



The Plant Node is an independent project placed at the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA).

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## The Plant Node – the knowledge hub for current plant breeding issues

*The Plant Node is an independent knowledge hub on targets and methods of plant breeding and its contributions to the development and sustainability of society. The purpose is to support scientifically underpinned decisions, as well as increased understanding of dependencies by politicians, authorities, industries and other organizations on how development and use of plant breeding methods can contribute to the global goals for sustainable development, the SDGs. The Plant Node is placed at the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA).*

Activities within plant breeding are complex and the need of knowledge is considerable in society: Current information from research must be available. The possibilities for plant breeding to contribute to meeting societal challenges (climate adaptation as well as CO<sub>2</sub>-capture and storage, environmental problems, bio-economy, food quality, etc.) must be made visible. Technical innovations must be properly described.

The Plant Node shall mediate knowledge and facts that are requested by decision makers at different levels. Further, it will be available for everybody seeking knowledge, information or facts in a given subarea. Contrary to many other communication projects and information activities, The Plant Node will be based on bilateral dialogues with political parties and different stakeholder groups. Proposals on different activities to be carried out by The Plant Node will be outlined in these dialogues. This is an innovative mode of action to increase knowledge and information on targets and methods of current plant breeding and to introduce less rigid views on approaches to their application. The knowledge and information that is mediated shall be scientifically verified. In addition to the process of dialogues there will be seminars/webinars, a newsletter and mailing of up-to-date information.

The locked discussion on current plant breeding must be replaced by a discussion taking account of different points of view based on current knowledge. At the prospect of taking standpoints that affect the possibilities of everybody to build a sustainable future, decision makers must have access to a stable basis of facts. With the development of new methods for current plant breeding the need to address these issues have become apparent again. The Plant Node will function as a so called “honest broker” and convey scientifically underpinned information without any bias.

The Steering Committee of the Plant Node is chaired by Lisa Sennerby Forsse, former President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA) and former Vice-Chancellor of SLU, and representatives from three other Swedish Academies (the Royal Academy of Science (KVA), the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) and the Royal Physiographic Society) and SLU. Eva Pettersson, Secretary of KSLA, is the project owner.

The project group is composed of Annika Åhnberg, project leader, former Minister of Agriculture and fellow of KSLA, IVA and the Physiographic Society, Anders Nilsson, former Research Director of Svalöf Weibull and fellow of KSLA, Jan-Olov Johansson, former Head of the Scientific Editorial Board at Swedish Radio, fellow of KSLA and IVA, Dr. Dennis Eriksson, researcher at SLU, and Docent Jens Sundström, collaborative lecturer at SLU.