



## Statement

European Plant Science Organisation  
<https://epsoweb.org>

# Plant scientists improving crop water use efficiency – World Water Week

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*Brussels, 27.8.2019*

**Plant scientists can help to boost water use efficiency of agricultural crops and forest trees and to improve resource stewardship for resilient production in agriculture, horticulture and forestry.**

Not only the world's burgeoning population of 7.5 Bn, but also the plants on which that population depends, need sufficient and high-quality water for their survival. The increases in droughts and flooding associated with climate change put agricultural production at risk of crop failures, while the fertilizers and pesticides used to generate sufficient and healthy food in turn put groundwater at risk of contamination. Biological research-based solutions are needed to produce breakthroughs in understanding so that resilient, water-efficient crops, able to achieve high yields on low inputs, will be available to farmers and foresters worldwide. Improved crops - with respect to improved root performance and lower water loss - and low-water consumption management systems can contribute to higher yield at less water footprint.

These targets should be priorities under the European Research and Innovation programme 'Horizon Europe', so that we may help deliver on the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDG2 "Zero Hunger", Target 2.4; SDG6 "Clean Water", Targets 6.1, 6.3, 6.6; SDG8 "Decent work and economic growth", Target 8.4.; SDG12 "Responsible consumption and production": Targets 12.1-12.2; SDG13 "Climate Action".

EPSO offers to collaborate with the European Commission and the Member States on such ideas and their implementation.

See as well EPSO Position on FP9 from 19.9.2017

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### Useful links

EPSO position on FP9, 19.9.2017:

[https://epsoweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/17\\_09\\_19\\_EPSO\\_Position-on-FP9.pdf](https://epsoweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/17_09_19_EPSO_Position-on-FP9.pdf)

EPSO publications: <https://epsoweb.org/news/>

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**About EPSO**

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 31 countries, mainly from Europe, and 3.000 individuals Personal Members, representing over 26 000 people working in plant science. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe, to provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science including science advice to policy, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science. <https://epsoweb.org> | EU Transparency Register Number 38511867304-09