



European Plant Science Organisation
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Workshop Handout

EPSO Workshop Implementing a Plants and Microbiomes Strategy in Europe

Brussels, 11.1.2021

The EPSO Working Group on Plants and Microbiomes has the pleasure to announce its third workshop to take place online on 13-14 January 2021, 09:00 – 12:00 and 09:00 – 13:15 respectively, as a virtual workshop.

This third workshop has two aims. First, we will hear first highlights from (multi-)national plants and microbiomes research and innovation from our Working Group members to present. Second, we will discuss in more detail two themes which need further elaboration by the Working Group: 'Advancing from correlation to causation from lab to field to ecosystems' and on 'Research infrastructure' - and provide advice to Horizon Europe and (multi-)national research strategies.

The meeting intends to increase collaborations between the working group members (via e.g. COST action, Coordination & Support Actions, initiate more collaborations both bi- and multi-lateral).

At the end of the meeting, a workshop report will be drafted on the current status, goals and next steps in plants and microbiomes research – particularly – and will be provided as science advice to policy to the European Commission.

We look forward to e-meeting you in January!

Angela Sessitsch, Paul Schulze-Lefert, Corné Pieterse and Karin Metzloff

Workshop Programme - outline and themes

DAY 1 (09:00 – 12:00)

Meeting Link open from 08:45 on: [Klicken Sie hier, um an der Besprechung teilzunehmen](#)

- **Welcome** by Angela Sessitsch, Paul Schulze-Lefert and Karin Metzloff
- **T1: First highlights from (multi)national plants and microbiomes initiatives (09:15 – 10:45)** moderated by Paul Schulze-Lefert
 - Welcome
 - Main R&I initiatives in DE, DK, NL – highlights and update (20 min each: 15' + 5')
 - Paul Schulze-Lefert, Mette Haubjerg Nicolaisen, Harro Bouwmeester
 - Member States and EU initiatives: Soil health and food mission (10' scope + 10' discussion)
 - Alfred Grand / AT (Grand Farm; Member of the EU Mission *Soil and Food Health*)
- **Coffee Break 10:45 – 11:15**
- **T1: First highlights from (multi)national plants and microbiomes initiatives cont. (11:15 – 11:50)** moderated by Karin Metzloff
 - Member States & EU initiatives cont.: Biodiversity partnership, Agroecology partnership (20 min each: 10' scope + 10' discussion)
 - Hilde Eggermont (Belgian Biodiversity Platform), Chantal Gascuel (INRAe)
- **Group photo 11:50 – 11:55**
- **Instructions for day 2** by Angela Sessitsch **11:55 – 12:00**

DAY 2 (09:00 – 13:15)

Meeting Link: [Klicken Sie hier, um an der Besprechung teilzunehmen](#)

- **Introduction to T2 and T3 (09:00 - 09:15)** by Paul Schulze-Lefert
- **T2: Addressing R&D bottlenecks (09:15 - 10:00)**

Further discuss recommendations from 2nd Workshop and how best advance these by developing specific and representative cases, which can be used for recommendations:

Group 1 (Chair 1: Angela Sessitsch; Rapporteur: Sofie Thijs):

 - R3-Moving from correlation to causation under lab, greenhouse and field conditions
 - R4-More understanding on the complexity of the ecosystem-plant-microbiome system is needed

Group 2 (Chair 2: Paul Schulze-Lefert; Rapporteur: Robert Koller):

 - R5-Plant mechanisms to attract / interact with microbiota require understanding
 - R7-Precompetitive research should address the identification of microbiome-based plant health and resilience indicators and microbiome understanding needed by the industry
- **T2: Addressing R&D bottlenecks cont. (10:00 - 10:45)**

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- **Coffee break (10:45 – 11:15)**
- **T2: Addressing R&D bottlenecks & next steps cont. (11:15 – 11:45)**
Reports (by the rapporteurs) to the plenary and agree next steps (Angela Sessitsch, Paul Schulze-Lefert and Karin Metzloff)
- **T3: Addressing infrastructure bottlenecks & next steps (11:45 – 13:00)**
Moderated by Corné Pieterse, Rapporteur: Islam Abd El-Daim
Further discuss recommendations from 2nd Workshop and how to best advance these:
 - R17-European infrastructure recommended for plant microbiome research
 - R15-Open access databases integrating (plant) microbiome and meta-data are required
 - All plenary, no breakout sessions
- **AOB (13:00 – 13:15)** (discuss progress / ideas regarding the other recommendations as appropriate) and **closure** by Angela Sessitsch, Paul Schulze-Lefert and Karin Metzloff

List of participants

Islam Abd El-Daim, AIT, AT
Hanna-Leena Alakomi, VTT, FI
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Giovanni Bubicci, CNR, IT
Gabriel Castrillo, Univ. Nottingham, UK
Carolina Chiellini, CNR, IT
Lemong Dong, Uni Amsterdam, NL
Hilde Eggermont, Bioversity, BE
Kellye Eversole, Eversole Ass., USA
Kerrie Farrar, Aberystwyth Univ, UK
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Marta Maluk, Hutton, UK
Karin Metzlauff, EPSO
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Useful links

EPSO Plant and Microbiomes Working Group including report from 1st and 2nd workshop
<https://epsoweb.org/working-groups/plants-and-microbiomes/>

EPSO news: <https://epsoweb.org/news/>
EPSO members: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epsso/epsso-members/>
EPSO representatives: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epsso/representatives/>

About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 32 countries, mainly from Europe, and 2.700 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