Second announcement of the
Symposium on Breeding for Diversification
19 - 21 February 2018
University of Kassel, Witzenhausen, Germany

General objective
Various national and international projects aim at exploiting the benefits of species mixtures to design productive, diversified, resilient and environmentally friendly agro-ecological cropping systems less dependent on external inputs than current systems and acceptable to farmers and actors in the agri-food chain. Inter- or intra-species diversity can enhance water and nutrient use efficiency and improve the control of pests, diseases and weeds, while increasing crop productivity and resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses, including those triggered by climate change. Species mixtures can lead to reduced use of fossil energy and chemical inputs and enhance production of ecosystem services. This symposium will discuss breeding and management strategies for diversification both in conventional and organic agriculture in arable or forage crops or agroforestry.

This symposium will be organised by EUCARPIA Section Organic & Low-input Agriculture, ECO-PB, DIVERSify, INSUSFAR, HealthyMinorCereals, LIVESEED, and ReMIX.

Topics to be dealt with:
- breeding and/or management strategies
- for inter- or intra-species diversity
- in arable crops, forage crops or agro-forestry

Venue:
University of Kassel, Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences, Steinstraße 19, 37213 Witzenhausen, Germany.

Hotel list, travel descriptions and registration forms will be provided by 10 November 2017 on www.uni-kassel.de/fb11agrar/en/sections/oekologischer-pflanzenschutz/home.html
**Important dates:**

- **15 December 2017:** Deadline submission of Abstracts for posters and oral presentations (see instructions)
- **15 December 2017:** Deadline Early Registration
- **15 January 2018:** Decision of the scientific committee on acceptance of posters and oral presentation and preliminary program
- **1 February 2017** Final program
- **19 - 21 February 2017** Symposium

**Abstract submission**

Please see attached instructions for the preparation of abstracts for poster and paper presentations (max. 2 pages) which should be submitted before **15 December 2017**. Abstract submission will be connected to on-line registration.

**Time Schedule** (preliminary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 19 Feb</th>
<th>Tuesday 20 Feb</th>
<th>Wednesday 21 Feb</th>
<th>Thursday 22 Feb</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project meetings</td>
<td>9.00-11.00: Breeding for inter-species diversity annual crops</td>
<td>9.00 – 11.30: Open EUCARPIA/ECO-PB Session on Practical organic breeders presentation (invited speakers only)</td>
<td>Project meetings</td>
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<td>11.00-12.00: Coffee and (guided) poster session on inter-species diversity</td>
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<td>12.00 – 13.00: Lunch</td>
<td>12.00-13.00: Lunch</td>
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<td>13.00-14.00: Registration for Symposium</td>
<td>13.00-15.00: Breeding for inter-species diversity perennial crops / agroforestry</td>
<td>13.00 – 17.00: Open LIVESEED/EUCARPIA/ECO-PB workshop on new concepts and strategies for organic plant breeding (after general presentation of LIVESEED systems-based breeding concept (1st draft) there will be world-café interactive sessions to further develop various aspects of systems-based breeding concept, followed by conclusions and further steps)</td>
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<td>14.00 – 16.30: Breeding for Intra-species diversity</td>
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<td>Project meetings</td>
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<td>16.30-18.00: Coffee and (guided) poster session on intra-species diversity</td>
<td>15.00-15.30: Coffee</td>
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<td>15.30-18.00: General concepts for breeding on improved diversity</td>
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<td>18.00-20.00: Dinner</td>
<td>Symposium dinner</td>
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**Participant Fee**
Early registration, before December 15, 2017
Late registration, until February 1, 2018

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Early</th>
<th>Late</th>
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<tr>
<td>EUCARPIA member</td>
<td>90€</td>
<td>110€</td>
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<tr>
<td>non-EUCARPIA member</td>
<td>130€</td>
<td>150€</td>
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<tr>
<td>students</td>
<td>30€</td>
<td>30€</td>
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Fees include symposium access, coffee, tea, meals, and abstract booklet.

Local organisers
Prof. Dr. Maria Finckh, University of Kassel, Germany
Prof. Dr. Gunter Backes, University of Kassel, Germany
Dr. Jelena Bačanović-Šišić, University of Kassel, Germany
Dr. Jörg Peter Baresel, Technical University of Munich (TUM), Germany

Scientific Committee
Dr. Monika Messmer, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL), Switzerland (LIVESEED, ECO-PB)
Prof. Dr. Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Louis Bolk Institute, Bunnik, The Netherlands (EUCARPIA, LIVESEED)
Dr. Isabelle Litrico, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France (ReMIX)
Dr. J.P. Baresel, Technical University of Munich (TUM), Prof. Dr. M.R. Finckh, University of Kassel, Germany (INSUSFAR)
Prof. Dr. G. Backes, University of Kassel, Germany (HealthyMinorCereals)
Prof. Dr. Lars Kjaer, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (DIVERSify)