



The role of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is to promote agriculture and forestry and related activities for the benefit of society, with the support of science and practical experience. The Academy was founded in 1811 at the initiative of Karl XIV Johan and started its work on 28 January 1813.

Bertebos Prize Seminar – October 20, 2026

Wheat and Related Crops: Closing the yield gap – bridging science, breeding, and societal impact



The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA), in collaboration with the Bertebos Foundation, arranges this symposium to highlight how integrating advances in science and breeding can contribute to meeting global food demand as production environments become more variable and constrained. The symposium will explore how scientific innovation can be translated into resilient crop cultivars that generate tangible benefits for society.

Global food demand continues to rise with population growth, while crop productivity and yield stability are increasingly challenged under increasing climatic variability. Wheat, a cornerstone of human nutrition and global trade, must therefore deliver higher and more reliable yields amid growing environmental pressures. Developing cultivars capable of sustaining productivity across diverse and unpredictable production environments is essential to meeting future demand. Despite rapid advances in scientific knowledge, breeding capacity, and agronomy, substantial yield gaps persist between yield potential and production realized in farmers' fields. These gaps represent missed opportunities for food security, and economic development, particularly where yield stability is increasingly challenged. Addressing the yield gap requires more than isolated scientific breakthroughs; it demands strong interconnection between discovery driven research, breeding innovation, and pathways that translate progress into realized societal benefit.

This symposium focuses on wheat and related crops to examine how closer integration of science, technology and breeding can help minimize the yield gap. The program spans genetic discovery, gene bank conservation, and trait development, as well as the broader societal context in which new cultivars are deployed, including industry, policy, and food value chains. Professor Curtis Pozniak's research has played a pivotal role in advancing wheat breeding through the development of resistant, high yielding varieties adapted to diverse production environments.

A warm welcome!

Peter Normark, Academy Secretary General and Managing Director

This event is financed by the Bertebos Foundation

Time and venue

Thursday 20 October 9.00 am until 5.00 pm at KSLA. and Zoom.

Registration

No later than 13 October in [this link](#) . Please submit poster abstracts before 21 September.

Fees

Conference SEK 500
Dinner SEK 500

Bertebos Foundation

The Bertebos Prize consists of SEK 400 000 and organizing a scientific seminar.

In honour of the 2026 Bertebos Prize, KSLA and the [Bertebos Foundation](#) arrange this seminar in cooperation with the Prize Laureate, Professor Curtis Pozniak, University of Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Foundation promotes education and scientific research within the food sector.

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Tentative Programme – October 20, 2026

Wheat and Related Crops: Closing the yield gap – bridging science, breeding, and societal impact

09.00 Registration and Coffee/Tea

09.30 **Welcome** – Jan Stenlid*, Vice President, The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry

Bertebos Prize – Per Stenström*, Chairman Bertebos Foundation

Session 1 – Genomics

Feed the future: technological innovations in wheat improvement

Prize Laureate: Professor Curtis Pozniak, University of Saskatchewan, Canada

Confirmed speakers: Anna Elisabeth Backhaus, IPK, Germany, Christoph Dockter, Carlsberg Group, Denmark, Lucia Gutierrez, SLU, Sweden

Panel Discussion

12.00-13.00 **Lunch**

Session 2 – Yield Gaps

Confirmed speakers:

Martin van Ittersum, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, Sarah Gurr, University of Exeter, UK, Magnus Karlsson, SLU, Sweden

Panel Discussion

14.30 **Coffee/Tea**

Session 3 - Impact

15.00 Confirmed speakers:

Helena Hansson*, SLU, Sweden, TBC, Bühler, Switzerland.

Panel Discussion

16.30 **Concluding Panel Discussion**

Closing Remarks

17.10 **Posters & Conference Mingle**

18.30 **Conference Dinner** (pre-registered participants)

*) fellow of KSLA