

Joint PRO-GRACE/EMPHASIS policy symposium and workshop about plant genetic resources and phenotyping

27-28 June 2024

Rue du Trône 62, Brussels, Belgium & Online

Promoting a plant genetic resources community for Europe

The European project PRO-GRACE, in collaboration with the EMPHASIS European plant phenotyping infrastructure, will be holding a policy symposium and workshop about plant genetic resources and phenotyping at Rue du Trône 62 in Brussels hosted by PRO-GRACE partner CSIC and organized by Euroseeds on 27 and 28 June 2024, with the possibility of online participation.

How could Europe contribute to conserving, characterizing and using plant biodiversity for the benefit of society and the environment?

A policy symposium and a networking event will take place on Thursday, 27 June from 13:00 to 19:00 to address the challenges and opportunities regarding the conservation, characterization, access and use of non-commercial plant genetic resources present in genebanks and in their natural habitat in Europe.

The aim of this policy symposium is to engage European and national level policymakers, as well as interested stakeholders, to raise awareness about the potential of a future research infrastructure dedicated to plant genetic resources to address biodiversity loss.

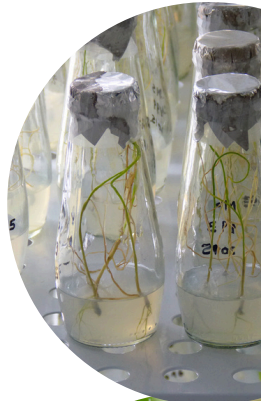
How can phenotyping help to exploit the untapped potential of plant genetic resources in Europe?

A workshop on the challenges and opportunities for harmonization of plant phenotyping will be held on Friday, 28 June from 8:30 to 16:00. This session will be of particular interest to plant researchers and breeders, who are interested in making use of plant genetic resources from genebanks and other non-commercial sources.

The aim of this plant phenotyping workshop is to provide an inventory of the different initiatives for phenotyping plant genetic resources and to discuss how plant phenotyping can support the management and utilization of plant genetic resources and to make this huge amount of data available for scientific and breeding activities and how to ensure it is interoperable with different information systems.

Please find on the next two pages the outline of the agenda. We are currently in the process of confirming the speakers and experts.

The agenda will be continuously updated and available on the PRO-GRACE website, and registration for the two events will be opened soon. In case of any questions, please contact NickVangheluwe@euroseeds.eu



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AGENDA

Thursday, 27 June 2024, 13:00-19:00: symposium and networking event on challenges and opportunities regarding the conservation, characterization, access and use of non-commercial Plant Genetic Resources (PGRs)

12:00-13:00	Registration
13:00-13:05	Welcome by Euroseeds and <i>Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas</i> (CSIC)
13:05-13:20	An introduction to plant biodiversity loss. What are the challenges?
13:20-13:35	The Green Deal: addressing loss of plant biodiversity is one of Europe's key priorities
13:35-13:50	International policy frameworks impacting the conservation, access and use of PGRs
13:50-14:00	Examples of national initiatives for the conservation of PGRs
14:00-14:10	The European Cooperative Programme for PGRs (ECPGR)
14:10-14:20	Seed sector perspective on the potential of plant biodiversity
14:20-14:30	EMPHASIS: the road towards a plant phenotyping community
14:30-15:00	Q&A
15:00-15:30	Coffee break
15:30-16:00	GRACE-RI: a European research infrastructure for plant genetic resources to address the challenges of plant biodiversity conservation, characterisation and use
16:00-17:00	Stakeholder interactive session on the proposed European research infrastructure GRACE-RI
17:00-17:30	Wrap-up & conclusions
17:30-19:00	Reception and networking

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Friday 28 June, 09:00-16:00: workshop on the evaluation and valorisation of PGRs

8.30-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:15	Introduction - standardized phenotyping of PGR
9:15-9:30	EMPHASIS: the European plant phenotyping research infrastructure
9:30-10:30	What is needed for enabling the utilization of PGRs?
9:30-9:50	Genebank perspective - how to make genebank materials attractive for users?
9:50-10:10	European projects contributing to improved genebank inventories, the example of AGENT
10:10-10:30	Breeder's perspective - ensuring the sustainable use of PGRs
10:30-11:00	Coffee break
	Phenotypic evaluation of PGRs - challenges and opportunities
11:00-12:00	<u>First thematic session:</u> Seed phenotyping
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-14:00	<u>Second thematic session:</u> Low-cost phenotyping
14:00-15:00	<u>Third thematic session:</u> Data management and machine learning
15:00-15:30	Wrap-up & conclusions
15:30-16:00	Coffee and goodbye