



Scientific innovation for a sustainable development of African agriculture

Ghent, August 30-31, 2018

Thursday August 30th, 2018

08.00 – 09.00	Registration/Coffee
09.00 – 10.15	Welcome
09.00 – 09.30	Marc Van Montagu , <i>IPBO/VIB-UGent, Belgium</i> "From knowledge to wisdom"
09.30 – 09.45	Patrick Van Damme , <i>Gents Africa Platform, Belgium</i>
09.45 – 10.00	tba "The importance of developing cooperation for Belgium"
10.00 – 10.45	Keynote 1 Chair: tba
10.00 – 10.45	Denis Kyetere , <i>AATF, Kenya</i> "The role and contribution of plant breeding and plant biotechnology to sustainable agriculture in Africa."
10.45 – 11.15	Coffee break

11.15 – 13.00	Session 1: Relevant crops for Africa Chair: tba
11.15 – 11.45	Yves Van de Peer , <i>Plant Systems Biology, VIB-UGent, Belgium</i> "The African Orphan Crops consortium"
11.45 – 12.15	Hervé Vanderschuren , <i>University of Liège, Belgium</i> "Stories from the lab, stories from the field: advancing tropical crop biotechnology"
12.15 – 13.00	selected abstracts
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 16.00	Session 2: Creating new plant varieties through scientific innovation Chair: tba
14.00 – 14.30	Leena Tripathi , <i>IITA, Kenya</i> "Genetic improvement of bananas with enhanced resistance to pathogens and pests"
14.30 – 15.00	Jill Cairns , <i>CIMMYT, Zimbabwe</i> "Increasing genetic gain in maize breeding pipelines in eastern and southern Africa"
15.00 – 16.00	Selected abstracts
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 18.00	Session 3: Biotic stresses threatening crop yields Chair: tba
16.30 – 17.00	Johnnie Van den Berg , <i>North-West University, South Africa</i> "Possible management strategies for Fall Armyworm, a threat to African maize farmers"
17.00 – 17.30	Steven Runo , <i>Kenyatta University, Kenya</i> "Exploiting host resistance to manage the parasitic plant Striga"
17.30 – 18.00	Selected abstracts
18.00 – 21.00	Reception and walking dinner

18.00 – 19.00 Poster session and reception

19.00 – 21.00 Walking dinner

Friday August 31th, 2018

08.00 – 09.00 Registration/Coffee

09.00 – 11.00 **Session 4: Abiotic stresses threatening crop yields**
Chair: tba

09.00 – 09.30 **Dirk Inzé**, *VIB-UGent Center for Plant Systems Biology, Belgium*
"Strategies for improving drought tolerance and yield in maize"

09.30 – 10.00 **Zerihun Tadele**, *University of Bern, Switzerland*
"Lodging and drought resistant Tef"

10.00 – 10.30 **Ndiko Ludidi**, *University of Western Cape, South Africa*
"Comparative proteomics: a tool for understanding drought tolerance in African grain crops"

10.30 – 11.00 selected abstracts

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 **Session 5: Mycotoxins, a threat for both human and animal health**
Chair: tba

11.30 – 12.00 **Sarah De Saeger**, *UGent, Belgium*
"Mycotoxin reduction in the food and feed chain: challenges and perspectives in a changing world"

12.00 – 12.30 **Sheila Okoth**, *University of Nairobi, Kenya*
"Aflatoxin human exposure and *Aspergillus flavus* variability in 2 diverse environments in Kenya"

12.30 – 13.00 **Geert Haesaert**, *UGent, Belgium*
"Toxigenic fungi and their associated mycotoxins: a threat for crop production and food safety in Sub-Saharan Africa"

13.00 – 14.00	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Session 6: Improved soil fertility to enhance crop yield Chair: tba
14.00 – 14.30	Johan Six , <i>ETH Zurich, Switzerland</i> "Improving soil fertility to enhance crop yields: from science to practice".
14.30 – 15.00	Selected abstracts
15.00 – 16.00	Session 7: Enhancing the nutritional value of important crops for Sub-Saharan Africa Chair: tba
15.00 – 15.30	Dominique Van der Straeten , <i>Ghent University, Belgium</i> "Towards a solution for hidden hunger: folate biofortification of crop plants"
15.30 – 16.00	Robert Mwanga , <i>CIP, Uganda</i> "Orange-fleshed sweetpotato"
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break
16.30 – 17.15	Keynote 2 Chair: tba
16.30 – 17.15	Jeremy Ouédraogo , <i>NEPAD-ABNE, Senegal</i> The role of scientific research and innovation in the implementation of a sustainable intensified African agriculture
17.15 – 18.00	Panel discussion Chair: tba

Panel members:

Marc Van Montagu

Robert Mwanga

Godelieve Gheysen

Leena Tripathi

Jeremy Ouedraogo (NEPAD-ABNE)

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