



**16 – 18 April 2023**  
**Amsterdam ▪ the Netherlands**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Update January 31, 2023

***‘Crop Innovation in a Changing Environment:  
Accelerated Implementation of Breakthrough AgBio Innovations’***

15:00 **Registration desk open**

15:00-17:00 **Welcome reception and social event**

17:00-17:05 **Welcome** by chair **An Michiels**, Director AgKnowledge Partnering (Belgium)

17:05-17:15 **Opening**

17:15-19:00 **Plenary program**

*The Sunday evening program will focus on crop innovation in a changing environment.*

- ‘Impact political and societal developments for agriculture and plant breeding’  
by **Louise van Schaik**, Head of Unit EU & Global Affairs/Senior Research Fellow at the Clingendael Institute (NL)

*Presentation about the major political and societal developments in Europe (e.g. the war in Ukraine) and worldwide and indicated their impact for agriculture in general and plant breeding specifically.*

- ‘An update on CRISPR patent landscape’  
by **Tianran Yan**, Intellectual Property Lawyer, Partner at Foley & Lardner LLP (US)

*A decade after the invention of the revolutionary CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology, there remain many questions about its patent landscape, in particular for companies and research institutions interested in editing plant genomes and commercializing CRISPR-edited plants. Presented here is the current CRISPR patent landscape, including the latest updates on the patent proceedings in the US and Europe, for Cas9 and beyond.*

19:00-20:00 **Conference buffet**

20:00-20:45 **Closing keynote lecture**

by **Jérôme Van Biervliet**, Managing Director VIB (Belgium)

20.45-21:30 **Dessert and coffee/tea buffet**

08:30 **Registration desk open**

09:00-09:45 **Plenary program** – keynote opening lecture

**Speaker to be announced**

09:45-10:30 **Break**

10:30-12:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS PART 1**

**1A. Which breakthrough DNA technologies will contribute to the development of sustainable crops**  
*Advances in sequencing (long read, HT, new concepts), Gene editing (multiplexing, HT, mutagenesis, new approaches), spatial & single cell transcriptomics.*

Chair:

Presentations:

- **Hilde Nelissen**, Group Leader VIB/Ugent (Belgium)
- **Dr. Xiaodong Fang**, Deputy Dean at BGI Institute of Life Sciences (China)
- **Prof. Dr. Holger Puchta**, Head of Institute and Chair Molecular Biology at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) (Germany)
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**1B. What are the major advancements in high-throughput phenotyping technologies**

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Chair: **Dries Raymaekers**, R&D professional at VITO (Belgium)

*Robotics, drones, camera's, biotic & abiotic stress assays, lab on a chip.*

Presentations:

- **Maarten Vanderstukken**, Business Development manager Agro-biotech at Iristick (Belgium)
- **Jürgen Decloedt**, International Business Development at VITO Remote Sensing (Belgium)
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12.30-13:30 **Lunch, networking and exhibition**

13:30-15:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS PART 2****2A. What are the greatest benefits of artificial intelligence and data sciences for plant breeding?**

*Data handling & interpretation, HT genome assemblies, analysis and comparisons, phenotype assay analysis, interpretation, modelling and prediction.*

Chair:

Presentations:

- **Aalt-Jan van Dijk**, Associate Professor Plant Systems Biology at Wageningen University & Research Center (NL)
- **Dr. Issa Coulibaly**, Sr. Scientist, BASF Agricultural Solutions (US)
- **Prof.dr. Kirsten ten Tusscher**, Chair Theoretical Biology and Bioinformatics at Utrecht University (NL)
- **Prof. Dr. Björn Usadel**, Director at Forschungszentrum Jülich (Germany)

**2B. How to unlock the genetic potential of plants to accelerate the development of resilient crops adapted to increased biotic and abiotic stresses?**

*Pests & plagues resistance, drought & heat tolerance, adaptation to climate change, breeding for vertical farming.*

Chair:

Presentations:

- **Carrol Plummer**, CEO and co-founder Vivent SA (Switzerland)
- **Jeroen Rouppe van der Voort Ph.D.**, Research Manager IP & External Projects at Enza Zaden Research & Development B.V. (NL)
- **Elén Faxö**, CEO OlsAro Crop Biotech AB (Sweden)
- **Dr. William (BJ) Haun**, Head of Business Development-Technologies at Tropic Biosciences (UK)

15:30-16:15 **Break**16:15-17:45 **Plenary Pitch program**

*The pitch program is supported by [biotope](#) <sup>by VIB</sup>, [CEPLAS](#) and [StartLife](#).*

Hosted by

**Presentation by winner last edition CropIB 2022**

**Ziad Matar**, CEO Veridi Technologies (Netherlands)

**Pitch program**

*Early stage companies will get the possibility to pitch their innovative technology, -service or -product to an international audience from the international agri-food industry.*

Pitching companies - *Curated by StartLife, the leading agrifoodtech accelerator in Europe*  
- to be announced

17:45-18:30 **Reception**19:00-22:00 **Dinner experience**

The chapel at Hotel Arena, Amsterdam.

08:30 **Registration desk open**

09:00-09:45 **Plenary program**

Opening keynote lecture

by **Roeland van Ham**, Vice President Bioinformatics and Modelling at KeyGene (NL)

09:45-10:30 **Break**

10:30-12:30 **PARALLEL SESSIONS PART 3**

**3A. How to breed for better plant protein crops to support the protein transition?**

*Protein crops, Europe's need for protein crops, more food from less land.*

Chair:

Presentations:

- **Dr. Mendel Perkins**, Lead Scientist at AgGene Inc. (Canada)

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**3B. What are the latest developments in plant breeding of Vegetables and Field crops to adapt to the changing environments and (consumer) markets?**

*Row crops, oil crops, vegetables and large fruits.*

Chair:

Presentations:

- **Marc Heijde PhD**, Program manager at VIB-UGent International Plant Biotechnology Outreach (Belgium)

- **Cindy van Rijswick**, Global Strategist Fresh Produce at RaboResearch Food & Agribusiness (NL)

- **Dr. Jeroen Stuurman**, Distinguished Scientist at KeyGene (NL)

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12:30-13:30 **Lunch, networking and exhibition**

**13:30-15:30 PARALLEL SESSIONS PART 4****4A. What are sustainable traits and how to implement these in commercial varieties?**

*Photosynthesis, sustainable & healthy innovative products and varieties, quality traits.*

Chair:

Presentations:

- **Ross Hendron**, CEO & Co-Founder Wild Bioscience Ltd (UK)
- **Magnus Hertzberg PhD**, CTO and Business Area Manager at SweTree Technologies AB (Sweden)
- **Dr. Younousse Saïdi**, Public & Governmental Affairs Manager - Agricultural Solutions at BASF (Belgium)
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**4B. How to speed up knowledge valorisation from academic research in AgBio?**

*Public-private partnerships & collaboration, spin outs from academia and industry, knowledge transfer and validation, private partnerships.*

Chair:

Presentations:

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**15:30-16:15 Break**

16:15-16:30 Award ceremony winner 'best pitch'

16:30-17:15 Closing keynote lecture

**Speaker to be announced**

17:15-17:30 Closing ceremony and announcement

17:30-18:30 Closing conference reception

*Note: the organisation keeps the right to make changes to the programme at any time.*