

EUCARPIA-Section “Organic and low-input agriculture”

A new section of EUCARPIA named "Organic and low-input agriculture" was created during the EUCARPIA Symposium "Plant breeding for organic and sustainable, low-input agriculture: dealing with genotype-environment interactions", which took place in Wageningen, The Netherlands from Nov. 7 to Nov. 9.

This First Symposium of this new section was organized by Prof. Dr. Edith Lammerts van Bueren. It was attended by more than 130 participants and was a complete success, indicating the clear interest among breeders for the topic of this new section. During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Edith Lammerts van Bueren was elected unanimously as new chairperson of this new section and Dr. Hanne Oestergaard as vice-chairperson.

For further information on EUCARPIA mail to eucarpia@upvnet.upv.es

‘Success, obstacle and perspectives of bio-dynamic plant breeding’

is the title of the Conference of the Foundation for Future Farming in which vegetable and cereal breeders are going to discuss success and setbacks of their work. Which questions and challenges need to be dealt with in the near future? And which perspectives and expectations are linked to the organic plant breeding research? Besides a plenum discussion with framers, breeders and advisers there will be working groups on different issues as well as final talks concerning the future challenges of bio-dynamic plant breeding. The conference is open to everyone involved in gardening, farming, trade, processing, science as well as the general interested public.

The workshop is taking place on Saturday, January the 26th, 2008, 10.00 a.m. until 5.00 p.m. in the Anthroposophical Centre Kassel, Wilhelmshöher Allee 261, D-34131 Kassel (5 minutes walk from Kassel ICE station). Participation fee is € 30,- (incl. lunch). Registration before January the 18th 2008.

For more information: Zukunftsstiftung Landwirtschaft in der GLS Treuhand e.V., Postfach 10 08 29, 44708 Bochum, phone +49 234/5797 - 172, Fax –188, email: hans@zs-l.de, Web: www.zs-l.de and www.saveourseeds.org

‘European Consortium for Organic Animal Breeding’ (Eco-AB) founded

To work on the development of organic animal breeding an European association with the name: “European Consortium for Organic Animal Breeding” (Eco-AB) is set up, parallel to the already existing European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (Eco-PB). The goal of Eco-AB is to promote organic agriculture through animal breeding based on the standards and principles of organic farming. To this end, Eco-AB may, for example:

- (a) Initiate, establish, support and maintain animal breeding programmes, which will conform to the principles of organic agriculture;
- (b) Develop and investigate concepts and scientific basis of organic animal breeding,
- (c) Develop and promote appropriate standards and practices as well as an appropriate legal framework for organic animal breeding.

Furthermore Eco-AB may promote, for example, the exchange of knowledge and ideas among its members, for the information of the public, and for representation in parliamentary and

administrative rule-making. Eco-AB will become the leading organization for matters that include or affect animal breeding in organic farming and become a discussion and advising body for such matters.

Eco-AB is a foundation and institutes and private bodies in Europe can become member of Eco-AB. It is now possible to sign up for membership at the website www.Eco-AB.org. The fee for Full membership (institutes, companies) will be €1000,- per year. Supporting membership will cost €100,- per year. Constitutions of Eco-AB will be published at the website too.

A first meeting will be organised during the 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress which will be held from June 18-20, 2008 in Modena, Italy.

The preliminary board of Eco-AB is Wytze Nauta (chair, Louis Bolk Institute, The Netherlands), Beat Bapst (secretary, FiBL, Switzerland), Prof. Ton Baars (treasurer, University of Kassel, Germany), Dr. Peter Lovendahl (DIAS, Denmark), Dr. Joanne Conington (SAC, UK) and Dr. Günter Postler (FIT, Germany).

For further information see: www.Eco-AB.org

Organic Seed Growers Conference in the USA

On February 14-15, 2008 organic farmers, plant breeders, researchers, and seed industry professionals will gather for the 5th Biennial Organic Seed Growers Conference at the Salem Conference Center in Salem, Oregon. The Organic Seed Growers Conference, hosted by OSA with partnership from Oregon State University (OSU) and Washington State University (WSU), is the largest meeting of seed professionals engaged in organic seed production, research, and plant breeding in the United States. This event brings together producers, university researchers and Extension agents, seed industry professionals, and food industry participants from across the country.

For registration and further information see : http://www.seedalliance.org/index.php?page=Seed_Growers_Conference

Job Announcement: Position Description for Vegetable Breeding Position

Position: Assistant or Associate Professor of Plant Breeding & Genetics (tenure track)
Vegetable Breeding and Genetics, Research (60%) and teaching (40%)

Starting Date: To be determined

Location: Department of Plant Breeding & Genetics
New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-1901

Responsibilities: To lead an innovative research program on the genetics and breeding of vegetable crops. The successful candidate will be expected to develop a strong research and teaching program in vegetable genetics and breeding. Emphasis will focus on methods for identification and utilization of disease and/or insect resistance to improve vegetable germplasm and varieties. Existing genetic resources are especially well developed for breeding and genetics of cucurbits and pepper. Techniques employed may include whole plant, population

and molecular/cellular approaches. The appointee will be expected to develop a strong externally funded program, advise and direct graduate students, release improved germplasm and/or varieties, interact with stakeholders, and actively participate in Cornell's Vegetable Breeding Institute. Teaching responsibilities include a 4-credit course at the undergraduate level and participation in journal clubs at the graduate level. Preference will be given to candidates interested in forming interactive networks with faculty in related fields such as horticulture, plant pathology, plant biology and computational biology and willingness to serve as a resource person for students and faculty in the area of plant genetics and disease resistance. Personal statements summarizing teaching experience and interests, leadership efforts, and contributions to diversity are encouraged. For more information visit our web site <http://plbrgen.cals.cornell.edu>.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Ph.D. in plant breeding, plant genetics, or plant molecular biology
- Experience in teaching, student advising, and research related to this position, either post-doctoral or pre-doctoral
- Evidence of ability to work with other researchers in interdisciplinary inquiry
- Evidence of ability to attract extramural support and lead an innovative research/ breeding program
- Postdoctoral and/or other relevant experience desirable.

SALARY: Competitive and commensurate with background and experience. An attractive fringe benefits package is available.

APPLICATIONS: Send a letter of application, complete resume, and academic transcripts to: Dr. Mark Sorrells, Search Committee Chair c/o Cynda Farnham, 240 Emerson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-1901 and have three letters of reference sent to the same address. Inquiries about the position may be directed to Cynda Farnham, 240 Emerson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-1901; clf4@cornell.edu; 607-255-2180; 607-255-6683 (fax). Review of applications will begin February, 2008.