



# CEPLAS

Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences

The Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences (CEPLAS) invites you to the

## CEPLAS Exchange Platform 2024

May 14, 2024, 10 am

Cologne Innodom, Weyertal 109, 50931 Cologne

The CEPLAS Exchange Platform 2024 aims at mediating the exchange on research transfer between scientists from CEPLAS and representatives from the private sector. CEPLAS scientists will present research projects and research results with potential for socio-economic exploitation. Representatives from companies and other organizations of the private sector will report on their activities in the field of research transfer. Various aspects of research transfer will be addressed. This event will be an opportunity to stimulate and mediate the interaction and cooperation between CEPLAS scientists and the private sector.

### About CEPLAS

Currently, CEPLAS is the only cluster in the framework of the German Excellence Strategy focusing exclusively on plants. It integrates research and training resources from the Universities of Cologne and Düsseldorf, the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research Cologne, and the Forschungszentrum Jülich into an internationally leading plant science center. Nearly 200 scientists collaborate in the investigation of causal relationships in biological functions.



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
FOR PLANT BREEDING RESEARCH



# Agenda

## 10:00 Welcome and Opening

Guido Grossmann, Günter Strittmatter

## 10:10 Research Transfer at CEPLAS: Structures, Activities, Experiences

Günter Strittmatter

## 10:30 Presentation of CEPLAS research results, Part 1

Jane Parker, MPI for Plant Breeding Research Cologne

Exploiting plant natural immune-potentiating molecules for crop protection

Jürgen Zeier, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

A natural product-based, sustainable crop protection strategy

Kirill Schenstniy, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

Use of in vitro cell fusion and transgene-independent genome editing for the crop improvement

Tonni Grube Andersen, MPI for Plant Breeding Research Cologne

How to use cis-genetic transcriptional re-wiring to improve abiotic stress resilience and carbon fixation in roots

## 11:30 Coffee Break

## 11:45 Presentation of participants from the private sector

Carlos Guenter, KWS SAAT SE & Co. KGaA

R&D and research transfer activities at KWS

Jens Uhlemann, BAYER AG

How Open Innovation programs at BAYER (incl. LifeHub Monheim) can be leveraged by researchers from academia

Amine Abbadi, NPZ Innovation GmbH

R&D and research transfer activities at NPZ

Antonella Sucuro, CinSOIL GmbH

R&D and the meaning of cooperations for CinSOIL



### **13:00 Lunch / Opportunity for bilateral discussions**

### **14:00 Research Transfer in the private sector**

Björn Hahn, BAYER AG

Practicalities, hurdles and requirements for universities to enter partnerships with BAYER

### **14:15 Presentation of CEPLAS research results, part 2**

Martin Lercher, Alexander Kroll; Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf  
A tuneable AI tool for the prediction of protein-small molecule interactions – enzyme kinetics, drug-target affinities, and much more to guide biotech and pharmaceutical research

Xinhui An, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf  
Reconstruction of cell wall polysaccharide biosynthesis in Cyanobacteria

Ernesto Llamas, University of Cologne  
Fighting neurodegenerative diseases with the power of plants

Marco Severin Kerp, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf  
The nutritional and anatomical differences between differently grown pea microgreens *Pisum sativum* and common pea seeds ready for consumption

### **15:15 Coffee Break / Opportunity for bilateral discussions**

### **15:45 Foundation of startups: regional support organizations**

Frauke Hangen, BioRiver

Nils Schrader, BIO.NRW

Ingo Stefes, CEDUS (Center for Entrepreneurship Düsseldorf)

Marc Kley, Gateway Cologne

### **17:30 Opportunity for bilateral discussions / Get-Together**





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## Registration

To register for the exchange platform, please use the QR code. Registration is open until April 15, 2024. Due to organizational requirements, the number of participants has to be limited to 60 persons.

Your successful registration will be confirmed in a second step with a confirmation email.



## Contact

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CEPLAS - Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences is a joint initiative of Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, University of Cologne, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research and Forschungszentrum Jülich.

[www.ceplas.eu](http://www.ceplas.eu)