenting the various views in the Board. The meeting was chaired by Commissioners Cioleş (Agriculture) and Geoghegan-Quinn (Research). The [Strategic Implementation Plan](#) will now serve as a cornerstone for the Rural Development activities and relevant Horizon 2020 programmes. The main chapters are: 1) Introduction, Meeting the challenges, Policy context, and Implementing mechanisms; 2) Valorising diversity throughout the food chain; 3) Challenge Resource efficiency; 4) Challenge Provision of public goods; 5) Challenge Establishment of a sustainable consumption and supply chain; 6) Innovation culture; 7) Conclusions

EPSO members are encouraged to form 'Operational Groups' with other stakeholders at local levels, apply as expert to become member of a 'Focus Group' at European level and possibly propose new 'Focus Groups'.

Contact: [Karin Metzloff](#)

## EPSO Activities

### 7<sup>th</sup> EPSO Conference in Greece promises high success & latest news for the EPSO General Meeting

We are happy to announce a record participation of over 350 participants to the [7<sup>th</sup> EPSO Conference](#) in Porto Heli, Greece, 1-4 September 2013! Preparations are being finalised and we will have excellent talks and a wealth of inspiration from 220 posters. From these the best three will be selected for the EPSO Conference Poster Awards. We would like to thank all organisers, invited speakers and chairs, participants, sponsors and exhibitors to make this such an exciting event. We will provide the highlights on our website on a daily basis and in the next newsletter.



Just before the conference starts, EPSO representatives will gather for the EPSO General Meeting on 1 September. We will discuss the great

success of EPSO in the past years of which all EPSO members can be proud. EPSO now belongs to the well-established organisations for science and science policy at European level. Recent examples of the official recognition are:

The European Commission (EC) invited us to be member of the High Level Steering Board “[European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural](#)



#### [Productivity and Sustainability”](#)

The EC officially reapproved Plants for the Future ETP to give input to the Horizon 2020 annual Work Programmes, and

The Member States invited EPSO as observer to the ERA-Net on Molecular Plant Sciences, of which several meetings are now held during and after the EPSO Conference.

To further improve and strengthen our work, the representatives will discuss European and global research and science policy, the Fascination of Plants Day, [EPSO workshops](#) and [working groups](#), and new ideas to involve the next generations of plant scientists. In parallel discussion groups they will brainstorm (1) how best to link with SMEs, extension services and farmers for H2020 projects, (2) [Education and outreach activities](#), (3) [Agricultural technologies](#), and (4) Basic plant science in H2020.

We very much look forward to a very lively discussion with you at our General Meeting and great activities with you in the coming year and beyond to boost plant science and its contribution to our society in Europe and globally! **Contact:** [Karin Metzloff](#)

### Welcome to UKPSF as 10<sup>th</sup> MoU society – collaborating with EPSO

Welcome to the [UK Plant Sciences Federation](#) (UKPSF) for which Jim Beynon signed the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with EPSO to collaborate on policy issues in June 2013. The UKPSF provides one voice for all those involved in Plant Science research and development, education and training. It brings together all the latest news, information and funding opportunities on the UK Plant Science sector.

The [national societies collaborate with EPSO under this MoU](#) on activities such as the [Fascination of Plants Day](#), the [Horizon 2020](#) proposal, the Global Plant Council

([GPC](#)) and they can offer experts to the EPSO Working Groups.

Mimi Tanimoto (Policy Officer, [Society of Biology](#)); Jim Beynon (Deputy Policy Officer and Observer for meetings, [University of Warwick](#)) both have been nominated as contacts under this MoU.

EPSO very much encourages more national learned societies from the plant sciences to engage with EPSO under this MoU. Societies from Scandinavia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Spain, UK and Portugal already collaborate with EPSO in this way!

Please **contact** [Karin Metzloff](#) for more information.



“Horticulture for the 21st Century” Workshop  
11-12 November 2013, Berlin



Contact [Marina Korn](#) to register



FESPB-EPSON Conference  
22-26 June 2014, Dublin



Contact [Karin Metzloff](#) for more information



FESPB-EPSON Conference  
27.6-1.7.2016, Prague



Contact [Karin Metzloff](#) for more information