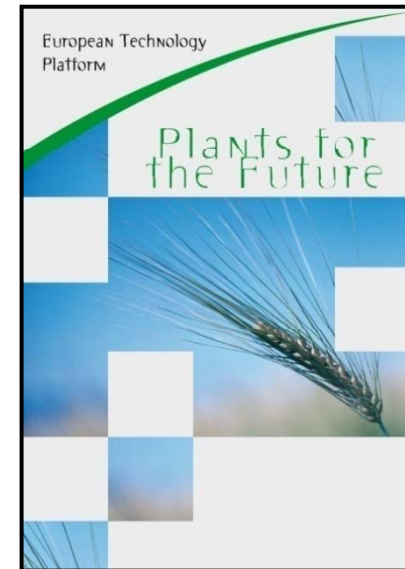


Ministero degli Esteri Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico
 MINISTERO DELLE POLITICHE AGRICOLE ALIMENTARI E FORESTALI
 Ministero della Salute
 PROVINCIA DI PARMA Comune di Parma
 Con la collaborazione tecnica di
 FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

EXPO 2015 FEEDING THE PLANET
NUTRITION, WELL-BEING, BIODIVERSITY & SUSTAINABILITY
 Parma Ridotto del Teatro Regio - 12 maggio 2010 - ore 15,00



The Future of Plant Research in Europe and Italy

Silvio Ferrari,
Chairman

Roberto Tuberosa,
Scientific Coordinator

Italian Technological Platform
"Plants for the Future"

Why establish an ETP for the plant sector?



Increase R&D strategy and funds for plant science

Coordinate plant research in Europe

Promote networking between industry (SMEs in particular), academia and other stakeholders

Foster transnational collaborations

Encourage multidisciplinary & cross-sector education

Raise public understanding of the potential of research on plants to boost the competitiveness of the agro-food and agro-industry chains



Challenges

✓ Our society will face unprecedented **environmental**, **social** and **economic** challenges in the coming decades:



- World population increase (3 billion in 1960; 9.0 in 2040)
- Available arable land/head decrease (4.3 ha in 1960, 1.8 ha in 2030)
- Rising living standards
- Ensure sufficient water supply (70% for agriculture)
- End of fossil resources and cheap fertilizers
- Decrease the environmental footprint of agriculture

✓ The **Bioeconomy can help us to address** some of these challenges in a sustainable manner

History

- 2004 Launching of “Plants for the Future” a European Vision for 2025 (Vision Document)
- 2005 Proposal for a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)
- 2005/6 Consultation process with more than 1,000 participants in 19 Member States, European Parliament and Commission
- 2007 Final Strategic Research Agenda launched at the European Parliament



GOAL: Boost competitiveness of plant sector in Europe
SRA addresses 5 challenges for our society

The 5 challenges

Contribution to society



1. Healthy, safe and sufficient food and feed
2. Plant based products: chemicals and bioenergy
3. Sustainable agriculture, forestry and landscape
4. Vibrant and competitive research
5. Consumer choice and governance

“Plants for the Future” national Platforms

- Czech Republic
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Italy (**IT-Plants**)
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Spain
- United Kingdom



- Officially launched on June 17, 2008 in Rome (National Academy of Science).
- Vision Document and Strategic Research Agenda finalized in October 2008
- Implementation Action Plan finalized in September 2009
- IT-Plants aims at:
 - stimulating research & technological innovation in primary production of agro-food and agro-industry sectors at the national level
 - encourage public-private collaborations at the national and international levels, particularly with SMEs
 - increase and support private and public investments in plant research.



Managing Committee of IT-Plants



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



IT-Plants for
the Future



Italian Plant Genomics Network




Dipartimento
Agroalimentare



PARCO SCIENTIFICO E
TECNOLOGICO DELLA SICILIA



Parco
Tecnologico
Padano
La ricerca si fa impresa
Entrepreneurial research in ag-biotech

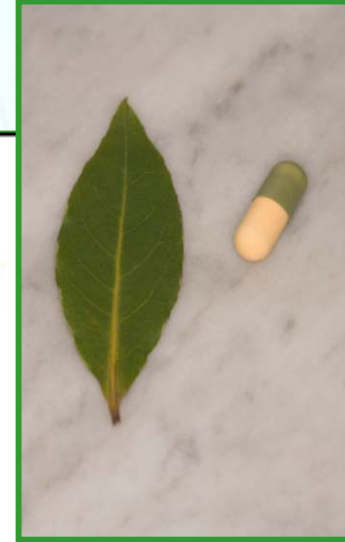


50%

of our raw plant products and materials

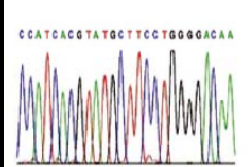
are imported

New plants for non-food use





2nd International Symposium on Genomics of Plant Genetic Resources



24-27 April, 2010 Bologna, Italy

BOLOGNAFIERE, Piazza della Costituzione 4

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Congress Keynote Speaker

Gebisa Ejeta 2009 World Food Prize
Purdue University, Lafayette, IN, USA

Opening Keynote Speaker

Emile Frison
Director, Bioversity, Rome



“Harnessing plant biodiversity for food security and nutritional quality”

Managing and exploiting genetic resources

- Harnessing plant diversity: from sequence to function
- Harnessing plant diversity: genomics-based breeding
- Germplasm improvement and new crops
- Translational research: from model and wild species to crops
- Genomics-assisted crop improvement for food security in developing countries
- Genetic resources for nutritional quality
- The next challenges
- Closing session

CO-ORGANIZERS



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Wish list...

- Collaborative initiatives on National Research Activities
 - Mirror Groups, ERAs, other National Platforms, JPI, etc.
- More effective coordination among member States and the EU Commission for defining policies on research and innovation
 - Action Plan for FP8, coordination of resources at the national and European levels
- Stimulation of transnational funding of pre-competitive research by both the private and public sectors
- Raise national awareness of the benefits of plant RTD developed for the agro-food chain through technical training activities
- Planning of interdisciplinary activities between various relevant ETPs, which will lead to the joint promotion of initiatives that meet the R&D needs of more than one industrial sector



What's next?

- JPI on "Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life" and on "Agriculture, Food Security and the Environment: The Challenge of Sustainable Development" and on "Agriculture, Food Security and the Environment: The Challenge of Sustainable Development"



**Many thanks for
your attention!**

at the 14th International Biotechnology Symposium (14-18 Sept. 2010)

- A series of documents for media release to inform the public on the merits of plant research and its applications to improve our well-being and food security.