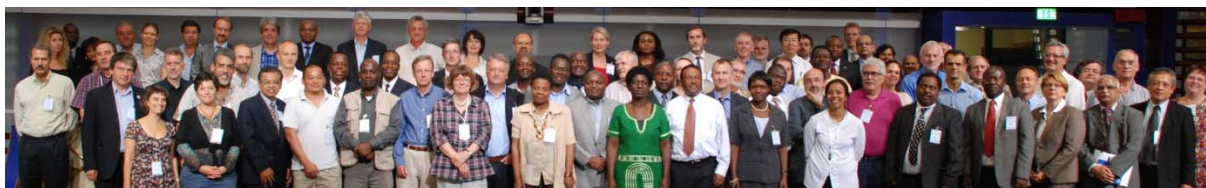


Plant Sciences for Sustainable Crop Production: Strengthening Partnerships between Europe and Developing Countries

A Joint EPSO – FAO – Developing Countries Initiative
Summary 24.4.2013



Global challenges: Food & nutrition security, Sustainable development, Energy, Climate change

- EPSO: huge network of experts (across 226 institutes & universities) in plant sciences across Europe who can contribute to addressing challenges. Some members already engaged in partnership work with developing countries, many are keen to contribute.
- FAO: facilitates capacity building, implementation and links with developing country farmers.

Goal: Long-term partnerships which link stakeholders in plant sciences for sustainable intensification of agricultural production, between Europe and developing countries

1st Workshop, Rome, 25-17.6.2012 : The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European Plant Science Organization (EPSO) organised a workshop to increase plant science and development interactions for strengthening food security. The two and a half day workshop brought together stakeholders from academia, networks, institutions, including public / private sectors from both Europe and developing countries (focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, SSA).

The outputs to date are:

- High interest from both sides, Europe and Developing countries
- Working towards shared view for opportunities and partnerships, begin to shape partnerships
- Defining a set of pilot initiatives / areas for initial collaboration in SSA
 - Begin the development of three coordinated plant research initiatives focused on the (i) cassava value chain, (ii) underutilized and local fruit and vegetable crops, (iii) legume and cereals mixed and intercropping
 - Through these initiatives, the goal is to facilitate bilateral and multilateral partnerships for scientific collaboration, capacity development, participatory technology development and access to strengthen sustainable intensification based on plant sciences.
- Developing a white paper on establishing a long-lasting partnership research for development platform between Europe and developing countries

Need for short-term actions and long-term pan-European partnership-building mechanisms

EPSO has identified willingness of leading European institutes / universities / researchers to contribute, but face restrictions for building long-term partnerships to generate impact/outcomes

- (1) Review donor guidelines CRPs (how to open up for European scientists to initiate / join?)
- (2) Add to existing (e.g. FACCE-JPI) or create new Joint Programming Initiative (Crops4Dev-JPI?)
- (3) Embed in ERA-Nets (e.g. ERA-CAPS, ERA-ARD) or new ERA-Nets
- (4) Embed in Horizon 2020, e.g. in societal challenges (research, mobility, capacity) & COST
- (5) Harmonise/link national-level partnership building mechanisms across EU member states for plant sciences for development

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Links: Workshop www.epsoweb.org/sustainable-crop-production-fao-epso-rome-it-june-2012

WS Report www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/documents/PGR/EPSO/Final_report_FAO-EPSO_Consultation_an.pdf, April 2013

[EC communication on international cooperation](#), 17.9.2012 (food security one of four priorities)

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