

Joint Fringe Event of EASAC and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the
European Commission

| 11 March 2014 | 11:30 – 12:45

Venue: SQUARE - Brussels Meeting Centre, Glass Entrance, Rue Mont des Arts, 1000
Brussels; Studio 211/212

Crop genetic improvement technologies for sustainable agricultural innovation



Outline

Agriculture faces major challenges to deliver global food security and the EU is not immune from these challenges. All paths to innovation should be examined, to build on existing achievements for good agronomic practice.

This fringe event, based on Panel-led general discussion, is designed to draw on recent work by EASAC on crop genetic improvement technologies (New Breeding Techniques as well as Genetic Modification) and on emerging plant diseases, to explore how innovation and its regulation must capitalise on the scientific opportunities now coming within range. The initial EASAC presentation will cite international evidence to explore key opportunities and challenges for sustainable agriculture in the EU, and the need to establish a coherent policy framework to achieve the goals of innovation and regulation. Other Panel speakers will be asked to address specific issues, for NBTs, other approaches to sustainable agricultural innovation, experience from outside the EU, and from the perspectives of the producers and consumers of the products of innovation. Following these short Panel contributions, there will be ample time allocated for discussion with the audience to clarify emerging issues for the impact of innovation in the EU – for sustainable agriculture and also for research in the public and private sector science base, innovation capacity, competitiveness and international collaboration.

A short summary of the meeting will be prepared to provide a basis for continuing discussion with the incoming European Parliament and Commissioners.

Programme

11:30 Welcome by EASAC President **Professor Jos van der Meer** and **David Wilkinson**, JRC Director for Scientific Policy and Stakeholder Relation (tbc)

11:35 Opening by Chairman of the EASAC Working Group **Professor ter Meulen** (EASAC Past President)

11:40 Presentation of EASAC Report on “Planting the Future” by Member of the EASAC Working Group & Head of the Institute for Biosafety in Plant Biotechnology, Julius-Kühn Institute, Germany, **Professor Joachim Schiemann**

12:00 Panel discussion

Members of Panel discussion:

Guy Van Den Eede (JRC)

Prof. Pere Puigdomènech (Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics, Barcelona/Spain)

Prof. Maria Salomé Pais (University of Lisbon)

Edwin Hecker (Chair NBT Platform)

Chair of the panel: Dr Robin Fears (EASAC)

12:20 Open discussion

12:40 Summing up

12:45 ends

List of organisers:

Dr Christiane Diehl, EASAC

Ms Anna-Maria Gramatté, EASAC