Food and Nutritional Security

2nd workshop of the series
Sustainable growth: Unlocking the potential of plants

2 June 12:30-14:00

Lunch workshop

European Parliament, Brussels

The issue of food and nutritional security is one of the major societal challenges for Europe and developing countries.

At this workshop will be discussed how plant research and plant breeding can contribute by improving the nutritional quality of food products, tailoring plants for specific health benefits, and eliminating harmful compounds to improve food safety.

Speakers:

- Joachim Schneider, Bayer CropScience, DE
- Eugenio Butelli, John Innes Centre, UK
- Juan Sagarna García, Cooperativas Agro-Alimentarias, ES

Participants (max 45) will be representatives from various DGs, Committees, Ministries and Councils of the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States as well as experts of the European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future' from academia, industry and farming.

European Parliament

Hosted by MEP Jasenko Selimovic
together with the European Technology
Platform 'Plants for the Future'

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Plants for the Future
European Technology Platform

Developing and producing plant raw materials for food products

Plant science and breeding can develop improved plant varieties with beneficial compounds using a variation of methods and techniques. This requires identification and assessment of beneficial compounds from plants. Such an approach should not be limited to the main field crops, but should also cover a broad range of horticultural crops, including vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices, all of which are essential for a nutritious, varied and tasty diet. We need to ensure access for all to healthy and nutritious food, by ensuring that improved production and transportation methods result in affordable fresh fruit and vegetables being available throughout Europe.

Providing tailored plants for specific health benefits

Plant science and breeding may provide us with plant-based food and related functional products that can contribute to prevent the onset of major chronic diseases, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular and neurodegenerative diseases and ameliorate their impact once contracted. New nutritionally enhanced products that do not require additives such as sugars and trans-fatty acids should be developed to improve the diet and could be used to design of customized diets.

Reducing or eliminating potentially harmful compounds to improve safety of food

Apart from increasing nutritional value, plant science and breeding is important to reduce or eliminate the content of non-beneficial compounds; for example plant toxins, allergens, toxic metals, microbial pathogens, neurotoxins, acrylamide precursors, pesticide residues and mycotoxins. We need to assure the safety of plant raw materials in the entire food chain**.**

The European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future' (Plant ETP; www.plantetp.org) brings together public and private researchers, industry and farming communities in order to align research priorities and set up strategic action plans to promote research, innovation and education in the plant sector. The members are EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation (public research), ESA, the European Seed Association (private plant breeders), Copa-Cogeca, Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations / General Committee for Agricultural Cooperation in the European Union (farming sector) and individual companies active in the plant sector.

Workshop programme

"Food and Nutritional Security"

European Parliament / European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future'

2 June 2016, 12:30-14 :00

Salon 3, European Parliament, Brussels

The issue of **food and nutritional security** is one of the major societal challenges for Europe and developing countries. Constantly increasing world population demands intensifying crop productivity but new challenges are arising that in addition call for improving nutritional quality and assuring safety at the point of consumption. This lunch workshop will present examples of how plant science and breeding can help society to cope with the challenges of food and nutritional security. Perspectives and actions will be discussed with representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission, Member States, and Plant ETP stakeholder experts.

Programme

12:30-12:40 *Welcome and introduction*

Aleksandra Malyska, *Executive Manager, Plant ETP*
Jasenko Selimović, *Member of the European Parliament, Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe*

12:40-13:10 *Addressing the challenges of Food an Nutritional Security*

Joachim Schneider, *Bayer CropScience, NL*
Eugenio Butelli, *John Innes Centre Norwich, UK*
Juan Sagarna García, *Cooperativas Agro-Alimentarias, ES*

13:10-13:55 *General Discussion*

Moderated by Aleksandra Malyska

13:55-14:00 *Conclusions and closing*

----- Co-hosts -----

Jasenko Selimović

Jasenko Selimović is a Member of the European Parliament since October 2015, for the Swedish liberal party. Mr Jasenko Selimović is a full member of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development and a substitute member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. Mr Selimović was born in Bosnia-Hercegovina and moved to Sweden in the early 1990's. He holds a Director Exam from Dramatic Institute in Stockholm, a B.A. in Political Science/International Political Economy from Stockholm University and an MBA in Master of Business Administration from Edinburgh Business School. In 2006 Jasenko Selimovic was named 'European of the Year' by the Swedish European Movement. Jasenko Selimovic is a former Vice-CEO & Artistic director at Gothenburg City Theatre and State Secretary for the Ministry of Labour in Sweden.

Aleksandra Małyska

Aleksandra Małyska is Executive Manager of the European Technology Platform “Plants for the Future”, which is a research- and innovation-focused stakeholder forum for the plant sector that brings together academia, farmers and industry. Ms Małyska holds a Ph.D. in biotechnology from the Lodz University of Technology and MSc in Social Sciences from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. In 2015 Ms Małyska was a postdoctoral researcher at the MIT Program on Emerging Technologies, where she was involved in a project assessing potential impediments to commercialization of synthetic biology at an earlier than usual stage of technology development

----- Speakers -----

Joachim Schneider

Joachim Schneider is Head of Bayer Vegetable Seeds, with its headquarters in Haelen, The Netherlands, where he is responsible for Bayer's global Vegetable Seeds business. After studying agricultural engineering at the University of Bonn, Germany, and completing his PhD in plant pathology at the University of Gießen and the University of the South Pacific in West Samoa, Dr Schneider started his career in Research and Development in 1984 with Bayer's Crop Protection Business Group in Monheim, Germany. Dr Schneider was working within Bayer in different global management positions in the fields of Product Development, Biological Development, Herbicides, Crop Protection, Seeds and Traits, Public Affairs, and Growth and Strategy. Since 2015 Dr Schneider is member of the Executive Committee at ESA and active within Plantum, the Dutch Seed Association.

Eugenio Butelli

Eugenio Butelli is plant biotechnologist working at the John Innes Centre in Norwich, UK. He started his career in Italy as a biomedical scientist and pharmacologist. Fascinated by the potential of genetic engineering, in 1998 Mr Butelli started a PhD in plant science. Dr Butelli has been working on nutritionally enhanced tomatoes for 14 years within the framework of three EU-funded projects. As scientific director of "Persephone Bio", he is trying to develop tomatoes that will serve as efficient biofactories for the production of nutraceutical and cosmetic products. In 2014 Dr Butelli and Prof Martin were awarded the BBSRC's Most Promising Innovator award. Dr Butelli is member of the European Plant Science Organisations, EPSO.

Juan Sagarna García

Juan Sagarna Garcia is Agricultural engineer, Head of the department handling with projects within farmers cooperatives in Spain. Mr Garcia is also vice chairman of the Working Party on Research in COPA-COGECA and member of the Sub-group on Innovation in the European Innovation Partnership. He is currently Project Manager in the European project TESLA and in the Horizon 2020- SCOoPE, involving cooperatives in seven countries. In his career, Mr Garcia worked for European Commission as external expert assessing European project performance.