



European Plant Science Organisation
www.epsoweb.org

Towards longer term partnerships of scientists from Europe and Developing Countries for sustainable intensification of agriculture

Brussels, 7 November 2014

The EPSO Working Group on Developing Countries (EPSO-WoGrDC) met in Brussels, 13 October 2014, to discuss and agree next steps towards longer term partnerships between scientists from Europe and Developing Countries for sustainable intensification of agriculture (including agroforestry), and to articulate recommendations for national, European and international policy to enable and foster such partnerships. This follows up on the FAO-EPSO Workshop in Rome, 25-27 June 2012.

The main conclusions from the EPSO-WoGrDC meeting on how to increase impact of agricultural research for development on poverty reduction, food security and sustainable management of resources are:

1 - Recognition and affirmation that the high interest from both sides, Europe AND Developing Countries, continues and increases.

2 - Working towards realisation of opportunities and partnership building: Begin to shape partnership based on three areas for collaboration / pilot initiatives around plant research in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to facilitate bi/multilateral partnerships for sustainable intensification encompassing i) Scientific collaboration, ii) Capacity development and iii) Participatory technology development & access:

- Cassava value chain
- Underutilised fruit and vegetable crops (including fruit trees)
- Education

3 - Need for short-term actions and long-term pan-European partnership-building mechanisms to more effectively contribute to the Africa – EU partnership.

EPSO has identified the willingness of leading European plant science institutes, universities and researchers to contribute (a major untapped resource) to agricultural research for development, but also that they face constraints for building long-term partnerships to generate impact/outcomes. Multiple mechanisms are needed to overcome such constraints, including to:

- (1) Review European donor (national & EU) funding of CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs) to assess extent of engagement, (and facilitate higher levels of contribution), of European plant scientists to CRP research and activities.
- (2) Harmonise, horizontally link, and open up existing national-level bilateral mechanisms across European countries for supporting plant and agricultural research for development activities with partner developing countries.
- (3) Embed agricultural research for development research partnership activities with developing countries in Horizon 2020 (e.g. in societal challenges - research, mobility, capacity); COST; GEF etc.
- (4) Embed agricultural research for development research partnership activities with developing countries in Joint Programming Initiatives (e.g. add satellite activity to FACCE-JPI) and ERA-Nets (e.g. ERA-CAPS) until Article 185 actions are implemented.

(5) Ensure that Article 185 action and activities will be open to participation and contributions from all interested plant research institutes and universities) and scientists across Europe.

Contacts

Karin Metzloff
EPSO Executive Director
EPSO, Brussels, Belgium
T +32-2213-6260
epsos@epsomail.org

Charles Spillane
Chair EPSO Working Group Developing Countries
NUI Galway, Ireland
T:+353-91-494148
charles.spillane@nuigalway.ie

Useful links

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

National agencies for research with Developing countries are welcome to become an [Observer](#) to EPSO

EPSO member institutes and universities: www.epsoweb.org/about/members.htm

EPSO representatives: www.epsoweb.org/about/representatives.htm

About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 220 leading research institutes and universities from 28 European countries, Australia, Japan and New Zealand. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe.

www.epsoweb.org