

Defra's Genetic Improvement Networks

Uncorking the genetic 'GINie' for British crops

Conference

22nd February 2016

The John Innes Conference Centre,
Norwich Research Park, Norwich, NR4 7UH

Defra's vision is for Britain to be one of the world's great food nations, and for our food and farming industry to be a data-driven powerhouse of great ideas, where new approaches continuously evolve and spread. For the last decade DEFRA funded Genetic Improvement Networks (GINs) have provided a platform for the improvement of Britain's most important crops, identifying emerging challenges and enabling them to be addressed by a community of UK researchers, breeders and end-users. The GINs are the UK's longest agri-food supply chain research collaborations, widely recognized examples of best practice for the advancement of Britain's most important crops. This event uniquely showcases all these networks and provides an extraordinary opportunity to discuss the outlook for British field crops.

Key Issues to be addressed

- Learn from what has worked well;
- Identify common opportunities and challenges across the networks;
- Share and build upon key learning points;
- Look forward and consider how UK research, commercial plant breeding and growers will best address future challenges, drawing upon these unique collaborations to work collaborate across the UK agri-food supply chain.

Chair and Keynote Speakers

Chair: Tom Heap - presenter of BBC Countryfile

Keynote speaker: George Eustice - Minister for Farming, Food and Marine Environment

09:00 - 09:30	Coffee and Registration
09:30	Welcome Gordon Jamieson, Director of Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation, John Innes Centre
09:30 - 09:50	Outlook for UK Farmers Jack Watts, Lead Analyst, Cereals and Oilseeds, Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board
09:50 - 10:10	Plant breeders prospective Peter Werner, R&D Breeder, KWS UK
10:15 - 10:30	DEFRA food and farming 25 year plan Heloise Tierney, Head of GMO and EU Crops regimes team, DEFRA
10:30 - 11:00	Innovation in Plant Breeding and New Plant Breeding Techniques George Eustice MP, Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment
11:00 - 11:20	Coffee Break
11:20 - 11:55	VEGIN: The Vegetable Genetic Improvement Network Brian Thomas, VEGIN Project Coordinator
	The UK Vegetable Genebank Charlotte Allender, Head of the UK Vegetable Genebank
	Stakeholder perspective Sue Kennedy, Head of Vegetable Plant Breeding, Elsoms Seeds
11:55 - 12:30	PCGIN: The Pulse Crop Genetic Improvement Network & Germplasm Resources Claire Domoney, PCGIN Project Coordinator
	Stakeholder perspective Patrick Mitton, Chief Executive, PeaWise
12:30 - 13:00	OREGIN: The Oilseed Rape Genetic Improvement Network Ian Bancroft, OREGIN Project Coordinator
	Stakeholder perspective Vasilis Gegas, Head of Oilseeds Breeding – Maritime, Limagrain
13:00 - 13:40	Lunch
13:40 - 14:10	WGIN: The Wheat Genetic Improvement Network Kim Hammond-Kosack, WGIN Project Coordinator
	Stakeholder perspective Peter Jack, Project Leader, RAGT Seeds
14:10 - 14:20	Elevator pitches; Barley: Robbie Waugh, James Hutton Institute Oats: Tim Langdon, Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences
14:20 - 14:50	Conference overview and panel discussion Led by Tom Heap
14:50 - 15:20	What is the common learning and next steps?
15:20	Conference Close