

Workshop Education Action Plan for the Plant Sector

11 February 2014

[University Foundation](#), rue d'Egmont 11, 1000 Brussels

From 10:30 to 15:30

Background

Ensuring the right workforce is critical to the future success of the plant production and agriculture sectors.

The European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future' (Plant ETP) is currently developing an Education Action Plan EAP for the plant sector in order to:

- To achieve a well-educated and motivated workforce for the bioeconomy and, specifically the plant sector in Europe;
- To make the variety of tasks in the plant sector a most attractive career option for school and university students as well as professionals;
- To increase the public appreciation of plant science and agriculture;
- To improve education opportunities and environments in general and, specifically for the plant sector in Europe;
- To identify where there are shortfalls in the skills required to undertake the planned research programmes and innovation activities effectively.

In 2012 and 2013, Plant ETP ran 3 online consultations with its members from the industry, academia and farmers communities. The surveys allowed to identify the current and future education needs, gaps to address and first ideas how to address these. Responses were essential to prepare a draft Education Action Plan EAP.

Aims of the workshop

- To present the perspective from different stakeholders (industry, academia, farming) on the future of education in the plant sector and complete the surveys with more inputs;
- To collect feedbacks of stakeholders to the draft document of the EAP and especially to the recommendations.

Programme

- 10:30 – 10:40 **Introduction to the workshop** by the chair
Karin Metzlauff, European Plant Science Organisation
- 10:40 – 11:00 **Growing a Sustainable Workforce for the Plant Sector**
Thijs Simons, Plantum, The Netherlands
- 11:00 – 11:10 **Discussion with the audience**
- 11:10 – 11:30 **Fostering the Future of the Plant Sector through Research and Training**
José Pío Beltran, Institute for Plant Molecular and Cell Biology, Spain
- 11:30 – 11:40 **Discussion with the audience**
- 11:40 – 12:00 **Improving Knowledge Transfer and Exchange between Industry, Farmers and Academia Communities**
Lydia Smith, NIAB InnovationFarm, United Kingdom
- 12:00 – 12:10 **Discussion with the audience**
- 12:10 – 12:30 **Increasing Public Appreciation of Plant Science and Agriculture**
Trine Hvoslef-Eide, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway
- 12:30 – 12:40 **Discussion with the audience**
- 12:40 – 13:30 **Lunch**
- 13:30 – 15:15 **Open discussion with the audience on future recommendations and actions**
- 13:30 – 13:45 **Presentation of the Plant ETP draft recommendations**
Jean-Paul Judson, European Seed Association
- 13:45 – 15:20 **Open discussion** moderated by *Mr Judson*
- 15:20 – 15:30 **Conclusions and next steps** by the chair, **Karin Metzlauff**