

PlantEd and Växtnoden is inviting to the webinar

From research to innovation with new breeding techniques

Tuesday 13 April 2021, 14:00-15:30 (CEST)

Plant breeding has a century-long history of innovation. New molecular tools continue this long tradition by offering further increased precision and versatility in working with the genetic material. These tools include the Nobel Prize-awarded CRISPR/Cas technology and are already being implemented in research and innovation all over the world. Their application is far from straightforward in some countries however, due to legal complications. In the European Union it is not yet clarified if the legislation on genetically modified organisms (GMO) will apply, something which in practice would mean a prohibition on commercial applications. In this webinar, representatives from the private plant breeding sector will give their perspectives on the opportunities and challenges for research and innovation with new breeding techniques, and a representative of the European Commission will deliver a note on the ongoing work with the report regarding the status of novel genomic techniques. The webinar is co-organised by the [COST Action PlantEd](#) and Växtnoden.

The webinar will take place at Zoom, and the audience is limited to 500.

Registration: https://slu-se.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uWHAJsSpQ52RcLa2LoJUtw

Moderator: Dennis Eriksson, Chair PlantEd

14:00-14:05 Welcome, introduction

14:05-14:25 **Petra Jorasch**, Manager Plant Breeding Innovation Advocacy, Euroseeds

Potential, challenges and threats for the application of new breeding techniques by the private plant breeding sector in the EU

14:25-14:45 **Jon Falk**, Managing Director, SAATEN-UNION BIOTEC GmbH, Germany

Application of new breeding techniques in KMU's in Germany – practical examples and specific challenges

14:45-15:05 **Mariette Andersson**, CEO, SolEdits AB, Sweden

From research innovation to a commercial breeding tool – Improving potato varieties using genome editing

15:05-15:10 **Irene Sacristán Sánchez**, Head of Unit E.3–Biotechnology, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

State of play on the study regarding the status of novel genomic techniques

15:10-15:30 Q&A

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Petra Jorasch

Petra Jorasch is German and holds a PhD in plant molecular biology from the University of Hamburg in 1999. In 2000 she became IP Expert at GFPi Service Ltd., a company which supports the German breeding industry in questions of IP and technology transfer. Since 2014 she was Vice Secretary General of the German Plant Breeders' Association (BDP). During her career she developed solid experience in biotech patent law and plant variety as well as in regulatory issues concerning modern plant breeding methods. Petra joined Euroseeds in February 2017 as the spokesperson of the EU plant breeding sector on modern plant breeding methods and innovative technologies.



Jon Falk

Jon Falk has a PhD in botany. During his scientific carrier he worked at the Carlsberg Research Centre in Copenhagen, the University of Cologne and Kiel. From 2004 to 2008 his focus was barley breeding and ingredients at the Carlsberg Research Centre in Copenhagen (DK). Jon Falk became Managing Director of SAATEN-UNION BIOTEC GmbH in 2014. Key areas of expertise are plant breeding, plant biotechnology, analytics, and R&D management.



Mariette Andersson

Mariette Andersson is a co-founder and CEO of a newly formed company named SolEdits AB, where new cultivar candidates of potatoes are produced using CRISPR-Cas9. She is today combining her activities at SolEdits with a researcher position at the Department of Plant Breeding, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, a position she has held since 2010. Her main research interest is to design plants to produce tailor made compounds with health- and/or environmental benefits. Prior to her employment at SLU and SolEdits AB, Mariette worked for 12 years in the plant biotech industry. Mariette has a PhD in Biochemistry from Lund University, Sweden.



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About PlantEd

The COST Action PlantEd (CA18111) is a European network project funded by the COST Association (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). PlantEd currently gathers more than 360 experts from 36 European countries and another 13 countries beyond Europe, representing a range of disciplines and sectors all with a focus on plant genome editing. With the purpose to coordinate nationally funded research projects, a multitude of stakeholders is working together for four years (2019-2023) to advance the technical forefront, assess the impact on research and breeding, discuss regulatory options, monitor (and potentially influence) public perceptions, and develop a number of outreach and educational activities.

About Växtnoden

Växtnoden (the Plant Node) is a Swedish independent knowledge hub for plant breeding, its targets, methods and contributions to the development of society. The aim is to support scientifically underpinned decisions and increased understanding among politicians, authorities, industries and other organizations on how development and implementation of the methods of plant breeding can contribute to meeting the global goals for a sustainable development, the SDG goals.