

1st PlantEd WG2 training school
Genome edited plants – Impact and beyond
Date: 24-25th May 2022
Place: Oeiras, Lisbon, Portugal

This Training School will focus on plant genome editing and its impact on plant breeding. It will provide a learning platform and forum for discussions on genome editing, its implications in agriculture, as well as socio-economic and regulatory considerations. Major goals of the Training School are to analyse and discuss the scientific developments and the regulatory frameworks, as bases for proper assessment of the impact of this technology.

Objectives

- a) Overview of the technology impact on plant breeding and agriculture – with the focus on the range of techniques being adopted by breeders, impacts they have on the breeding process and new variety types, as well as agricultural value chains;*
- b) Overview of legislation related to or affecting genome editing and its impact on innovation – with the focus on not only EU but also regulations in other jurisdictions, and their effect on the activities of breeding companies;*
- c) Discussion on different factors affecting acceptance of genome editing technology – with the focus on ethical issues and communication strategies.*

Expected outputs

Key messages related to impact assessment of genome editing on: a) plant breeding; b) agriculture and agricultural value chains; c) socio-economic impact and d) communication.

The key messages will be disseminated through the leaflets prepared after the Training School in cooperation with WG5, which will be made available for further distribution via PlantEd Webpage.

Venue and dates

The Training School will take place at Oeiras, Lisbon, Portugal.

Call launched:	17 January 2022
Application deadline:	1 April 2022
Expected decision:	15 April 2022
Training School:	24-25 May 2022

Eligibility

This call is open to all Action participants, but priority will be given to Early Career Investigators (ECIs). An ECI is a researcher with less than 8 years experience from the date of obtaining a PhD.

The number of trainees attending the Training School is limited to 30. The number of trainees eligible for reimbursement is limited to 20.

First note: The participants who have already applied for Training School in Lecce, do not need to resubmit their application, but only to re-confirm their interest in participating in the Training School. They will be given first priority in selection process.

Second note: Only PlantEd participants are eligible for reimbursement for a PlantEd activity. Therefore, if you are not a PlantEd participant already but would like to apply for this Training School, then you will first have to [log in at e-COST](#) and register as PlantEd participant.

Financial support

The financial support to the attendants is intended to help cover travel costs, including flight ticket, accommodation, local transport and meals. The maximum amount is EUR 750.

There is no course fee applied to this Training School.

Following the COST rules, the grant is paid after the Training School has been completed and the participant has submitted a Travel Reimbursement Request (TRR) via e-COST. The grant will be paid directly to the bank account entered in the e-Cost system.

How to apply

Applications are submitted via e-mail to PlantEd WG2 Leader Dr. Dragana Miladinović at dragana.miladinovic@ifvcns.ns.ac.rs.

The application should contain the following parts:

CV including relevant publications (maximum 2 pages)

Short description of the field of work of the applicant, of the motivation for participating in this Training School and how the knowledge learned will be of future use to the applicant (maximum one page in total).

Evaluation of applications

The evaluation of the applications is performed jointly by the Training School organizer, the Action Chair and the ECI Coordinator. The following evaluation criteria will be considered, in order of importance: 1) how the Training School will contribute to the professional development of the applicant, 2) ECI status, 3) geographical balance, and 4) gender balance. The Training School local organizer will inform every applicant of the outcome of the evaluation by e-mail. Selected trainees will receive further information on programme and logistical arrangements.

Contact

For more information and enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Dragana Miladinović (dragana.miladinovic@ifvcns.ns.ac.rs) and Dr. Jeremy Sweet (jeremysweet303@aol.com).

Links

[COST Action PlantEd website](#)

[Information video from COST about Training Schools](#)

Tuesday, 24 May 2022

09:00 Start of the TS, welcome and practical arrangements for the day

Session 1 - Applications of Gene Editing and Regulations

09:15 **Wendy Harwood (John Innes Centre, UK)** - Genome editing to innovate plant breeding

10:00 **Tiago Lourenço (ITQB NOVA, Portugal)** - Genome editing in rice as a tool for functional characterization of genes involved in abiotic stress response

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 **Laboratory tour** - Getting practical info on genome editing of rice in INIAV

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 **Jens Kahrmann (BVL, Germany)** - Options for the regulation of genome edited plants

15:15 **Petra Jorasch (Euroseeds, Belgium)** - Effect of the ECJ ruling on mutagenesis breeding for breeding companies

16:00 Coffee and discussion

Wednesday, 25 May 2022

Session 2 - Impacts on Crops and Socio-economy

09:30 **Jeremy Sweet (Sweet Environmental Consultants, UK)** - Plant quality, health and production applications

10:15 **Justus Wesseler (WUR, Netherlands)** - Cost/Benefit analysis of genome editing

11:00 Coffee break

Session 3 - How does society receive this technology?

11:30 **Marcel Kuntz (CNRS - CEA, France)** - Genome editing - Political and societal concerns

12:15 **Hannah Taylor Lewis (Science Media Centre, UK)** - The importance of engaging with the media on genome editing

13:00 Lunch break

14:30 **Group work** - Work in 4 groups; preparation of key messages related to impact assessment of genome editing on: a) plant science and plant breeding; b) agriculture and agricultural value chains; c) socio-economic impact and d) impact communication.

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Presentation of key messages and finalization of the outputs

Contacts

Dragana Miladinovic, WG2 leader [dragana.miladinovic@ifvcns.ns.ac.rs]

Jeremy Sweet, WG2 vice leader [jeremysweet303@aol.com]