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ECOBREED Organic Breeding Conference

17 – 19 January 2024

Glass Hall, Grand Hotel Union Eurostars,
Miklošičeva cesta 1, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Programme

Wednesday, 17 January 2024

8:30	Registration
9:00	Welcome & opening of the conference <hr/>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vladimir Meglič, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia• Andrej Simončič, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia• European Commission (speaker TBA)• Joži J. Cvelbar, Agriculture Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Republic of Slovenia
9:45	Session 1: The Organic Landscape and Policy Changes <hr/>
	<u>Chair:</u> Vladimir Meglič, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia <u>Invited lectures:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Freya Schäfer, FiBL Germany e.V.: <i>Fostering Organic Seed Production and Use</i>• Werner Vogt-Kaute, Naturland e.V.: <i>ECOBREED Contribution to the EU Organic Policy</i>
10:45	Coffee break & networking in the Garden Hall
11:15	Session 1: The Organic Landscape and Policy Changes <hr/>
	Round Table on Organic Breeding, Varieties, (O)HM and Seed Availability <u>Moderator:</u> Paul Bilsborrow, University of Newcastle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Micaela Colley, Organic Seed Alliance, USA• Freya Schäfer, FiBL, Germany e.V.• Hubert Kempf, SECOBRA Saatzeit GmbH• Anna Pearce, LC Smales & Son Ltd• Samanta Dömötöróvá, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, SK• Monika Messmer, FiBL Switzerland• Maja Žibert, Agriculture Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Republic of Slovenia



13:00	Lunch & networking in the Garden Hall
14:00	Session 2: Plant Breeding and Genetics for the Improvement of Organic Varieties <hr/> <p><u>Chair:</u> Heinrich Grausgruber, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences</p> <p><u>Invited lectures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hubert Kempf, SECOBRA Saatzucht GmbH: <i>Breeding Wheat Cultivars for Organic Agriculture – the Way of Secobra Saatzucht</i>• Michael Schneider, FiBL Switzerland: <i>Precise OHM Tracing by Genomics</i>
15:00	Session 2: Plant Breeding and Genetics for the Improvement of Organic Varieties <hr/> <p><u>Chair:</u> Heinrich Grausgruber, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heinrich Grausgruber, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences <i>Marker-Assisted Selection in Wheat for the Improvement of Organic Varieties</i>• Mario A. Pagnotta, University of Tuscia: <i>Organic Seeds Breeding in Durum Wheat for Mediterranean Environment</i>• Dagmar Janovská, Crop Research Institute: <i>From the Gene Bank to the Field: Utilizing the Diversity of the Gene Bank in Buckwheat Breeding</i>• Pavel Horčíčka, Selgen, a.s.: <i>Wheat Yield and Quality under Conventional and Organic Farming</i>• Discussion
17:00	Poster session <hr/> <p>with wine, food & networking in the Garden Hall</p>

Thursday, 18 January 2024

9:00	Sub-session 2a: Genomic Tools for Organic Breeding <hr/> <p><u>Chair:</u> Vladimir Meglič, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia</p> <p><u>Invited lecture:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meiliang Zhou, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences: <i>Research and Utilization of Buckwheat Germplasm Resources</i>
9:30	Sub-session 2a: Genomic Tools for Organic Breeding <hr/> <p><u>Chair:</u> Vladimir Meglič, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barbara Pipan, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia: <i>Buckwheat Germplasm: In-Depth Characterisation of Agro-Morphological and Genetic Diversity</i>• Vuk Djordjević, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops: <i>Marker-Assisted Selection for Soybean Organic Breeding</i>• Matilda Ciucă, National Agricultural Research and Development Fundulea: <i>Screening European Winter Wheat Germplasm for Rusts Resistance Alleles using Molecular Markers</i>



10:30

Sub-session 2b: Conventional and Advanced Phenotyping

Chair: Peter Dolničar, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia

- **Uroš Žibrat**, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia:
Phenotyping of Winter Wheat Genotypes - Taking (some) of the Shine off
- **Ankush Prashar**, University of Newcastle:
Exploring High Throughput Tools for Decision Making in Potato
- **Pedrag Randjelović**, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops:
Soybean and High-throughput Phenotyping: Perceiving Growing Patterns in Different Environments
- **Aleš Kolmanič**, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia:
*Assessing the Competitive Ability of Winter Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) Varieties against Weeds*

12:00

Lunch & networking in the Garden Hall

13:00

Sub-session 2c: Organic Breeding – Methodologies and Strategies (PPB)

Chair: Dagmar Janovská, Crop Research Institute

Invited lecture:

- **Micaela Colley**, Organic Seed Alliance, USA:
Exploring the Emergence of Participatory Plant Breeding in Countries of the Global North

13:30

Sub-session 2c: Organic Breeding – Methodologies and Strategies (PPB)

Chair: Dagmar Janovská, Crop Research Institute

- **Peter Dolničar**, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia:
Participatory Plant Breeding Strategies in Organic Potato Breeding Program at Agricultural Institute of Slovenia
- **Vuk Djordjević**, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops:
Organic Soybean: ECOBREED Partner Contribution
- **Gyula Vida**, ATK Centre for Agricultural Research:
Genetic Variability of Gluten Strength and Yellow Pigment Content in a Set of Winter and Facultative Durum Wheat under Low-Input Conditions

14:30

Sub-session 2d: Young Researchers

Chair: Mario A. Pagnotta, University of Tuscia

- **Luca Bonfiglioli**, University of Tuscia:
Durum Wheat Characterization for Organic Agriculture and for Tolerance to Drought and Salinity
- **Marjana Vasiljević**, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops:
Fostering Farmer Engagement: ECOBREED Participatory Trials on Organic Soybean in Serbia
- **Janez Lapajne**, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia:
Enhancing Potato Crop Analysis with Machine Learning and Multispectral Imaging in Field Conditions: A Study on Explainable AI Techniques
- **Yedra Vieites-Álvarez**, University of Vigo:
Plant Interference and Invasive Capacity: A Battle for Development



- **Ana Vojnovič**, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia:
Spectral Responses of Slovenian Potato Varieties under Water-Restriction Stress
- **Marion Champailler**, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia:
Farmer Participatory Trials: Case study in Slovenia

Friday, 19 January 2024

9:00

Session 3: Variety Evaluation and Farmer Participatory Trials

Chair: Paul Bilsborrow, University of Newcastle

Invited lectures:

- **Salvatore Ceccarelli**, independent consultant:
Variety Evaluation and Farmer Participatory Trials
- **Klemens Mechtler**, AGES - Austrian Agency for Health and Food Safety:
Testing Agricultural Varieties for Organic Farming in Austrian VCU-System

10:00

Sub-session 3a: Variety Evaluation

Chair: Paul Bilsborrow, University of Newcastle

- **Péter Mikó**, ATK Centre for Agricultural Research:
Comparison of Agronomic and Quality Parameters of a Durum Wheat Diversity Panel Grown in Hungarian Organic, Low Input and Conventional Fields
- **Soňa Gavurníková**, National Agricultural and Food Centre:
Qualitative analysis of European winter wheat tested within the ECOBREED project
- **Primož Titan**, RGA d.o.o.:
Perennial Wheat in Reality

11:00

Coffee break & networking in the Garden Hall

11:30

Sub-session 3b: Farmer Participatory Trials

Chair: Werner Vogt-Kaute, Naturland e.V. & Paul Bilsborrow, University of Newcastle

- **Werner Vogt-Kaute**, Naturland e.V.:
Environmental Stability of Wheat Populations in ECOBREED Farmers Participatory Trials
- **Werner Vogt-Kaute**, Naturland e.V.:
Protein-Yield – an Interesting Metrics for Organic Varieties
- **Paul Bilsborrow**, University of Newcastle:
The Performance of Varieties, Populations and Mixtures of Winter Wheat from UK Farmer Participatory Trials
- **Anna Pearce**, LC Smales & Son Ltd:
The Potential of Seed Dressings & Biostimulants for Organic Production
- **Adam Brezáni**, PRO-BIO obchodní společnost s r.o.:
Buckwheat, a Special Chance for Eastern Europe?

13:00

Closing of the conference