

“Improving sown grasslands through breeding and management”

EGF-EUCARPIA-Symposium-2019 - First Circular

Invitation

On behalf of the European Grassland Federation (EGF), the European Association for Research on Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA), Agroscope and ETH Zürich, we would like to invite you to the EGF-EUCARPIA Joint Symposium, to be held at **ETH Zürich, Switzerland, from June 24 to June 27, 2019**. This international meeting will provide a unique opportunity to bring together scientists and stakeholders working on all aspects of sown grassland research and fodder production. In plenary sessions, key topics relevant to both societies will be presented and discussed by invited speakers and through offered oral and poster presentations. Parallel sessions will offer the opportunity to discuss topics more specific to EGF or EUCARPIA and to hold workshops to tackle current issues and problems.

Grassland-based ruminant production Systems often rely on sown grasslands, either regularly re-sown permanent grasslands or leys in a crop rotation. Productivity of these ecosystems depends on the availability of high quality forage crop cultivars, the right association of these cultivar in mixtures and on optimized management practices. **The main aim of the EGF-EUCARPIA-Symposium-2019 is to bring together scientists from both fields and thus enable fruitful discussions and interactions.** During the symposium, factors influencing selection of forage crop species particularly suited for multi-species mixtures will be identified and new developments in the area of mixture development and management will be discussed. Emphasis will be given to opportunities offered through new and novel technologies such as high resolution phenotyping, genomic analyses and statistical modelling. Another key aspect of the symposium will be the importance of plant-microbe interactions for successful and sustainable forage production. Bacteria and fungi not only play a key role as pathogens, threatening to reduce forage yield and quality, but also are a valuable component of multispecies grasslands by contributing to stress tolerance or resilience and enable the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen. Finally focus will be laid on the interaction between research, education and application which is crucial for research results and novel technologies to be transferred into grassland management and forage production.

The symposium will allow for intensive exchange of research ideas and knowledge, joining the two areas of research in forage crop breeding and grassland management. The various disciplines must collaborate in order to achieve the common goal of sustainable production of high quality forage based on multispecies grasslands.

Venue

The symposium will take place at the main campus of ETH Zürich, located near the city centre of Zurich, Switzerland. ETH Zürich is one of the world's leading universities for technology and natural sciences, with its department for environmental systems sciences and its institute of agricultural sciences being ranked among the top European research institutes in this research area. More than 19,000 students, including 4,000 PhD students, from more than 120 countries pursue their studies in a broad variety of subjects ranging from informatics, engineering to natural sciences and

medicine. The symposium will be held in the beautiful classicistic main building of ETH Zürich, built by Gottfried Semper in the second half of the 19th century.

Key dates

09.07.2018	Opening of abstract submission
09.09.2018	Deadline for abstract submission
02.12.2018	Deadline for full paper/extended summary submission
03.04.2019	Early bird registration closes
12.05.2019	Registration closes

Preliminary program

Sunday 23.6.2019	Registration, welcome reception
Monday 24.6.2019	Opening session, one plenary session, two parallel sessions, opening reception
Tuesday 25.6.2019	Two plenary sessions, afternoon excursion
Wednesday 26.6.2019	Two plenary sessions, two parallel sessions, conference dinner
Thursday 27.6.2019	Two plenary sessions, closing of the conference (noon)
27.6.-29.6.2019	Post-conference tour (optional, at additional cost)

Scientific topics

Session I	Efficient and multi-functional forage production on sown grasslands
Session II	Improving sown grasslands and their management for future challenges
Session III	Molecular genetics and genomics for improved breeding of forages
Session IV	New methods and technologies to assess plant traits, swards and forages
Session V	Breeding for improved plant-microbe interactions
Session VI	Plant-soil-microbe interactions in multi-species grasslands
Session VII	Collaboration between practice and research for practical advances

Registration fees

We will aim at keeping registration fees at or below € 550.-- with reduced rates for enrolled students. The fee will cover conference registration, conference program with abstracts, book of proceedings, welcome receptions, coffee and lunches, afternoon excursion, conference dinner and public transport within Zurich.

Accompanying persons

Registration will cover welcome receptions, social dinner and afternoon excursion. Additional activities will be organized during plenary sessions.

Travel

Zurich is reached easily from the Zurich international airport (ZRH), by railway as well as by car. The main railway station is not far from the conference venue (20 min on foot) and is served by tram lines 6, 9 and 10. The funicular “Polybahn” leaves from the “Central” tram stop and is an easy way to reach the conference venue, which lies above the city. A 5-day (Sunday to Thursday) ticket for the highly developed public transport system of the city is included in the registration fee.

Accommodation

A list of recommended hotels will be provided and participants are responsible for their individual arrangements. Rates tend to be high and reasonable options are limited. Early booking is advised.

Conference information

www.egfeucarpia2019.ch

e-mail: secretariat@egfeucarpia2019.ch

Scientific Committee

Olivier Huguenin-Elie, Agroscope (co-chair)

Bruno Studer, ETHZ (co-chair)

Andreas Lüscher, Agroscope

Daniel Nyfeler, AGFF

Dirk Reheul, Gent University, BE

Isabel Roldan-Ruiz, ILVO, BE

Roland Kölliker, ETHZ

Massimiliano Probo, Agroscope

Nina Buchmann, ETHZ

Philippe Barre, INRA, FR

Pierre Mariotte, EPFL

Ulf Feuerstein, DSV, DE

Local Organizing Committee

Roland Kölliker, ETHZ (co-chair)

Andreas Lüscher, Agroscope (co-chair)

Beat Boller, Agroscope

Beat Reidy, HAFL

Bruno Studer, ETHZ

Christoph Grieder, Agroscope

Daniel Suter, Agroscope

Franz Schubiger, Agroscope

Olivier Huguenin, Agroscope

Manuel Schneider, Agroscope

Paolo Demaria, Demaria Event Management

Priska Gassmann, Agroscope

Willi Kessler, Agroscope