

Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics in collaboration with Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies invite you to a workshop dedicated to

Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Jelgava, Latvia
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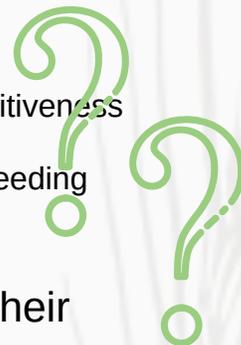
CHALLENGES IN PLANT BREEDING: THE ROLE OF PLANT BREEDING IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FUTURE

In Horizon 2020 EU Research and Innovation Framework Program third priority "Societal challenges" the role of biodiversity of cultivated plants has been emphasized as foundation of effective agricultural production now and the sustainability in the future.

Research on crop diversity, improvement of breeding methods and introduction of new techniques promote breeding new varieties suited to different farming systems and processing needs.

Latvian Rural Development Program 2014-2020 notes that the lack of high yielding crop varieties adapted to local conditions and climate change as well as inadequate or unauthorized use of the propagating material can significantly reduce the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. The current programming period draws to a close, nevertheless economically feasible and at the same time sustainable farming still remains a priority.

- What is the role of plant breeding today?
- How we evaluate the contribution of plant breeding in the context of competitiveness and stability of agricultural production?
- What approaches has been used in different EU countries for organizing breeding work over the last decade?
- How to ensure the sustainability and development of plant breeding?



Internationally recognized plant breeding experts will share their experience, expertise and knowledge during the workshop.

Invited scientists:

• **Edith Lammerts van Bueren** (the Netherlands) has worked for more than 40 years in research and education on organic farming and organic plant breeding in particular. She is regarded as the pioneer in plant breeding research for organic and low-input agriculture and has put this subject on the European agenda. She pleaded for an integrated, systems-based approach in breeding. She has been senior researcher and program leader at the Louis Bolk Institute, also a special professor of Organic Plant Breeding at Wageningen University. Edith was co-founder and chairman of the European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO-PB) and Section leader of the European breeders' association Eucarpia (Section Organic and Low-input Agriculture). She is currently chair of the interdisciplinary, scientific Council for Integral Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition (RIDLV).

• **Mati Koppel** (Estonia) – the research work related to crop resistance breeding, plant pathology and plant protection, was involved in evaluation of sustainable breeding approaches. M.Koppel was director of Estonia Crop Research Institute (previously Jegeva Plant Breeding Institute) for 20 years. Member of NORDEN Public-Private Partnership for pre-breeding Steering Committee, Nordic Association of Agricultural Scientists, board of Plant section.

• **Ilmar Tamm** (Estonia) – The research work related to plant breeding, plant pathology and environmental science. Head of Plant Breeding Department at Estonia Crop Research Institute. I.Tamm has participated in line of European research projects related to breeding for organic and integrated farming, assessment of genetic resources and pre-breeding. Member of International Oat Committee.

As part of the workshop will be organised discussion with the participation of scientists from the **Institute of Agricultural Resources and Economics, the Institute of Horticulture and the Research Institute of Agronomy**

The experts and producers from the agricultural sector, plant breeders and scientists, representatives of the national authorities and other stakeholders will invited to participate in the joint discussion to highlight the objectives and directions for future developments of plant breeding.



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