

Celebrating Plant Breeding as the Pillar of Our Agri-food Systems

How public-private collaborations ensure translation
from basic research to new plant varieties

When? 11th of September 2024

Where? ILVO-Plant, Caritasstraat 39, 9090 Melle

*transportation from and to Brussels will be provided

Description

Celebrating the Fascination of Plants Day, Plants for the Future invites you to join us in September to hear from farmers, researchers, and breeders on the critical role of plant breeding in ensuring sustainable agri-food systems, within the Green Deal framework. The event will also feature a field visit of the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO).

[Register here](#)

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Embracing Nature

european farmers

european agri-cooperatives

Flanders Research Institute for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Programme

11:00	Bus from Brussels to Melle
12:00	Lunch
13:00	Fascination of Plants Day Event <i>Welcome and opening remarks</i> by Kristiaan Van Laecke, Head of Plant Sciences Unit at ILVO <i>How plant breeding sustains our agri-food systems</i> by Amrit Nanda, Executive Manager at Plants for the Future ETP From fundamental research to crop production <i>Laying the groundwork</i> by Odd Arne Rognli, EPSO President and Professor at NMBU <i>Developing new plant varieties</i> by Hendrik Tschoep, Director Global Breeding at SESVANDERHAVE <i>Meeting the challenges with adapted crops</i> , by Thor Kofoed, Farmer and Chair of Working Party Seeds at Copa-Cogeca <i>Case examples of the benefits of public-private partnerships</i> by Johan Van Huylenbroeck, Scientific director of Plant Sciences Unit at ILVO Panel discussion with speakers moderated by Amrit Nanda Wrap up and instructions for field visit by Amrit Nanda and Kristiaan Van Laecke
15:00	Coffee/tea break
15:30	Fields visits
17:00	Closing remarks by Amrit Nanda
17:15	Bus return to Brussels with approximate arrival at 18:00

Speakers

Kristiaan Van Laecke

Head of Plant Sciences Unit at ILVO

Kristiaan Van Laecke has a background in Agricultural Engineering and Plant Protection. He has been heading the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO)'s Plant Sciences Unit since 2007.



Amrit Nanda

Executive Manager at Plants for the Future ETP

Amrit Nanda has a background in Plant Molecular Biology and Physiology. She has been the Executive Manager of Plants for the Future ETP since 2020.



Odd Arne Rognli

EPSO's president and professor at NMBU

Odd Arne Rognli is the president of the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO) and Professor in Genetics, Evolution and Plant Production at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU).



Hendrik Tschoep

Director Global Breeding at SESVANDERHAVE

Hendrik Tschoep has a background in Plant Physiology and Genetics and has been leading the global breeding activities of SESVanderhave since 2019.



Thor Kofoed

Farmer and Chair of Working
Party Seeds at Copa-Cogeca

Thor Kofoed is a farmer and seed grower from Denmark, and has been the Chair of the Working Party Seeds at Copa-Cogeca since 1995.



Johan Van Huylenbroeck

Scientific director of Plant Sciences Unit, ILVO

Johan Van Huylenbroeck has a background in Applied Biological Sciences. He has been the Director of the Plant Science Unit at ILVO since 2006.





About **ILVO**

Flanders Research Institute for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) is an independent scientific research institute of Flanders' Government. ILVO's task is to generate knowledge for more sustainability in the agriculture, fisheries and agri-food sectors. Starting from a strong anchor in Flanders, their work extends throughout Belgium, Europe and the rest of the world.

“ Our breeding research focuses on the creation of cultivars for sustainable agriculture and the development of advanced plant breeding methods. We work in close collaboration with national and international research institutes and with the industry. ”

Johan Van Huylenbroeck

