

EPSO Working Group Meeting Towards longer term partnerships of scientists from Europe and Developing Countries

Brussels, 16 October 2014

The EPSO Working Group on Global Plant Research – Subgroup on Developing Countries, met this Monday (13.10.2014) at GIZ in Brussels to agree next steps towards longer term partnerships of scientists from Europe and Developing Countries for sustainable intensification in agriculture. Participants shared state of the art of the activities from EPSO on Developing countries in the past 12 months, and discussed and decided next steps. They considered the overall context of national and European efforts to achieve maximum contribution and impact of the plant science community in this frame, and how we could help to improve this frame.

Main conclusions were:

The high interest from both, the European as well as the African side to develop such partnerships, articulated at the 2012 FAO-EPSO workshop is continuing and increasing. EPSO and its members are recognised as a largely untapped resource of excellent plant scientists and strong institutions in terms of research, education and strategy development.

EPSO and its members will advance several proposals and strategic linkages towards longer term partnerships of European and Developing countries' plant scientists. These include Underutilised Fruit and Vegetable Crops (led by Brian Thomas and Eckhard George), the Cassava Value Chain (led by Wilhelm Gruitsem and Herve Vanderschuren), Education (led by Jean-Christophe Glaszmann), Embedding of tree aspects (led by Thomas Geburek), and Strategic issues (led by Charles Spillane and Karin Metzloff).



Participants were: Sebastien Carpentier, BE; David Collinge, DK; Nathalie Franck, EPSO; Thomas Geburek, AT; Eckhard George, DE; Jean-Christophe Glaszmann, FR; Wilhelm Gruitsem, CH; Inaki Hormaza, ES; Marina Korn, DE; Anders Kvarnheden, SE; Calum MacKichan, EPSO; Karin Metzloff, EPSO; Hans-Joerg LUTZEYER, EC; Marc Nolting, DE; Bruce

Osborne, IE; Tobias Seiberlich, DE; Heike Slusarczyk, DE; Charles Spillane, IE; Brian Thomas, UK; Chiara Tonelli, IT; Herve Vanderschuren, CH/BE; Tobias Wojciechowski, DE.

Interested members experts and institutions, as well as potential partners are welcome to contact us. We encourage national agencies responsible for coordinating and funding (plant) research for Development to become an EPSO observer, following the example of the German agency GIZ

which kindly hosted this Working Group Meeting and will continue working jointly with EPSO for mutual benefit.

EPSO links and contacts:

www.epsoweb.org

[Working Group Global Plant Research](#) (incl. Developing Countries) – public website

[Observer](#) to EPSO

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