

Autumn 2021 newsletter

This is the shorter public version. All articles with * are only in the full Newsletter available on the members' only website.

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About EPSO



Research Cornucopia

We are all familiar with the iconic image of a cornucopia – “horn of plenty” – which has been used since ancient times to represent well-being derived from the abundance of the harvest, and still finds its place on festive tables. We take for granted that the cornucopia overflows with diverse *different* fruits, not with many of the same. We understand implicitly that diverse crops represent, and indeed support, good nutrition and health.

Europe from the Middle Ages forward became increasingly a grain-growing region, with western Europeans subsisting primarily on a daily kilo of bread, made from wheat for the better off, by the 1400s. Today, cereals cover ~52 million ha, ~30% of the arable land of the EU. The Green Revolution, which transformed agriculture and food security in the developing world, was built on a few traits in wheat, rice, and maize. Likewise, the push to intensification and high yield in the 20th century led the production of the key European grains—wheat, maize, and barley—from a germplasm base that narrowed by the decade.

Cereals will remain an important and necessary mainstay of European agriculture and food culture, as the staff of life. Currently, however, multiple forces are driving the diversification of both the germplasm within each our main crops and of the range of crops we grow. Europe is inherently climatically diverse. However, climate change is affecting the various corners of Europe differently and driving the need for divergent solutions within our main crops to mitigate the ensuing biotic and abiotic challenges, which are likewise diverging across Europe. Pandemic-induced supply-chain interruptions have dramatized the need for local production security for foodstuffs, driving diversification of crops. Dietary shifts, such as towards meat alternatives, has increased demand for protein crops, such as pulses, that had faded in importance over the last century. Technological innovations, including vertical farming, is beginning to lead to new crops and cropping systems in novel locations. Lastly, a growing awareness of the health-promoting properties of micronutrients, fiber, and various phytochemicals has increased consumer interest in dietary diversity.

At the turn of the millennium the gene revolution, or rather the genomics revolution, benefited first Arabidopsis as a model system and then a few crops, notably rice and then maize, soybean, and oilseed rape, which either had relatively small genomes or sufficiently large production to justify the high cost of genome sequencing and assembly. In recent years, technical advances made possible large-scale projects for the development of genomic and genetic tools for mainstay crops such as wheat and barley that have large or complex genomes. Today, orphan and minor crops, whatever their genomic complexity have become fully accessible for genetics, genomics, and phenotyping, and for translation of advances from model systems at a reasonable cost, though transformation, editing, and regeneration remains a bottleneck for many.

The combination of the needs and benefits of diverse crops for diverse diets, the forces driving the diversification, and the new accessibility of diverse species to genomic toolkit development leads EPSCO to strongly encourage funding sources and policy makers to open the road for advances in neglected crops for the benefit of all Europeans. We have therefore brought forward the concept of **“diverse crops for diverse diets, human health, and resilient production.”** In addition, EPSCO is promoting the idea that **food and nutritional security, environmental sustainability, and human health are best addressed in parallel** as the three are intimately interlinked. To this end we suggest as well **combining approaches on crop improvement, crop management and crop processing** to enable interdisciplinary approaches across the entire agri-food chain with co-benefits in Europe and beyond.

To further develop these concepts, EPSCO members exchanged ideas in a [workshop](#) on 26th October and will be working in the coming weeks on a report for scientists, stakeholders and policy makers.

We welcome that at the policy and funding level, many of these ideas are currently being recognized as the best way to reach Farm to Fork, Biodiversity, SDGs, and COP26 goals for agriculture. However, when **policy makers set goals** relevant to putting the ideas into practice, EPSCO strongly suggests that **the means and pathways to achieve them are left open**. Evaluation of agronomic systems for resilient production must be science-based. Creation of viable value chains for new crops and products should be enabled. The door to innovation, whether through current NBTs or something yet to appear on the horizon, has to be left open if we are to meet the challenges we face. The near future will bring changes in agriculture in Europe as profound as any seen in the last 1000 years. Luckily, we have built a capacity in plant science on this continent that enables us to meet the challenges these changes will bring with them. It is only needed for European policy makers to empower our scientists to yoke their creative energy to the tasks ahead.



Contact: [Alan Schulman](#), EPSCO President & [Karin Metzloff](#), EPSCO Executive Director

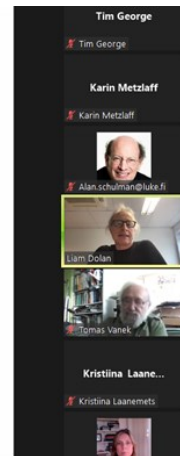
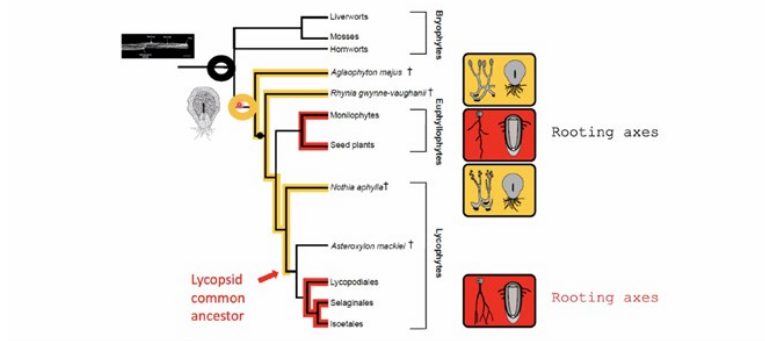


EPSO Activities



EPSO Plant Science Seminar moves into a second season

Hypothesis: rooting structures of the common ancestor of the vascular plants comprised bilaterally symmetric axes with rhizoids on the lower sides



The Third Thursday at Three has become a feature of the Plant Science diary in 2021. Back in March, we had the inaugural EPSO Plant Science Seminar on **Gene Editing**, while just last week we held our sixth seminar, and our second in this autumn's season of seminars, on the **Evolution of Plants for Life on Land**. Both seminars were very well attended, with around 150 participants at each, but there is always room for more attendees, so please support this initiative by joining the ranks for future seminars.

In between these sessions, we have held seminars on "The Wonderful World of **Plant Microbe Interactions**", "Cutting Edge Techniques for Understanding the Hidden World of **Root Development**", "**Post-Pollination** Development in Plants" and "Control of **Senescence**". We have learnt about the fascinating research underway, on subjects ranging from the molecular mechanisms invoked by pollination and by environmental cues for the onset of senescence, through to the fossil and taxonomic evidence for plant adaptation to terrestrial life derived from insights into plant root and microbe interactions. Each seminar has had some fascinating insights for anyone with an enquiring mind.

Recordings of the seminar are available for our members on the EPSO [members only website](#) for three months.

As we move into the winter, we will be having seminars on a range of subjects including "Future Plant Nutrition" on 16.12.2021, and "Legumes as Alternative Protein Sources" on 20.1.2022.

As an innovation in 2022, we intend to focus our monthly seminars on the hot topics being discussed in the various EPSO Working Groups.

If you wish to nominate yourself or one of your colleagues to give a seminar, please contact Tim George (tim.george@hutton.ac.uk) to provide your name and potential talk title.

So, remember TTT: be available on the **Third Thursday** of the month at **Three** (CET) for some inspirational talks from European Plant Science.

Contact: [Tim George](#), The James Hutton Institute, Dundee (UK)



Future Proofed Crops, a new EPSO Working Group plans its first meeting Feb'22



The Working Group "Future proofed crops" will take a comprehensive approach, from genome to phenome, to support the delivery of high

yielding, resilient European crops fit for climatological, environmental, and societal constraints. Our major focus is on developing crops that have more resilient and efficient **Photosynthesis** and that can resist to **abiotic stress** to avoid nutrient and/or water limitation of CO₂ fixation. These approaches will lead to safeguarding future crop production, optimizing plant **resource use efficiency**, and minimizing the environmental impact of agriculture. We fully acknowledge that future-proofed crops will have to be grown in a sustainable agricultural system that takes into account Earth's limits and boundaries. Therefore, this Working Group (WG) will actively engage with other entities involved in, for instance, protection against future pests and diseases (EPSO Plant Health WG), plants and microbiome interaction (EPSO MiBi WG), nutritional security (EPSO WG NS), agricultural technologies (EPSO AgT WG), adaptation of agronomy and cultivation/production systems, agro-ecology, and

development of future post-harvest processing and food production.

Next to safeguarding Europe's food production, we also have a clear focus on future proofing crops, including silviculture, for non-food purposes. The main drivers behind this aspect are increasing the photosynthetic sink of CO₂ and other greenhouse or reactive gases for climate change mitigation, and supporting a global shift from a fossil based economy towards a biobased economy. Examples of envisioned adaptations are optimizing CO₂ capture capacity of plants for below ground storage of carbon, or developing and adapting crops for high and efficient biomass production as feedstock that replaces fossil resources.

The first activity planned by the WG will be a (probably online) meeting in February 2022 to discuss the upcoming novel possibilities to future proof our crops.

Contact: [Rene Klein Lankhorst](#), Wageningen University, NL



SusCrop: 9 projects selected within the four ERA-NETs call



In June 2021, the ERA-Net SusCrop welcomed about 65 participants to the virtual projects' kick-off meeting of the 2nd transnational Call. The participants were project coordinators and partners, SusCrop consortium members, funders and other stakeholders that got together to learn about the eight selected projects, to network and to discuss the state of the art in the field of sustainability and resilience of crop production. It was also a good opportunity to provide the project coordinators information on the status of the ERA-Net Cofund action, the project reporting duties, and to assess potential impacts and consequences of COVID-19.

For more information about the 2nd call for projects under the ERA-Net Cofund action SusCrop, please visit the website: <https://www.suscrop.eu/call-information/2nd-call>.

For the four ERA-NETs SusAn (Sustainable Animal Production Systems), FACCE ERA-GAS (Monitoring and Mitigation of Greenhouse Gases from Agriculture and Silviculture), ICT-AGRI-FOOD and SusCrop (Sustainable Crop Production) have coordinated and aligned efforts in areas of mutual interest and established a joint transnational funding initiative in the field of agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) research, focusing on circularity in mixed crops and livestock farming systems with emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Call funded by 29 institutions from 22 countries and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases is now concluded. After peer review and ranking of the 39 eligible full proposals, nine projects were recommended for funding within the limits of available national/regional funding. More information about the selected project will follow soon.

Karin Metzloff (EPSO) is official observer in SusCrop, advising on science strategy, stakeholder engagement and outreach. EPSO supports as well project dissemination.

Contact: [Nikki De Clerq](#), ILVO, Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, BE



Successful Plant Biology 2021 Congress

The PBE 2021 Congress, jointly organized by the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO) and the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology (FESPB), was successfully held online from 28 June to 1 July 2021.



The organization of the congress was managed by the Local Organizing Committee chaired by Andrea Schubert and composed of Italian Plant scientists. Invited presentations were selected by a Scientific Organizing Committee chaired by Francesco Loreto and composed of EPSO and FESPB scientists.

The Congress included 12 Plenary lectures and 23 Keynote talks by top European and world scientists involved in Plant Biology research, each introducing a specific parallel session concluded by a final live discussion. Further presentations that could not find place within sessions were given as 10-minute Extended Elevator Pitches in a dedicated on-demand session.

Within the Congress, **EPSO hosted** a plenary Science Policy session, and co-hosted a session on the ERC

jointly with the European Commission, and a session on access to genetic resources / Nagoya Protocol jointly with the GPC. The winners of the EPSO Young Scientist Awards (YPSA) and the FESPB awards presented their work in plenary sessions. EPSO has received the links to the respective [online recordings](#) from the organisers on 2nd December and will provide these on the **EPSO members only website** for a period of three months.

More than 450 scientists registered to the meeting. The Congress video registrations have remained available online for three months after the end of the Congress. Overall, online participation was very satisfactory and reflected the scientific excellence of a meeting held in an unexpected format in difficult times.

Contact: [Andrea Schubert](#), University of Turin, IT



Prepare interactive events for the Fascination of Plants Day 2022!



In May 2021, National Coordinators (NC) from 22 countries worldwide shared their online and in-person events. Thanks to them, to event organisers and to you we kept the momentum alive!

To have a glimpse of what happened you still can [check the news section](#) of the dedicated website or our social media: [Twitter](#) (@PlantDay18May), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) (@fascinationofplantsday). You can also share your pictures and experiences while tagging our accounts with #FoPD #Plantsday #PlantDay.

We are now preparing for Fascination of Plants Day 2022! If you have not yet joined the adventure and would like to, you can [contact your National Coordinator](#) (NC) or Alexandra Barnoux if there is no NC in your country, to organise as well an exciting interactive event for the public around 18 May 2022.

Get inspired by the [success stories](#) from FoPD 2019, at which over 860 events were organised in over 51

countries across the world.

After 2022, the next official FoPD will be in 2024.

Contacts: Global coordinators: [Alexandra Barnoux](#), EPSO, BE; [Trine Hvoslef-Eide](#), Norwegian University of Life Sciences, NO, [Przemysław Wojtaszek](#), Adam Mickiewicz University, PL; [Karin Metzlauff](#), EPSO, BE.



www.plantday18may.org #PlantDay



If you would like to sponsor the Fascination of Plants Day 2021 contact us on info@plantday18may.org

December 2019



Members' news



Welcome to the University of Bordeaux as new member



The University of Bordeaux (UB) has a long history dating back to 1441. Since then, the University has continuously evolved to become one of the best French universities,

recognised for the quality of its teaching and research. Today, the institution counts 57,000 students, including over 6,000 international students, and more than 3,000 teachers and researchers working in 88 research structures. Research teams of the University of Bordeaux are renowned worldwide and cover a wide range of disciplines in the fields of Technological Sciences, Social Sciences, Life and Health Sciences, Law, Economics and Management.

To support the excellence of its research, in 2021, the University of Bordeaux has recognised and funded seven Major Research Programs with an international scope, focusing on specific scientific challenges. Carried out in collaboration with French national research organisations such as CNRS, Inserm, INRAE and INRIA, these programs wish to support the development of high-impact research at the forefront of international excellence. Among the granted programs, the **"Bordeaux Plant Sciences"** (BPS) research

project will strive to conduct cutting-edge and innovative research in the field of Plant Sciences, to enable the University to continue to excel internationally in this field (UB is among the top 75 universities in the field of agricultural sciences in the ARWU ranking).

The innovative aspect of the BPS research program is the study of trade-off in plants in the context of climate change. The ambition of the BPS project is to better understand and dissect the molecular, (epi)genetic and physiological mechanisms involved in the compromises between biomass production, resistance of plants to biotic (viruses, bacteria, pathogenic fungi...) and/or abiotic stresses, and plant products properties. To achieve this goal, the project will rely on the strong multi-disciplinarity of its teams (physiology, phytopathology and entomology, genetics and genomics, epigenetics, chemistry, biochemistry, microbiology...) with its academic partners and stakeholders.

Joining the EPSO network will increase the scope of this multidisciplinary project aiming at increasing the input of Plant Sciences in the management of the agriculture of tomorrow.



Contact: [Christophe Plomion](#), Bordeaux University and EPSO Representative, FR



Welcome to the University of Essex as new member



Founded in 1964, the University of Essex is ranked in the top 50 in the world for 'international outlook' in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. We have

2,300 staff and over 15,000 students. Essex is one of the founding members of the Young European Research Universities Network (YERUN, est. 2015). The Eastern Academic Research Consortium (Eastern ARC, <https://easternarc.ac.uk>) is a strategic partnership between the Universities of East Anglia, Essex and Kent.

The **Essex Plant group** (<https://www.essex.ac.uk/departments/life-sciences/research/plant-productivity-group>) focuses on understanding and improving plants processes that determine plant productivity. We have expertise in photosynthetic physiology, plant environmental signalling, molecular physiology of the Calvin Benson Cycle.

We have an extensive network of national and international collaborations through projects funded by the BBSRC, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, EU,

Leverhulme Trust, Perry Foundation as well as local and international industry.

A major of our plant group is the goal to increase photosynthetic efficiency and plant yield (<https://ripe.illinois.edu>; <https://www.capitalise.eu>). We are also exploring plant responses to light and the impact this can have on physiological processes (e.g. <https://www.essex.ac.uk/research-projects/hy4dense>).

We have bespoke instrumentation and software designed and built in-house, including a plant phenotyping platform that houses a dynamic lighting system, combined thermal and chlorophyll fluorescence and whole-plant gas exchange chambers. In 2019, we launched [the Essex Plant Innovation Centre](#) (EPIC), to combine our expertise and research across disciplines to work with the agri-tech sector .

Contact: [Christine A Raines](#), EPSO Representative Essex University (UK)





Welcome to the University Politecnica della Marche / IT as new member



UNIVPM is a public teaching and research university, characterized by a technical-scientific vocation, founded in 1969. UNIVPM offers Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees as well as PhD

Courses in Agriculture, Engineering, Economics, Medicine and Biology, and Specialization Schools in Medicine and Surgery to about 17,000 students. Yearly, UNIVPM attracts students and researchers from all over the world. UNIVPM offers a number of university's facilities endowed with up-to-date laboratories.

UNIVPM is a dynamic institution, with a young and energetic teaching body with a very interdisciplinary attitude and a broad outlook to the world; there are excellent facilities and the staff is devoted to students and happy to help the newcomers in every aspect of their life. All departments have multimedia classrooms and modern labs.

Our **plant science basic/applied research** is broad, including plant and animal systematics, physiology and reproduction, marine biology, ecology, to agronomy and crop sciences, plant genetics, agro-forestry, food production, landscape and environmental valorization, crop genetic resources conservation and valorization combining cutting-edge approaches in plant genetics and genomics, high throughput phenotyping, including molecular phenotyping, with most recent advances in

information technology and artificial intelligence.

The research activities are in line with the priorities of Horizon Europe, and are characterized by the high degree of innovation in the scientific method thanks to the use of the most modern methodologies and access to highly advanced laboratories and research infrastructures including national, European and international Large Scale Facilities. UNIVPM is part of the Italian Plant Phenotyping Network - PHEN-ITALY Platform.

The effective collaboration among different research groups, coming from the different disciplinary areas is realized in the project [INCREASE](#), coordinated by UNIVPM, where the different fields characterized by a high level of innovation, such as genomics and other omics technologies, food science, artificial intelligence and information technologies will implement a new approach to conserve, manage and characterise genetic resources through participatory research. The project tests a decentralised approach to the conservation of genetic resources by setting up a Citizen Science Experiment, believing in the importance to make science and innovation more collaborative and global.

Contacts: [Roberto Papa](#) & [Laura Nanni](#), UNIVPM (IT)



CHIC – MyCHICFarm, an augmented reality (AR) game



The CHIC project recently published its July 2021 newsletter, which includes updates on genes for self-compatibility in chicory being found and solutions to bypass their action being tested; mutants of terpene biosynthesis being generated which reduced the synthesis of bitter compounds; and bioactivity assays identifying one promising sesquiterpene lactone. Regulatory issues that affect the project continue to be explored and

good progress are being made.

Furthermore, CHIC partners attended a CRISPR/Cas hybrid workshop in Wageningen, The Netherlands, a two-day event focused on the mechanism of CRISPR/Cas and its applications in plants. The partners were able to present the CHIC project and its progress thus far.

Last September, CHIC partners visited two secondary schools in the Netherlands to demonstrate MyCHICFarm, an augmented reality (AR) game developed for the CHIC project to allow students to learn more about new genome editing techniques and, of course, to share information about the project.

In the last few months, CHIC partners also participated and organized in several online events including [Capture the Future\(s\): OUR BIO-TECH PLANET](#), [The Routes to Roots Networks and Beyond](#), [Let's eat CHICque](#), [Gourmet Aftertastes](#) and [Biotechnology From the Blue Flower: The Unnatural, That Too is Natural](#).

EPSO is partner in the CHIC project coordinating stakeholder engagement and supporting communication and dissemination.

Follow us to keep updated!

Contacts: [Macarena Sanz](#), ID Consortium, ES; [Dirk Bosch](#) (Coordinator), Wageningen University, NL

CHIC project is funded by the European Union under Horizon 2020 G.A. 760891



InnCoCells: Developing safe and sustainable plant-derived cosmetic ingredients with scientifically proven effects



Cosmetics have been used for thousands of years and many early cosmetics were naturally occurring minerals or extracts from plants, such as castor oil and rose water. More recently, synthetic cosmetic ingredients have become more popular, but these are derived from petrochemical sources and come at a huge environmental cost. Another problem in the cosmetic industry is the unsubstantiated claims of efficacy attached to many of these ingredients.

The [InnCoCells project](#) has received €7.9 million in funding under the Horizon 2020 programme. It is coordinated by the VTT (Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd). Launched in May 2021, the project aims to revolutionize the way cosmetic ingredients are sourced, produced and tested. Over 48 months, the consortium of 17 partners representing 11 European countries will explore a diverse panel of plants and will use a wide range of traditional and modern extraction technologies to find the best ways to extract cosmetic ingredients.

Importantly, given the growing base of environmentally conscious consumers, the consortium is focusing on sustainable production processes to avoid overharvesting wild populations of plants, and is carefully adhering to the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit and sharing.

The project will use a host of different technologies, such as plant cell suspension cultures, organ cultures (hairy roots), aeroponic cultivation to milk root

exudates, and the domestication of plants for cultivation in the greenhouse and field.

The consortium is also exploring agro-industrial side streams (which would otherwise be composted or incinerated) in a cascade biorefinery approach to extract additional valuable metabolites.

While many of the project partners will focus on upstream production, process development and the optimization of extraction methods, others have the important role of testing the extracted ingredients for efficacy using a panel of validated scientific tests ranging from simple chemical assays to the use of cell lines and even 3D skin models to confirm desirable activities. The most promising ingredients will be tested on human volunteers. None of the ingredients will be tested on animals. The consortium includes multiple industry partners and is guided by a Stakeholder Group to ensure that the innovative production technologies and new ingredients are commercialized at the earliest opportunity.

EPSO is partner in the InnCoCells project developing and engaging a Stakeholder Group and supporting communication and dissemination.

Visit the [InnCoCells website](#) and follow the project on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Contacts: [Kirsi-Marja Oksman](#) (Coordinator, VTT, FI) or [Richard M. Twyman](#) (Dissemination & Communication Lead, TRM Ltd, UK)

InnCoCells project is funded by the European Union under Horizon 2020 G.A.101000373



CropBooster-P's Citizen Jury in favor of New Breeding Technologies



Within the CropBooster-P project, a so called "Citizen Jury" was organized to capture the opinion of Dutch citizens toward the use of New Breeding Technologies in food production.

The members of the jury were provided with information from project scientists and a critical reflection on the technology by, among others, the Rathenau Institute. The speakers assessed whether the new techniques are needed to increase the yields, sustainability or nutritious value of plants or to make them climate-adaptable. During four days, the members of the jury discussed with the speakers and each other. On the last day, the jury ruled.

The citizen's jury was unanimously in favour of new breeding techniques, but ten out of the eleven members did state conditions: The new technology must yield crops that are at least as safe and nutritious as the standard variety. Moreover, the improved plants must

serve a recognised social purpose, for example, resistance against pathogens, heat, salt and drought. The new crops must also be universally accessible, with reasonable prices for farmers and consumers.

The jury also felt that an independent organisation is needed to check whether the climate goals or social goals are met. If not, the government must intervene.

EPSO is partner in the project, contributing to stakeholder engagement, strategy development and a self-sustained structure in form of a new [EPSO Working Group 'Future Proofed Crops'](#) (For more information, see <https://www.cropbooster-p.eu>)

Contact: [Rene Klein Lankhorst](#), Wageningen University, NL

CropBooster project is funded by the European Union under Horizon 2020 G.A.817690

**EPSO Plants and
Microbiomes Workshop
Online, 28.2.2021**

Contact: [Corne Pieterse](#)



FoPD 2022

May 2022

Online & In-person

Contacts: [Alexandra Barnoux](#) & [National Coordinators](#)



**EPSO General Meeting
Bordeaux,
13-15.6.2022**

Contact: [Karin Metzloff](#)



EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic international non-profit organisation that represents over 200 leading academic research institutes, universities and departments from 32 countries. Together they represent over 26 000 plant researchers and staff. In addition, EPSO has over 2.300 personal members.

The mission of EPSO is to promote plant science and plant scientists, to represent plant scientists in discussions about future plant science programme priorities across Europe, to provide an authoritative source of independent information on plant science (science advice to policy), and to promote training of plant scientists to meet 21st Century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science.

To achieve its mission, EPSO advises policy and decision makers at European and national level on science policy, as an independent body and as member of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) and the European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future' (Plant ETP). EPSO supports plant scientists via the EPSO working group meetings, a monthly seminar series, workshops, internships and as information broker via EPSO briefings, newsletter and its website.

EPSO's strategy is defined by the representatives at the General Meeting and further elaborated by the elected Board. Current Board members are Alal Schulman (President – IT), Ulrich Schurr (Vice-President – DE), Carole Caranta (FR), Ernst van den Ende (NL), Antonio Leyva (ES), Przemysław Wojtaszek (PL), Marie-Theres Hauser (AT) and Angelo Santino (IT).

EPSO's strategy is implemented by its members and staff. **EPSO staff** profiles are available [here](#). [Contact us](#) to join our activities:

- ◆ Science strategy and policy (EPSO, ISE, Plant ETP), Science Support (working groups, projects), outreach (FoPD), members, observers, association relations: **Karin Metzloff**
- ◆ Website, social media, briefings, newsletter, Fascination of Plants Day (FoPD): **Alexandra Barnoux**
- ◆ Office, accounts, projects, meetings, database, personal membership administration: **Sofia Ciravegna**

Since its creation in 2000, the organisation has become a strong advocate of plant research in Europe and an important voice articulating the contributions and needs of plant scientists at national and European levels and beyond. One of EPSO's priorities is science advice to policy.

Disclaimer

Every effort has been made to present all information accurately. However, no liability is accepted for any inclusions or advice given or for omissions from the publication.

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As the information provided in *EPSO News* can only be a selection, EPSO is happy to receive further and updated information for distribution.

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Alexandra Barnoux, Publications Officer

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