

EUCARPIA

First Announcement

Plant breeding for organic and sustainable, low-input agriculture: dealing with genotype-environment interactions Wageningen, 7 – 9 November 2007

Symposium
under the auspices of

EUCARPIA: Working group Organic Plant Breeding
COST SUSVAR: WG1 Breeding and Genetics
European Consortium for Organic Plant breeding (ECO-PB)
ISOFAR section Plant Breeding and Seed Production
Graduate School Production Ecology & Resource Conservation (PE&RC),
Wageningen University

We are proud to host the first EUCARPIA symposium on Organic Plant Breeding which will take place in Wageningen, in cooperation with COST860 - SUSVAR, ECO-PB, ISOFAR, the Graduate School PE&RC and Wageningen University.

Objectives

In Europe, agriculture is increasingly moving towards organic and sustainable, low-input farming systems. These agricultural practices, however, have various constraints that still need to be solved. One of the major constraints is that organic farmers still largely depend on crop varieties produced for conventional farming systems with high inputs of artificial, mineral fertilisers and chemicals for crop defence. Therefore, the organic sector urgently requires breeding programmes for robust varieties, which are better adapted to low-input conditions, with traits such as improved root systems, stronger interspecific competition ability (weed suppression) and yield stability. An important aspect in the breeding for such varieties is the choice for an appropriate selection environment (organic versus conventional, high versus low-input conditions). This symposium focuses on the above mentioned constraints and will explore alternative strategies to overcome these constraints, hereby also using insight and knowledge from agronomic fields working at a higher aggregation level (i.e. crop level).

Although the organic market may still be of limited size, many seed companies see the organic sector as an interesting niche market, which can have a spin-off for a more environmentally friendly seed production and seed treatments, and breeding programmes for sustainable, low-input farming systems. Therefore, the symposium will also be of relevance for sustainable, low input agriculture.



The topic areas that will be covered are:

- Genotype-Environment interaction
- Breeding strategies
- Genetic diversity
- Selection criteria and methods
- Participatory approaches

Local organizing committee:

Prof. dr. Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Dr. Claudius van de Vijver, Annie Marchal, Mariame Gada.

Scientific Programme Committee:

Prof. dr. Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, chair of EUCARPIA working group Organic Plant Breeding, chair of ECO-PB and ISOFAR Plant Breeding and Seed Production section.

Senior Research Specialist, dr. Hanne Østergård, Risø National Laboratory, Roskilde, Denmark, chair of COST860 - SUSVAR, board member of ECO-PB, vice chair ISOFAR Plant Breeding and Seed Production section.

Dr. Isabel Goldringer, INRA, France, COST SUSVAR WG 1 leader.

Venue

WICC Hotel and Congress Centre, Lawickse Allee 9, 6701 AN Wageningen, the Netherlands

Time:

7 November, 1. 00 pm – 9 November 2007, 1. 00 pm

Fee

	Before 01.08.07	After 01.08.07
EUCARPIA's member	€ 250,-	€ 300,-
EUCARPIA's non-member	€ 300,-	€ 350,-
PhD students	€ 100,-	€ 150,-

Fees includes workshop material, coffee, tea, meals and Book of Abstracts

Not included: travel and accommodation (ca €70-80 per night)

SUSVAR-members may apply for reimbursement from SUSVAR.

Registration

Registration and accommodation details will be available on the website www.pe-rc.nl (under "Courses and Activities") or via a link through the EUCARPIA, ECO-PB, ISOFAR and COST860 - SUSVAR homepages by mid February 2007. It is recommended to register early. After 1 August 2007 an extra registration fee of €50,- will be charged.

Call for papers

For oral presentations and posters, please, send a one page abstract (max 500 words) before 1 April 2007 to: edith.lammertsvanbueren@wur.nl. Abstracts will only be accepted after registration.

Proceedings

At the start of the conference, an abstract book will be presented. Instead of proceedings the editor in chief of the peer-reviewed journal on plant breeding, *Euphytica*, has offered the possibility to release a special issue on this workshop and

to publish 10-15 selected papers in this issue. Full papers should be sent before 1 Sept 2007.

PhD-students

PhD candidates are more than welcome to participate. Particularly for those working in the field of breeding and organic agriculture the meeting will be quite rewarding, as the meeting will give in-depth insight in the cutting-edge issues in the field. Through poster sessions, PhD's will be able to display their own work and interact with specialists.

Important dates to remember:

15 February 2007	second announcement, registration open
1 April 2007	deadline submission of abstracts
1 August 2007	deadline for early registration fee
1 September	deadline for submission full papers

Further information:

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