



INFO NOTE ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

January 2017

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1. ESA Working Group on Research and Innovation



The ESA WGRI was established in 2012. The group is open to any ESA Member interested in research and innovation related issues. Both National Associations and Individual Companies representatives are part of the group.

What do we do? The following, non-exclusive, priority issues constitute the core of the work of the WG:

- ESA Contribution to [European Technology Platform: "Plants for the Future"](#) (Plant ETP)
- EU R&D and innovation policies and implementing measures, relevant for innovation

- [Horizon2020](#) and all relevant actions and opportunities
- Outreach on research and innovation (e.g. ESA Vision Document)

ESA Board identified R&I as a priority to work on in the upcoming years in the context of the strategic review ESA2020. This info note is to inform members about principal activities of the WGRI and available opportunities at EU level. The Secretariat encourages interested Members to join the group!

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2. EU main trends on Research and Innovation

The Commission is the main target of the WGRI activities. The Directorates General DG AGRI (Agriculture and Rural Development) and DG RTD (Research & Innovation) are the ones responsible for the relevant policies and funding schemes.

Recent relevant initiatives:

- DG RTD launched in October 2016 an initiative called FOOD 2030: Research & Innovation for Tomorrow's Nutrition & Food Systems. During the event, next to the conference, the Commission also organised a "food village" with 20 exhibitors, mainly stands about EU funded projects with regards to food. ESA was among the exhibitors and the only stakeholders' association present at the food village. The Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Carlos Moedas, visited the ESA and stopped over for a brief presentation of ESA activities.

The WGRI is actively working on this new initiative, and the Secretariat will answer a consultation initiated by the Commission on this new policy area. The consultation and the background document, issued as outcome of the official launch, are accessible at the following links:

- ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/conference_food2030
- ec.europa.eu/research/bioeconomy/pdf/food2030_conference_background.pdf

If interested in answering the consultation, please contact the Secretariat, Alessia Cogliandro, to receive ESA input.



DG RTD is in the process of developing ideas for a R&I focused on microbiome, as part of the Food 2030 initiative and organized in the frame of the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF). A first international experts workshop on microbiome R&I was organised by the EC in February 2016 and

a second one in October 2016. This workshop aimed to map the state of the art of the microbiome research in each of the participating country/region and to discuss the scoping and joint actions/roadmap towards a possible "IBF international microbiomes initiative". During this discussion the significant role of the industry was acknowledged several times and in order to include perspective and needs of the private sector a mapping exercise was performed. The Plant ETP requested the Secretariat to circulate a questionnaire (mapping exercise) to collect feedback from industry on this topic. It is a relevant topic where industry could play a central role. Together with the Plant ETP, the WGRI organised a first exchange with the Commission. If interested, you can fill in the questionnaire enclosed to this email and send it back to the Secretariat.

3. Horizon 2020 calls: opportunities - be part of a H2020 consortium



The Secretariat has been contacted by a consortium who is preparing a draft

proposal on [this H2020 call](#). The overall aim of the project is to improve competitiveness of organic production of Brassica, Fabaceae, Solanaceae species through breeding activities. The cataloguing of existing Brassicaceae, Fabaceae, Solanaceae germplasm collections will enhance quality and scope of European ex situ collections, while gap and redundancy analysis may improve the coverage of in situ and on-farm management of Brassicaceae, Fabaceae, Solanaceae genetic resources. The use of Brassica, Fabaceae, Solanaceae accessions, breeding lines and breeding populations derived from landraces and wild species in cultivar development will broaden the adaption of the cultigens to limiting or changing agro-climatic conditions, e.g. by enhancing robustness through use of the adaptive traits.

For more information and if interested in being part of the project, please contact the Secretariat, Alessia Cogliandro, as soon as possible as the deadline to submit the proposal is fast approaching, 14 February.

4. Horizon 2020 interim evaluation: answer the consultation

The Commission launched a [public consultation](#) on the interim evaluation of H2020. The consultation is open till 15 January. The Secretariat answered the call based on a document drafted together with the WGRI. The Secretariat invites you to answer the call. You will find enclosed to this info note, ESA's answer and the document above mentioned, you will have the possibility to upload at the end of the survey.

