

ENHANCED GENEPOOL UTILIZATION

Capturing wild relative and landrace diversity for crop improvement

16–20 June 2014

NIAB Innovation Farm, Cambridge, United Kingdom



PGR Secure and the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA) are pleased to announce a joint international conference on utilization and conservation of crop wild relative (CWR) and landrace (LR) diversity for crop improvement. The conference will showcase novel characterization techniques and conservation strategies to identify and preserve CWR and LR traits to increase options for crop improvement as a means of underpinning food security in the face of climate change. It will bring together the international community to debate the current status and future enhanced utilization of CWR and LR diversity for improving agricultural production, increasing food security and sustaining the environment. The conference will be a landmark in PGR science, highlighting exotic plant germplasm as a potentially critical but neglected resource for crop improvement.

THE CRISIS

Human mismanagement of the environment threatens national, regional and global food security

THE CONCERN

Current agrobiodiversity use in breeding for crop improvement falls short of its potential utilization value

THE CONCEPT

Increased food security can be attained through diversification and enhanced utilization of agrobiodiversity

www.pgrsecure.org/conference

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CONFERENCE THEMES

- **Characterization techniques:** ‘omics’ techniques and predictive tools to identify traits and expedite plant breeding
- **Conservation strategies:** national, regional and global CWR and LR conservation strategy development; targeted conservation to meet the needs of the plant breeding community; integration of CWR and LR diversity into existing biodiversity conservation programmes
- **Facilitating CWR and LR use:** pre-breeding; meeting breeders’ needs; integrating the conservation and user communities; policy enhancement
- **Informatics development:** characterization, trait and conservation data management and accessibility; inter-information system operability

The conference will also disseminate PGR Secure products to the European and global PGR community, and promote their wider application and continued use.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Participation and contributions are sought from both the European and non-European PGR community to ensure the international scope of the conference. Target communities include plant breeding researchers and plant breeders (both from the public and private sectors), conservation researchers, gene bank and protected area managers, policy-makers and information managers.



LOCATION AND HOST

The conference will be held in Cambridge (UK), a university town about 80km northeast of London. Today, Cambridge is at the heart of the high-technology centre known as Silicon Fen—its economic strengths lie in its university-associated industries such as software and bioscience. The host is NIAB (National Institute of Agricultural Botany) Innovation Farm (www.innovationfarm.co.uk) on the outskirts of Cambridge. NIAB Innovation Farm’s mandate is to showcase plant genetic innovation and provide a link between science and business by providing a forum for debate and exchange of ideas, specifically by helping agriculture and food production face the enormous challenges in the years ahead.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information, including a call for contributions and registration details will be posted on the conference web page and circulated by email to interested parties. If you would like to receive further information, please send an email to conference@pgrsecure.org.

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