



Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding and Management

Second announcement

Shaping the future of agriculture: The role of diversity in low-input and organic cropping systems

SOLIBAM Stakeholder congress

April 19 and 20, 2012

San Nilo Abbey (Grottaferrata - Rome, Italy)

Several factors such as a rising world population, a need for greater environmental protection and climate change are increasing the pressure on agricultural systems worldwide. The major concern is how to ensure food security and food quality while maintaining environmental and socio-economic sustainability. The European Union is taking important policy decisions towards the 'greening' of agriculture, which are likely to alter considerably the mode of food production in the near future. Yet, are European farmers ready to take on this challenge? We believe that the key to sustaining food production is diversifying the cropping system at multiple levels, e.g. genetic, species and habitat. Such an approach should be translatable into concrete management strategies applicable to various low-input and organic cropping systems across Europe and elsewhere. The objective of the 1st SOLIBAM Stakeholders Congress is to provide an **international forum for discussion amongst relevant stakeholders** around four topical themes linked to policy foci. A special theme will **address future research needs** based on available evidence to prioritise activities and fully exploit the potential of diversity to shape the agriculture of tomorrow.

1. Greening of agriculture.

Policy focus: Diversity in cropping systems in the context of the CAP reform

3. Cropping systems of the future.

Policy focus: the European Framework Directive on Sustainable Pesticide Use

Sessions

2. Climate change, what challenges for breeding and agriculture?

Policy focus: the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2020, the EU Strategy for Climate Change and Energy

4. Seeds and sustainable use of plant genetic resources.

Policy focus: the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the process of revision of seed legislation in Europe

Closing session: Shaping diversity research



In partnership with:



Programme

The stakeholder Congress will be organised in roundtable discussions according to the 4 themes. In each roundtable 4-5 people from different stakeholders (e.g. farmers' associations, policy makers, scientists, industries) will express their views after a keynote speaker have introduced the theme and a discussant have reacted to the keynote presentation by relating it to the work being carried out in SOLIBAM.

Time schedule for each session: keynote speaker: 30 min., discussant: 10 min, round table: 40 min, general discussion: 20 min.

How to participate

The Congress is open to a limited number of delegates, selected on a 'first come first served' base. All persons wishing to participate will have to fill a registration form, soon available on https://colloque.inra.fr/solibam_congress and www.solibam.eu.

Key dates

2 March 2012: deadline for sending abstract (poster session)

5 March 2012: deadline for registration

Fees

The conference fee is 80€. It will cover coffee breaks, lunch and proceedings. 10% reduction of the fee will be applied to IFOAM EU member during early bird registration phase.

Further details will shortly appear on https://colloque.inra.fr/solibam_congress and www.solibam.eu

Poster session

We invite interested people to submit abstracts of original work related to any of the 4 themes. These papers will be included in a poster session and their abstracts published in the Congress Proceedings.

Prizes (local and diversity-rich food produce from Region Lazio) are foreseen for:

- the most innovative poster
- the poster most interesting for farmers.

Scientific Committee

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The objective of

SOLIBAM is to develop novel breeding approaches integrated with management practices to improve the performance, quality, sustainability and stability of crops adapted to organic and low-input systems in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. The underlying hypothesis is that diverse populations in diverse organic and low-input systems are more resilient to stress and can therefore better adapt to environmental variation.

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