



# JOIN THE INITIATIVE!

SCIENTISTS, STUDENTS, COMPANIES AND FARMERS ACROSS THE WORLD PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE 5TH FASCINATION OF PLANTS DAY ON AND AROUND THE 18TH MAY 2019.

BY: EUROPEAN PLANT SCIENCE ORGANISATION (EPSO)

The 18th of May 2019 will be the 5th international Fascination of Plants Day (FoPD), organized under the umbrella of the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO) to celebrate plants in all their diversity and wonder.

The goal of FoPD is to get as many people as possible around the world fascinated by plants and enthused about the importance of plant science for the sustainable production of nutritious food, horticulture, forestry, the protection of biodiversity and the production of plant-based non-food products such as paper, timber, chemicals, energy and pharmaceuticals. The role of plants in environmental conservation and climate action is also a key message.

Plant science research is vitally important to enhance our health and wellbeing, protect the environment and support all forms of sustainable development. Plant science can provide critical research incites that can help inform innovations and policies that affect all 17 of the 2016 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, selectively breeding plants which are more diverse, nutritious and have a stable/higher yield with a lower environmental footprint, including those that can grow in adverse soil conditions, supports the ambition for Zero Hunger (SDG2) and Good Health and Wellbeing (SDG3). Evaluating the capacity of forests to absorb carbon and help limit global warming can enhance Climate Action, SGD 13. Monitoring the effects of exploitation of natural resources and habitat degradation on biodiversity can help inform policies on sustainable resource use, which contributes to the success of SDGs 14 and 15, Life Below Water and Life on Land.

"We are very proud of having so many different institutions celebrating this event with us since its inception in 2012. This is a great day for everyone that works with plants and want to share with everyone how fascinating we find them," said Nelson Saibo, National Coordinator for Portugal, 2017.

The Fascination of Plants Day (FoPD) was first launched in 2012, followed by FoPDs from 2013 to 2017 at which over 1,000 events were organized in over 52 countries worldwide, attracting many thousands of visitors. This international day aims to help the people of the world understand why plant science is of critical significance to social, environmental and economic issues

on earth today and in the future. Over 44 countries worldwide have confirmed their participation in the FoPD 2019, and this is set to keep rising. The goal is to get as many people as possible around the world fascinated in plants and there are many ways to hold interactive events.

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"We find particularly interesting the diversity of institutions that are celebrating this day, from research institutions, even from social sciences and humanities, to botanical gardens, museums and science centres, parks, pharmacies, universities and companies," said Joana Lobo Antunes, National Coordinator for Portugal, 2017.

Participants are encouraged to share fascinating facts about plants, interesting information about their research, pictures and videos of plants by using the hashtag #PlantDay and by sending the EPSO videos to upload to their YouTube channel.

All information about this initiative can be accessed at [www.plantday18may.org](http://www.plantday18may.org) and is supported by a network of national coordinators who voluntarily promote and disseminate the activities within their countries.

To upload an event, please contact your National Coordinator (see your Country page). For any other inquiry, do not hesitate to contact the FoPD Global Coordinators at EPSO. You can take photos and share your events on social media, and send your upcoming events, photos and success stories at [plantday@epsomail.org](mailto:plantday@epsomail.org) for free promotion.

A very big THANK YOU to all FoPD coordinators and event organiser volunteers who worked so hard to make FoPDs such as success! ▾