European Molecular Biology Organization | European Molecular Biology Laboratory

10th EMBO/EMBL joint conference on Science & Society

Food, sustainability and plant science: a global challenge

6-7 November 2009, EMBL Heidelberg, Germany

Programme

Friday, 6th November

08:00-08:45 *Registration*

08:45-08:50 **Welcome address**
Iain Mattaj, Director General, EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany

08:50-09:00 **Introduction**
Hermann Bujard, Director, EMBO, Heidelberg, Germany

09:00-10:00 **Keynote lecture**
Tomorrow's Table: organic farming, genetics, and the future of food
Pamela Ronald, University of California, Davis, CA, USA

10:00-10:30 *Coffee break*

Session I: **Plant breeding and the maintenance of diversity**
Chair: Klaus Hahlbrock, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne, Germany

10:30-11:15 **Historical overview**
Marc Van Montagu, Ghent University, Belgium

11:15-12:00 **Global agriculture and the conservation of crop genetic diversity**
Sir Peter Crane, Yale University, CT, USA

12:00-13:00 *Lunch*

Session II: **Breeding and the molecular genetics that support it**
Chair: Pamela Ronald, University of California, Davis, CA, USA

13:00-13:45 **Genetic resources, omics and their potential contribution to enhance conventional plant breeding**
Lothar Willmitzer, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, Golm, Germany

13:45-14:30 **The Wheat Genome Project: Laying the foundation for a paradigm shift on wheat breeding**

Catherine Feuillet, French National Institute for Agricultural Research, Clermont-Ferrand, France

14:30-15:00 *Coffee break*

15:00-15:45 **Rice functional genomics programme in China**
Xue Hong-Wei, Institute of Plant Physiology & Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Shanghai, China

15:45-17:15 **Panel discussion**
Dani Zamir, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
Simon Berry, Limagrain UK Limited, Norfolk, UK

17:15-18:15 **Evening lecture:**
Global challenges in plant production – A production ecological perspective
Prem Bindraban, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

18:30-20:00 ***Conference dinner***

20:00-20:45 **After-dinner lecture**
Biological approaches to enhance food-crop production – A Royal Society study
David Baulcombe, University of Cambridge, UK

20:45-21:30 *Drinks*

Saturday, 7th November

Session III: Enhancing plants by GM
Chair: Giles Oldroyd, John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK

09:00-09:45 **Golden Rice on a mission**
Peter Beyer, University of Freiburg, Germany

09:45-10:30 **Economic consequences of Golden Rice and other Genetically Modified Crops**
Matin Qaim, University of Göttingen, Germany

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-11:45 **Release of transgenic crop in centres of origin: The case of transgenic corn in Mexico**
Luis Herrera-Estrella, Center for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute, Irapuato, Mexico

11:45-12:45 **Panel discussion**
Harry Kuiper, European Food Safety Authority, Parma, Italy
Marcus Koch, Heidelberg Institute for Plant Science and Central Commission for Biological Safety, Germany

12:45-13:45 *Lunch*

Session IV: Public perception and risk assessment
Chair: Holger Breithaupt, EMBO *reports*, Heidelberg, Germany

13:45-14:30 **Agricultural and environmental risk assessment**
Hans-Jörg Buhk, Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety, Braunschweig, Germany

14:30-15:15 **Perceptions, precaution and participation: reconciling science and society in progress of agricultural biotechnology**
Andy Stirling, University of Sussex, Brighton, UK

15:15-15:45 **The Importance of being Curious and Responsible**
Fritz Kuhn, Member of the German Federal Parliament, Berlin, Germany

15:45-16:15 Coffee break

16:15-17:15 **Panel discussion**
Inmaculada de Melo-Martin, Cornell University, New York, NY, USA
Joyce Tait, Innogen Centre, University of Edinburgh, UK
Ania Lichtarowicz, BBC World Service, London, UK

17:15-17:45 **Closing lecture:**
Feeding the Planet – Environmental Protection through Sustainable Agriculture
Klaus Hahlbrock, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne, Germany

17:45-18:00 **Closing remarks**
Hermann Bujard, Director, EMBO, Heidelberg, Germany