



The Global Plant Council Annual Report 2024–2025

30th July 2025

Written by I. Mendoza (CCO) with inputs of the board of directors

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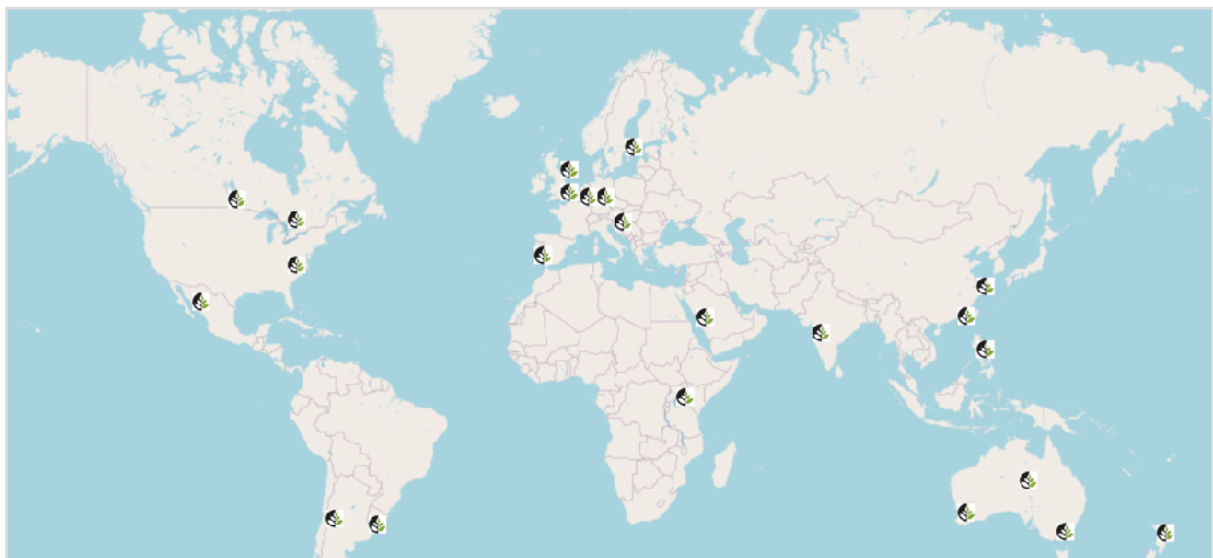
The Global Plant Council

The Global Plant Council (GPC) is a coalition national, regional, and international organizations representing plant, crop, agricultural, and environmental sciences across the globe.

GPC promotes plant science across borders and disciplines: it aims to support those directly involved in research, but also in education and training, to increase awareness of the key contribution of plants and plant science to societies across the planet.

The GPC's mission is therefore to:

- Facilitate the development of plant science to enable us to address global challenges.
- Foster international collaborations and enable the effective use of knowledge and resources.
- Provide an independent and inclusive forum to bring together all those involved in plant and crop research, training, and education.



Map showing the distribution of Global Plant Council Member Organizations

The GPC Board of Directors for 2024-2025:

- **President:** Geraint Parry, Executive Officer, Association of Applied Biologists
- **Chair:** Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson, Assistant Professor at the University of Copenhagen
- **Treasurer:** Deena Errampalli, past president of Plant Canada
- **Board members:**
 - KC Bansal, former Director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
 - Liana Acevedo-Herrera, researcher at Wageningen University

- Shu-Hsing Wu, research her at the Institute of Plant and Microbial Biology (IPMB), Academia Sinica
- Peter Ryan, honorary research fellow with the CSIRO Agriculture and Food
- Ertao Wang, professor at the CAS Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences
- Ariel Herrera-Vasquez, Vice President of the Chilean Society of Plant Biologists
- Geoffrey Wasteneys, at University of British Columbia and a Canada Research Chair
- Carlos Garcia-Mata, researcher at the National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET) within the Institute of Biological Research at the National University of Mar del Plata.

And the Chief Communications Officer: Isabel Mendoza

Message from our President Geraint Parry

Thanks for viewing the 2025 Global Plant Council (GPC) Annual Report.

The past year has seen more good progress despite some challenges of securing follow-on funding from member organisations. Our broad remit is to represent cross-border issues that are of interest to all plant scientists. We are not impeded by any of the possible limitations that might impact the voice of our members that are aligned to a particular country or cohort of scientists. Global issues of importance to the GPC include the how science is communicated, how plant science impacts topics related to climate change, the sharing of digital sequence information (DSI) and the uptake of gene-editing technologies.

At time of writing in July 2025 GPC membership includes 25 organisations, which is a slight increase from this time in 2024. We are happy to welcome the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) as a member of GPC. ASPB was involved at the formation of the GPC and we worked together to set up their now successful Plantae communication platform. After a few years of separation we are delighted that the ASPB International Committee recommended that ASPB rejoins the GPC and we have enjoyed ASPB representatives attend board meetings.

The majority of GPC members are scientific societies from across the world. Therefore it is very important for the GPC directors to author a recently published opinion article in the Plant Biotechnology Journal entitled ‘Strengthening the future of science: Why joining a scientific society has never been more important’. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/pbi.70145>

Over the last year we delighted to have developed new relationships to produce a series of high quality webinars; either as a one-off presentation (with SCIRO), a day-long event (with the [International Safe Cassava Network 2025 Symposium](#)) and a monthly series (with Wiley-Blackwell: Plant Biotechnology Journal and The Plant Journal).

We are delighted to be discussing a renewed sponsorship with ‘Frontiers in Plant Science’, which will involve providing free Article Processing Charges (APCs) for articles selected by the GPC directors as well as engagement with their ‘Frontiers for Young Minds’ series.

Later in 2025 we are looking forward to again engaging with the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) in [Brazil](#), through possible sponsor-supported involvement to provoke discussions about how important are plant science solutions are to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Throughout this annual report we document the remarkable outreach that the GPC has achieved through its communication strategy. The value of these outputs can be difficult to quantify and therefore may be underappreciated. As ever the GPC would be nothing without the phenomenal contribution of Isabel Mendoza, whose excellent work that has helped the GPC increased global profile. It is gratifying that she has provide training courses on the broad topic of science communication, in particular at the **Plants in the Anthropocene** workshop (Orsay, France)in spring 2025.

Finally I must provide a huge thanks for the GPC Board of Directors who have guided our activities through the past year. Many of the directors have been involved with the GPC for a long time and have been instrumental in our recent success.

If you are a member of a GPC member organisation we invite you to apply to join our Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity to guide the future directions for the GPC and we especially welcome early career scientists to join the Board.

Best wishes for the coming year. I hope to see you online or in-person at an upcoming event.

Cheers,

Geraint Parry, London. July 2025.

Executive Summary of The Global Plant Council Activities (July 2024 – June 2025)

From June 2024 to June 2025, the Global Plant Council (GPC) made significant strides in advancing its mission to promote plant science across borders, foster collaboration, and amplify the voice of the scientific community on the global stage.

A major institutional achievement this year was gaining **observer status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**—a milestone that positions GPC to actively contribute to global policy discussions on sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and food security. This recognition, paired with a high-profile publication by GPC board members in the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, reinforced the Council’s role as both a **scientific thought leader and policy advocate**.

GPC’s **communication and outreach efforts continued**, with the publication of +100 news items, 10 blogs, and +50 mailings, including newsletters—reaching audiences through general updates, event announcements, and Early Career Researcher (ECRi) communications. On social media, the Council surpassed **53,000 followers** across 17 platforms and celebrated **record viewership on Facebook**, with over **2 million views** in 2024.

GPC year in numbers (June 24-June 25)

Category	Metric	Value
Milestones	UN ECOSOC observer status	Yes
	“Plant Biotechnology Journal” editorial	Yes
	Grant Proposals Submitted	3
	Scicomm collaborations (Hydrosensing)	1
	Annual report	1
Events & Outreach	Webinars	8
	News items	119
	Blog post	14
	Mailings (including newsletters)	47
	Conferences attended/supported	4
	Membership benefits 2-pager updates	2
Social media	Followers	53.000
	Platforms managed	17
	Views	3 Million

The **2024–2025 webinar series** featured 8 events on topics ranging from food security and cassava to climate change impacts and interdisciplinary science. These sessions—organized in collaboration with partners like the International Safe Cassava Network, Crop Trust, and the Argentinian Society of Plant

Physiology—engaged audiences around the world and supported capacity building in plant sciences.

GPC also maintained a strong presence at major events and workshops, including **PlantACT** (Madrid, Spain), **ICAR25** (Gent, Belgium), **SEB2025** (Antwerp, Belgium), and the **Plants in the Anthropocene** workshop (Orsay, France). The GPC organized and contributed to science communication sessions, reviewed academic posters, and strengthened relationships with international partners.

The Council continued its role in collaborative research through the **Hydrosensing project**, where it leads digital communications and branding. Additionally, GPC submitted proposals to competitive international grants (eg Horizon Europe funding program, Templeton Foundation...), hopefully laying the groundwork for future funding success.

In all, 2024–2025 has been a year of **growth, visibility, and strategic progress**, underscoring GPC’s commitment to uniting plant scientists, supporting early-career researchers, and ensuring that plant science plays a central role in solving global challenges.

Communication and Outreach (webinars and events)

Communication

Throughout the year, the Global Plant Council (GPC) actively enhanced its communication channels to keep the plant science community informed and engaged. We published +90 news items and 10 blogs, reaching a broad audience with updates on key research, events, and community initiatives. Additionally, 47 mailings were distributed, segmented into:

- 10 general newsletters,
- 22 event announcements,
- 11 messages directed to GPC representatives,
- 4 newsletters tailored for Early Career Researchers (ECRi).

Registration to the general newsletter: <https://0q5po.mjt.lu/wgt/0q5po/5n6/form?c=b2f1f228>

Registration to the ECRi newsletter: <https://0q5po.mjt.lu/wgt/0q5po/5nr/form?c=5c724041>

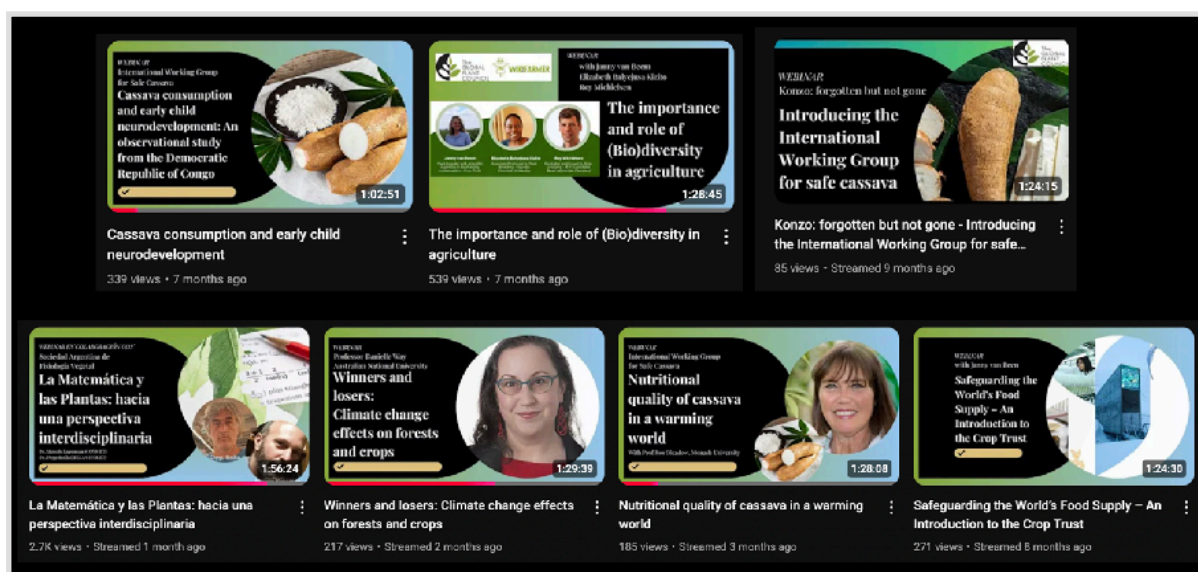
Registration to the events newsletter: <https://0q5po.mjt.lu/wgt/0q5po/5o9/form?c=ec64169d>

In 2024–2025, the Global Plant Council's presence across 17 social media channels and groups grew to a combined total of over **53,000 followers**. While classic and new platforms have limited access to detailed analytics—particularly for Twitter/X, Bluesky, Mastodon, and Threads—we continue to prioritize meaningful engagement over metrics. Notably, **Facebook reached a record high**, with more than **2 million views**, marking our best year ever on the platform. This reflects strong public interest in plant science content and the growing impact of our communication efforts.

Summary of social media numbers. Follower's growth 2014-2025.								
	Twitter	Facebook	Newsletters ***	LinkedIn	Instagram	Others	Total	New Followers
2014*	750	-	-	-	-	-	750	+750
2015*	2.300	275	900	-	-	-	3.475	+2.725
2016*	4.000	640	975	-	-	-	5.615	+2.140
2017*	5.640	1.000	1.100	-	-	-	7.740	+2.125
2018	7.234	1.894	1.262	505	-	48	10.943	+3.203
2019	9.074	5.362	1.337	1.994	254	59	18.080	+9.135
2020	11.553	8.324	1.629	2.665	523	75	24.769	+6.689
2021	14.023	9.493	2.252	3.483	753	124	30.128	+5.359
2022	16.845	11.323	2.842	4.116	915	203	36.244	+6.116
2023	18.848	13.748	5.769	4.831	1.056	540	44.792	+8.548
2024	19.617	16.977	6.481	5.849	1.120	1.307	51.351	+6.559
2025**	19.642	17.227	6.820	6.379	1.148	2.012	53.228	+1.877
* Estimated values **2025 includes figures from January until the 30 th of June *** Newsletters include General, ECRi and Events								

Webinars

In addition, the GPC hosted 8 webinars between September 2024 and May 2025, partnering with organizations such as the International Safe Cassava Network, Crop Trust, Wikifarmer and the Argentinian Society of Plant Physiology. Topics included food security, biodiversity, climate impacts, and interdisciplinary research in plant sciences. These webinars fostered knowledge sharing and community dialogue on urgent global challenges. A highlight was the launch of the collaboration with the International Working Group for Safe Cassava. The GPC is also co-organizing the upcoming International Safe Cassava Network 2025 Symposium in October 2025.



Webinar series summary 2021-2025 (as of 30th of June 2025)

Number of...	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Webinars	8	8	8	4	3	31
People registered	956	1.755	2.932	1.394	955	7.992
Attendees	438	772	1.179	514	328	3.231
Youtube views	2.982	3.447	2.873	1.221	3.044	13.567

1. **September 2024 – Konzo: Forgotten but Not Gone**, in partnership with the International Safe Cassava Network In this webinar, Prof Ros Gleadow from Monash University (Australia) interviewed Dr Julie Cliff of the Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Mozambique, a leading expert on Konzo—a neurological disease linked to the consumption of improperly processed cassava. Alongside the interview, Prof Ros Gleadow also provided a brief presentation on the International Safe Cassava Network group's efforts to ensure cassava safety worldwide.

2. **October 2024 – *Safeguarding the World's Food Supply***, introduction to the Crop Trust, with the Crop Trust. Webinar with Janny van Beem (Crop Trust global genebank partnership coordinator), where we explored the work done by The Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust). Crop Trust is an international organization committed to preserving the world's crop diversity. As climate change, population growth, and environmental challenges threaten food security, Crop Trust ensures that the genetic diversity of crops remains protected for future generations. During the webinar we learned how Crop Trust supports global seed banks, including the function of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, and how its work contributes to resilient agriculture and sustainable food systems. For plant scientists, the webinar highlighted opportunities for collaboration in crop conservation and research
3. **November 2024 – *The Importance and Role of (Bio)diversity in Agriculture*** in collaboration with Wikifarmer. This webinar delved into the role of biodiversity in shaping the future of agriculture. Experts discussed how biodiversity is essential in driving sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing crop resilience, and ensuring long-term food security. The webinar provided valuable perspectives on the importance of preserving and integrating biodiversity to build more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. Speakers: Janny van Beem (CropTrust), Elizabeth Balyejusa Kizito (Uganda Christian University), Roy Michielsen (B.V. Exploitatie Reservegronden Fievoland)
4. **November 2024 – *Cassava Consumption and Early Child Neurodevelopment*** in collaboration with International Safe Cassava Network. In this session, Prof Ros Gleadow from Monash University (Australia) presented Dr Espérance Kashala-Abotnes of the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a leading expert on Konzo — a neurological disease linked to the consumption of improperly processed cassava.
5. **March 2025 – *Nutritional Quality of Cassava in a Warming World*** in collaboration with the International Safe Cassava Network Cassava. Cassava is highly productive and an important food security crop. It is also the only staple that, under certain conditions, can be toxic to humans. Prof Gleadow discussed some of the possible underlying reasons why cassava is so cyanogenic and why this may be exacerbated by climate change.
6. **April 2025 – *Winners and Losers: Climate Change Effects on Forests and Crops*** with Prof. May from the Australian National University. In this webinar, Professor Way explored how climate change is shaping the future of our forests and crops, identifying which species might thrive and which might struggle under changing environmental conditions. These insights are crucial as we work toward sustainable solutions in agriculture and forestry.

7. **May 2025** – *La Matemática y las Plantas: Hacia una Perspectiva Interdisciplinaria* in collaboration with the Argentinian Society of Plant Physiology. The webinar, conducted in Spanish, explored the intersection between mathematics and the plant world through an interdisciplinary lens, aiming to highlight new pathways toward a more sustainable future. Dr. Marcelo Kuperman presented a talk on understanding plant systems through the lens of complexity science, while Dr. Diego Batlla discussed the application of population models to biological systems, emphasizing the importance of accounting for variation.
8. **October 2025** – Co-organizing the online *International Safe Cassava Network 2025 Symposium* in partnership with the International Safe Cassava Network, In preparation.

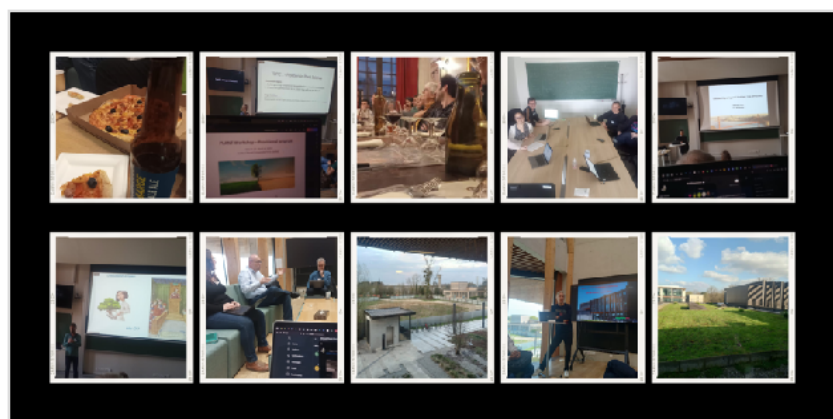
Our team engaged in multiple key events, fostering collaborations.

- **August 2024** – In August 2024, a visit was made to the Copenhagen Plant Science Centre (CPSC) in Denmark, where key events in plant science and communication were attended and contributed to. The



trip included participation in the CPSC conference *Translational Agriculture: From Model Plants to Crops*, as well as the annual Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society (SPPS) conference. Engagement with early-career researchers was a highlight, particularly through poster reviews at the NovoCrops PhD Summer School 2024. Additionally, a seminar on science communication was delivered to Elizabeth Neilson's research team, fostering dialogue on effective public engagement in plant science.

- **March–April 2025** – participation in the two-week *Plants in the Anthropocene* workshop in Orsay, France, offered a valuable opportunity for in-depth discussions on the role of plant science in addressing global environmental challenges. The Global Plant Council (GPC) co-organized an outreach session as part of the program, helping to highlight the importance of science communication and public engagement. The experience was captured in a blog post by Isabel Mendoza, available on the GPC



website: <https://globalplantcouncil.org/reflections-from-the-plant-sciences-in-the-anthropocene-workshop-two-weeks-of-conversations-insight-and-impact/>

- **April 2025** – attendance at the *PlantACT* meeting in Madrid, Spain, provided a platform for collaboration and exchange within the *PlantACT* network. A science communication workshop was led as part of the program, focusing on strategies for effective public engagement and knowledge transfer in plant science. The event also offered excellent networking opportunities.



- **June 2025** – participation in the International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR25) in Ghent, Belgium, highlighted ongoing efforts to foster collaboration in the global plant science community. During the Community Resources session, Geraint Parry presented an update on The Global Plant Council, emphasizing initiatives to promote plant sciences across borders and support international cooperation.



- **July 2025** – The Society for Experimental Biology (SEB2025) in Antwerp, Belgium

GPC sponsored the poisonous plants session at SEB that brought together plant scientists studying the production and regulation of toxic natural products that are poisonous to other animals, including humans. Some staple crops can cause disease if not appropriately processed. Detoxification or reducing bitterness of emerging and established food crops can be achieved through environmental management or at the molecular level but, overall, plant toxicity is likely to get worse with global heating. The impacts on other plant products (naturally occurring, products that plants are engineered to produce) are poorly understood. This session examined the interaction between crop traits that may be beneficial in tolerating current and future global challenges and highlight an

underappreciated and serious consequence of global challenges on staple foods and ecosystem dynamics. The session included two parts:

Part 1 focused on crop plants - and alkaloids (Cathie Martin- keynote), glucosinolates (Deyang Xu -2nd keynote), saponins (Pablo Cardenas) and cyanogenic glucosides (Ros Gleadow). On storage, transporters, and regulation (molecular and environmental). Pablo Cardena's talk also addressed issues around domestication. Ros Gleadow used it as an opportunity to promote the International Safe Cassava Symposium in collaboration with GPC that will take place in October 2025.



Part 2 focused more on chemical ecology and was more biochemical: Nicole Van Dam (steroidal glycoside diversity in *Solanum* - Keynote), Paula Bueno (coffee - all the things other than caffeine), Matilde Florean (Evolution), Elizabeth Nielson (allelopathy in natural systems) and finally to add a different perspective, Søren Bak on how to approach using plant poisons as biopesticides including ethical, legal and environmental considerations.

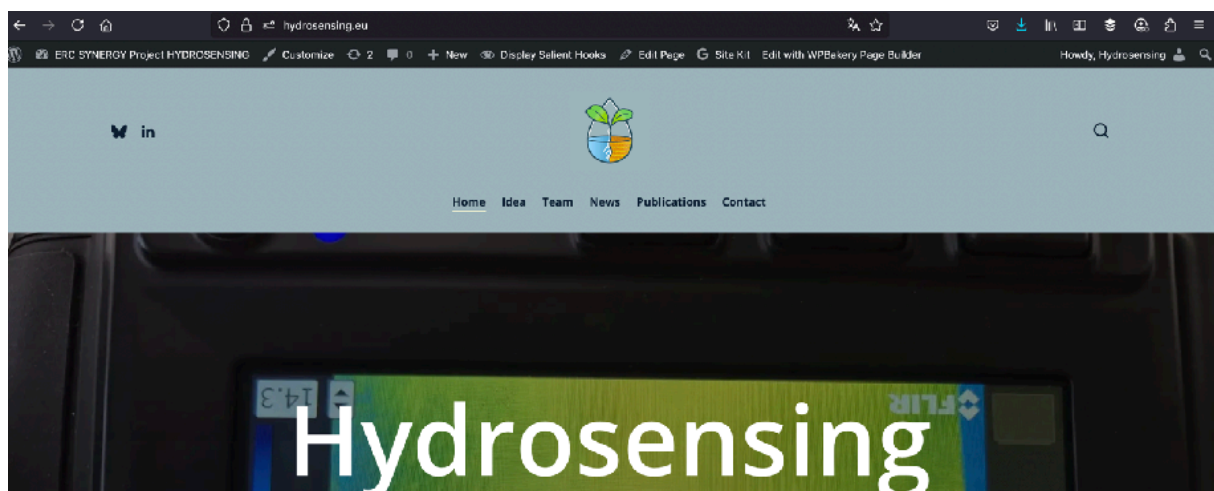
The session was also sponsored by *Annals of Botany*. Editor-in-Chief Rowan Sage attended. They are planning to put together either a focus issue, a special issue, or a collection of papers. This will be open to submissions.

Grant Proposal Submissions, Sponsorships and other Collaborations

Although grant funding was not secured this year, GPC submitted several proposals, including one to the John Templeton Foundation, another to the Copenhagen Plant Science Centre, and a Horizon Europe call led by Wageningen University & Research. These efforts reflect our commitment to securing resources outside of member and sponsor fees.

Sponsorship remains instrumental in supporting GPC activities, along with membership fees. Wiley (Global Leader in Publishing, Education and Research) committed to sponsoring 8 webinars during the coming period, while Functional Plant Biology (The Commonwealth Scientific and industrial Research Organization, CSIRO, Australia) will partner on 1 webinar. We continue having conversations with FRONTIERS, which includes sponsorship of contests, 1 webinar, and potential attendance at the UN Climate Conference. These partnerships enhance our ability to deliver valuable programming to the plant science community.

In addition, the GPC joined the Hydrosensing project consortium as a subcontractor (<https://www.hydrosensing.eu>), taking responsibility for managing the project's website and social media platforms. We led branding efforts, including logo design. This is the first of such collaboration for GPC and we hope it will set an successful example for upcoming collaborations.



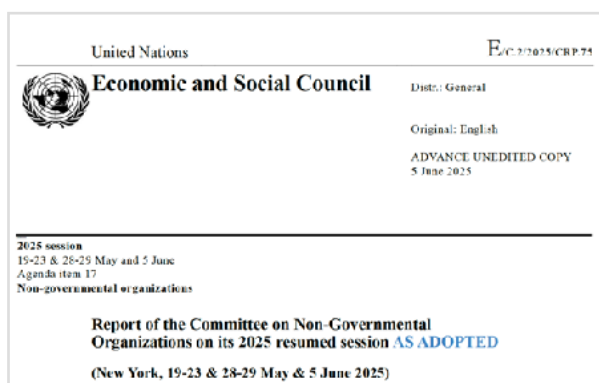
International Institutional Recognition and Publications

We were granted **observer status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**. This recognition significantly strengthens our global standing and positions GPC to contribute more directly to international policy discussions. It affirms the growing relevance of plant science in addressing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and expands our ability to advocate for the scientific community on a global stage.

The GPC published an article titled “*Strengthening the future of science: Why joining a scientific society has never been more important,*” in the *Plant Biotechnology Journal*. This piece builds upon a widely read blog post by Dr. Peter Ryan and underscores the critical role that scientific societies play in fostering collaboration, supporting early-career researchers, and uniting the global scientific community in times of rapid change.

Read the full article here: Ryan, P. R., Acevedo-Siaca, L. G., Parry, G., & Bansal, K. C. (2025). *Strengthening the future of science: Why joining a scientific society has never been more important*. *Plant Biotechnology Journal*, 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pbi.70145>

Read the original blog post: Scientific societies for a better society <https://globalplantcouncil.org/scientific-societies-for-a-better-society/>



The Global Plant Council Day-by-Day

Dr. Isabel Mendoza, Chief Communications Officer, is the driving force for the day-to-day operation of the Global Plant Council. Dr. Mendoza is supported in her duties by the board of directors, which provides strategic vision for the organization.

Our communications officer is in frequent communication with the members of the board via email. She holds weekly or bi-weekly online meetings with at least one board member. The board continues to meet online every six weeks to follow up on financial matters and generate policy and priorities that either are being developed or should be.

Daily tasks

- Collection, editing, publication and dissemination of plant science-related news and events. At least one press release (News Tab) or post (Blog Tab) is published every week. These stories are shared on all GPC social media channels.
- Curation of social media posts, including shares and retweets from fellow members, sponsors, and other plant science-relevant actors.
- Collection of #plantscijobs opportunities and post on the appropriate channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter).
- Checks on updates of website and tools from the technical point of view (Plugins, Themes, WordPress updates, Server...).
- Check on analytics for suspicious or unusual activity.
- Communication with members regarding preparation and collections of fees, reports, and dissemination of news, webinars, and other issues.

Weekly tasks

- Small council meetings between Isabel Mendoza, Geraint Parry, Deena Errampalli, and Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson to discuss course of action and activities.

Monthly and Bi-monthly tasks

- Monthly general newsletter to subscribers.
- Bi-monthly newsletter to ECRs.
- Meeting with members of the board (every six weeks) to discuss course of action and activities.
- Organization of working group meetings (doodle, calendar invites, join files and folders...).
- Organization of webinars (speakers, topics, technical management behind the scenes...).

Non-periodic tasks

- Design of banners, images and videos for social media, webpage, and other marketing tools.
- Attendance at webinars and events.
- Organizing the annual meeting of members and workshops.
- Curation of website sections when appropriate.
- Curation of reports and applications when appropriate.
- Identify and contact potential sponsors and members.
- Isabel Mendoza does training on web management, social media management, use of AIs, banner and image design, e-marketing, and science communication whenever the opportunity arises.

GPC Social Media Accounts

List of GPC social media accounts

1. Twitter (English): <https://twitter.com/GlobalPlantGPC>
2. Twitter (Español): https://twitter.com/GPC_EnEspanol
3. Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPlantGPC>
4. Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/plantscijobs>
5. Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/globalplantgpc/>
6. LinkedIn account: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/globalplantcouncil/>
7. LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/globalplantcouncil/>
8. LinkedIn group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12274424/>
9. Slideshare: <https://www.slideshare.net/GlobalPlantCouncil>
10. Weibo: <https://www.weibo.com/GlobalPlantGPC/>
11. Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheGlobalPlantCouncil/>
12. Newsletter general: <https://0q5po.mjt.lu/wgt/0q5po/5n6/form?c=b2f1f228>
13. Newsletter ECRi: <https://0q5po.mjt.lu/wgt/0q5po/5nr/form?c=5c724041>
14. Newsletter events: <https://0q5po.mjt.lu/wgt/0q5po/5o9/form?c=ec64169d>
15. Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@globalplantGPC>
16. BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/globalplantgpc.bsky.social>
17. Threads: <https://www.threads.com/@globalplantgpc>

Annex 1. GPC Individual Organizations Reports

Association of Applied Biologists

<https://www.aab.org.uk>

The AAB continues to deliver on its strategy to support and engage a membership committed to applying high-quality biology to address pressing societal challenges aligned with our mission. By December 2024, the Association had maintained a membership of around 1000, a level supported in part by the continued offer of free annual membership to non-members who pay full registration fees for our conferences. Once again, our membership reflects a vibrant and well-attended programme of events. In 2024, the AAB organised ten events, welcoming a total of 520 in-person delegates and 300 online delegates. These events covered a diverse range of topics relevant to applied biology and benefited from the contributions of over 300 speakers, of whom 159 were male. The programme included two external events co-organised with partner organisations: the British Society for Plant Pathology and the Association of Crop Production in Northern Britain.

It is particularly encouraging to see continued growth and activity within our specialist groups. In 2024, the AAB had twelve active specialist groups, up from nine in 2021, demonstrating the breadth of expertise and commitment within our community. The Association remains dedicated to supporting these groups, with more than £200,000 invested to underpin our conference activities and associated staff costs.

The AAB's reputation for delivering effective hybrid events (online and in-person) remains strong, ensuring greater accessibility for participants, including those from low and middle income countries, while helping to reduce the carbon footprint of our events.

Our two journals continue to serve the applied biology community effectively. Plant Biotechnology Journal goes from strength to strength as a top ten journal in Plant Science, while Annals of Applied Biology remains a trusted outlet for quality research. Plans are in place to evolve the editorial structure of Annals to ensure its continued relevance and impact.

The Association's finances remain sound, with investments exceeding £1 million to help secure future growth and development. The journals, together with our careful management of resources, continue to provide a stable income stream that enables us to reinvest in our charitable aims, including supporting our events and the wider membership.

We maintain a strong presence within the broader applied biology sector through active engagement with organisations such as the Royal Society of Biology and

the Global Plant Council, helping to ensure that the voice of applied biology is heard where it matters.

The incoming President, Dale Sanders would like to express sincere gratitude to the Association's dedicated staff for their excellent support throughout the year: Geraint Parry (Executive Officer), Alberto Vitale (Finance and Office Manager), John Andrews (Conference Administrator), Bernadette Lawson (Financial Administrator), and Carol Millman (Annals of Applied Biology Editorial Office). Finally, He records his deep appreciation for our outgoing President, Mike Gooding, for his outstanding leadership and vision over the past two years, which have been instrumental in strengthening the AAB's role as a leading advocate for sustainable agriculture and forestry.

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr Peter Ryan

Name of the current president

Professor Brent N Kaiser

Term of the current president

2025-2026

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Associate Professor Mary Byrne (Honorary Secretary)

Prof Mark Waters (Honorary Treasurer)

Member Report July 2024–July 2025

The Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS) continues to thrive as a leading scientific society, with a dynamic and engaged membership committed to advancing plant science through research, education, and communication. In Jan 2025, Prof Brent N. Kaiser took over the presidential role of ASPS from Prof Martha Ludwig, who finished her two-year appointment. Associate Professor Mary Byrne joined the executive as Honorary Secretary replacing Associate Professor Kim Johnson.

Over the past year, the Society continued its successful tradition of annual meetings with ASPS 2024—a hybrid event held in November across multiple Australian and New Zealand cities. Building on the localised format, first introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting featured shared plenary sessions streamed nationally and in collaboration with NZSPB 2024, the concurrent meeting of the New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists. In-person gatherings were held in Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, and Perth, each featuring local presentations and poster sessions. These regional events provided valuable opportunities for members to network, engage with local peers, and offer students (PhD, MPhil, Honours) and early-career researchers a platform to present their work and develop professional connections within the plant science community. We are currently developing our next annual meeting, which will be a traditional face-to-face meeting of the entire society at Flinders University in Adelaide in November 2025.

The Society is actively exploring new partnerships with like-minded organisations to broaden its membership reach and foster greater collaboration and engagement. Ongoing discussions with the American Society of Plant Biologists aim to revisit joint conference opportunities and explore regional

themes at co-hosted meetings. We are also seeking stronger connections with societies focused on specialised areas of plant science, including plant pathology, breeding, photobiology, and genetics. By 2026, we aim to establish a series of formal agreements that will enhance opportunities for ASPS members across research, education, networking and professional development.

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Email id: viswa.chinnusamy@gmail.com

Name of the current president

Prof. Sanjay Kumar

Term of the current president

(till December, 2026)

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

President: Prof. Sanjay Kumar, Email id: sanjayplp1@gmail.com

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Email id: viswa.chinnusamy@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dr. Mahesh Kumar, Email id: mahesagrawal@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Madan Pal Singh, Email id: madanpal@yahoo.co

Member Report July 2024–July 2025 (Max 500 words)

Following activities were undertaken by the Indian Society for Plant Physiology, during the period of past 12 months (July 2024 – July 2025)

(A) Seminars/conference were organized

National Conference of Plant Physiology Congress-2024 during December 17-19, 2024 at Kasaragod, Kerala, India

(B) Five memorial Award lectures were organized by the Society:

- (1) S.K. Sinha Memorial Lecture Award: K.B. Hebbar, CPCRI, Kasaragod
- (2) K.K. Nanda Memorial Lecture Award: M. Raveendran, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore
- (3) G.V. Joshi Memorial Lecture Award: Krishna Jagadish SV, TTU, Lubbock, Texas
- (4) Professor S.K. Sopory Endowment Lecture Award: Jaideep Mathur, University of Guelph, Canada
- (5) ASPB-ISPP Plenary Lecture Award: Nataraja Karaba N., University of Agricultural Science, Bengaluru

(C) Fellows of the Society:

Following eminent researcher were nominated fellows of the Society for the year-2024

- i. M.S. Sheshshayee, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru
- ii. Nataraja Karaba N., University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru
- iii. P. Jeyakumar, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

- iv. Mamrutha HM, IIWBR, Karnal
- v. Koushik Chakraborty, NRRI, Cuttack

(D) Gold Medal Awards:

Following scientists were selected for various gold medal awards of the Society for the year-2024:

- i. R.D. Asana Gold Medal Award: Amarjeet Singh, NIPGR, New Delhi
- ii. R.H. Dastur Gold Medal Award: Dr. Krishnapriya Vengavasi, ICAR-SBI, Coimbatore

(E) Special session for Young scientist organized:

Sixteen young scientists presented their research work during a special session of National Conference-2024, organized at Kasaragod, Kerala, India. Among them **Mukesh Kumar Meena**, NIPGR, New Delhi; **Vipasha Verma**, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur; **Preethi Vijayaraghavareddy**, University of Agricultural Science, Bangalore, India; **Krishna Kumar G.**, KAU, Thrissur, were awarded young scientist award for the year-2024.

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Lynette Brownfield - lynette.brownfield@otago.ac.nz

Name of the current president

Nick Albert - Nick.Albert@plantandfood.co.nz

Term of the current president

1 year

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Secretary: Nigel Gapper - Nigel.Gapper@plantandfood.co.nz

Treasurer: Catrin Gunther - Catrin.Guenther@plantandfood.co.nz

Member Report July 2024–July 2025

Organized conferences:

i) Hybrid Hub Conference November 2024

In 2024 we held our annual conference in three hubs across New Zealand Aotearoa that were connected online. Each hub hosted speakers and hub-specific lunches and a dinner to give an in-person experience, while keeping costs and carbon emission low. A highlight was a shared session with the Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS) with ASPS members also based in local hubs across Australia. The joint session included the Roger Slack Award Presentation by Dr David Chagné on using genetic tools to support conservation of the taonga (treasured) tree the swamp maire highlighting how Māori values and co-innovation can be embedded into research. The 2024 winner of the Michael MacManus award for the best student paper was Luke Luo who also gave an oral presentation at the hybrid hub conference.

ii) Plant Science Central July 2025

Plant Science Central is a biennial conference hosted jointly by the NZSPB and the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences (NZIAHS), hosted at Massey University in Palmerston North (central New Zealand Aotearoa). Keynote presentations included Scott Boden (Annals of Botany Speaker) on wheat spikelet architecture and Soledad Perez Santangelo, the 2025 Roger Slack Award winner for her work on mechanisms that regulate circadian rhythms. Ella Grierson, the 2025 Michael MacManus award winner, also presented her work. The conference also included a number of oral presentations

from students and early career researchers and highlighted the diverse plant science performed across New Zealand Aotearoa.

Annual General Meetings

The 2024 and 2025 Annual General Meetings have been held online.

Student and Early Career Researcher Support

The NZSPB provided financial support through a range of student travel grants, technician's awards and equity bursaries to assist students and early career researchers attend, and present their research, at a range of domestic and international conferences.

Plant Canada

<https://www.plantcanada.ca/>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Geoffrey Wasteneys, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver
geoffrey.wasteneys@ubc.ca

Name of the current president

Geoffrey Wasteneys

Term of the current president

2024-

Name and email of other member organization contacts

Vice President: Mark Belmonte, Mark.Belmonte@umanitoba.ca

Secretary: Harpinder Randhawa, harpinder.randhawa@agr.gc.ca

Past President: none current

Treasurer: Teagen Quilichini, teagenquilichini@gmail.com

Member Report September 2024–July 2025

Plant Canada, the Federation of Canadian Plant Societies, is the umbrella organization for seven Plant Science-related societies and associations. Our most recent joint meeting of all member organizations was held July 7 to 10, 2024 at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Organized by The Canadian Phytopathological Society, the theme was *Plants Adapting to a Changing World*.

Meetings and Activities between July 2024 and July 2025:

Canadian Association for Plant Biotechnology (CAPB): organized a virtual seminar series from January to March 2025 focusing on aspects relevant to plant biotechnology (<https://www.canadianplantbiotech.ca/seminar-series>). They also announced a 2025 student research paper competition, which will award two students with \$500 each (<https://www.canadianplantbiotech.ca/research-paper-competition>). The CAPB newsletter is available on the CAPB's new website: https://www.canadianplantbiotech.ca/_files/ugd/07711f_e446e04b394840adadf39e16e5550ccd.pdf.

Canadian Botanical Association: held their 61st Annual Meeting and Conference June 10-14 at Memorial University, St. John's Newfoundland, Canada. Theme: "*Botany on the rock for conservation and sustainability*". The Ecology and Conservation section co-chairs prepared an updated Position Paper on "Transplanting and seeding as a means of preservation" for plants, which is available at <https://www.cba-abc.ca/resources/position-papers/>. In 2024 the

Teaching Section promoted public outreach activities centered on exploring phytobiomes. The Canadian Botanical Association Bulletin, issued three times per year, located at <https://www.cba-abc.ca/resources/bulletin/> . The Canadian Journal “Botany” is affiliated with CBA-ABC and three other organizations including the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists, which is also a member of Plant Canada. The journal is located at <https://cdnsiencepub.com/journal/cjb>

Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS): held a joint meeting with the Weed Science Society of America in Vancouver BC, Feb 24-27 2025. CWSS established a new early career researcher award and a Student Travel Enrichment Award, and through their annual photo contest, provided support to the Herbicide Resistant Wild Oat Action Committee. They published one newsletter in Jan 2025: <https://weedscience.ca/newsletters/>.

Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA): held its annual meeting jointly with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS) in Kelowna, British Columbia, from June 23 to 26, 2025. The conference was held under the theme “Sustainable Crop Production for Resilient Canadian Agriculture”. The joint meeting attracted a total of 222 registrants, including 101 CSA members. This year, CSA successfully secured sponsorship from 11 organizations to support graduate student awards. In 2024-2025, CSA held 5 executive member meetings, published two newsletters (<https://agronomycanada.com/newsletter/>), and hosted a "Green Bagger" graduate student presentation series event. CSA also launched a membership drive, resulting in a substantial increase in membership.

Canadian Society of Plant Biologists (CSPB): will hold its 2025 Annual General Meeting August 9-12 at Dalhousie University, Halifax Nova Scotia. Eastern Regional Meeting, Concordia University, QC, December 1-2, 2023.

Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS): held its 2005 Annual Meeting June 15-18 in Vancouver BC jointly with the 17th International Cereal Rusts and Powdery Mildew Conference.

Saclay Plant Sciences (SPS) network
<https://eng-saclay-plant-sciences.hub.inrae.fr/>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Loïc Lepiniec – loic.lepiniec@inrae.fr

Name of the current coordinator

Loïc Lepiniec

Term of the current coordinator

30/11/2028

Name and email of other member organization contacts

Marianne Delarue - marianne.delarue@universite-paris-saclay.fr - Deputy-coordinator

Benoît Alunni - benoit.alunni@inrae.fr - Deputy-coordinator

Marie-Jeanne Sellier – marie-jeanne.sellier@inrae.fr - Manager

Member Report July 2024–July 2025

The SPS network promotes teaching and training, research and innovation in plant sciences in the Paris-Saclay area, through the funding of numerous projects and actions.

SPS supports several master's programs dedicated to plant sciences and open to international students, who can then benefit from the SPS labs, representing about 60 research teams, in particular for lab rotations and internships.

Every year, SPS organizes a summer school on a different topic, for about 20 outstanding and enthusiastic international PhD students and post-docs. In 2024, this summer school was organized with the German network CEPLAS, on how plant science can contribute to tackle climate change. This year, the summer school will cover plant imaging and how recent technological advances (super-resolution, fluorescence lifetime imaging, biosensors...) now make it possible to address new scientific questions.

Since 2019, the SPS network has developed outreach activities specifically dedicated to teenagers. Our main action consists in a half-day visit during which the pupils take part in a fun, interactive workshop on the history of plant domestication and selection, and the evolution of farming practices in relation to plant genetics and sustainable development. They also visit a laboratory with a scientist presenting his or her topic, explaining the research process, and showing the various careers in research. This initiative underlines the essential importance of plants for humanity, and the key role played by genetics in this

shared history, both in the past and as a lever for today's agro-ecological transition. Through this action, SPS has welcomed more than 1000 pupils during the academic year 2024-2025.

But the main highlight of this year was the organization of a workshop entitled "PLant science in the ANThropocene" (PLANT, <https://eng-saclay-plant-sciences.hub.inrae.fr/events/workshop-institut-pascal>) at the Institut Pascal of the Université Paris-Saclay from March 24 to April 4, 2025. This two-week workshop gathered about 100 international researchers and addressed key challenges for the international plant science community, in three main topics: 1) Frontiers in Plant Science fundamental research, 2) Feeding the planet: roles for Plant Science and associated environmental and socio-economic challenges, and 3) Plants as factories: from chemical compounds to mitigating climate change. The workshop also covered cross-cutting issues, such as teaching and training, innovation, outreach activities and open science. Mornings consisted mainly of presentations during which about forty high stature senior scientists provided their vision of how to rise to those challenges, while the afternoon sessions were devoted principally to brainstorming on selected topics. We hope to publish synthesis papers about the challenges addressed during this workshop in the coming year.

Moreover, SPS has been strongly involved in the development and implementation of the Peer Community In (PCI) Plants (<https://plants.peercommunityin.org/>). Two of the four Managing Board members belong to SPS.

Sociedade Portuguesa de Biologia de Plantas
Portuguese Society of Plant Biology
<http://www.spbp.pt/>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Jorge Marques da Silva, Chair of the General Council, jmlsilva@fc.ul.pt

Name of the current president

Teresa Lino-Neto

Term of the current president

2024-2027

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Ana Cunha, Secretary, accunha@bio.uminho.pt

Paula Lopes, Treasurer, plopes@utad.pt

Fernanda Fidalgo, Chair of the Financial Council, ffidalgo@fc.up.pt

Jorge Marques da Silva, Chair of the General Council, jmlsilva@fc.ul.pt

Member Report July 2024–July 2025

From July 2024 to July 2025, the Portuguese Society of Plant Biology (SPBP) actively promoted numerous scientific, institutional, and outreach initiatives, reinforcing its mission to promote plant science at national and international levels.

- One of the major collaborations was with the Spanish Society of Plant Biology (SEBP) in organizing *NUTRIPLANTA 2024 – XVIII Hispano-Portuguese Symposium on Plant Mineral Nutrition*, held in Badajoz, Spain, from July 22 to 24, 2024. Cristina Cruz, coordinator of the Plant Nutrition working group of SPBP, represented the Society on the Scientific Committee, contributing to the scientific quality and thematic coherence of the event.
- In the context of biochemistry and molecular plant sciences, SPBP organized the *Symposium S9 – SPBP Session: Plant Biochemistry*, as part of the *XXII National Congress of Biochemistry – Next-Gen Biochemical Challenges Across Borders*, which took place at the University of Aveiro from October 24 to 26, 2024. The session focused on cutting-edge research and contributed to *Plenary Lecture IV*, delivered by Professor Caroline Dean (John Innes Centre, UK), enhancing the international relevance of the event.
- Looking ahead, SPBP is co-organizing the *XIX Luso-Spanish Congress of Plant Biology – Iberian Plant Biology 2025*, to be held in Murcia, Spain, from July 1 to 4, 2025. Coordinated by Teresa Lino Neto and Jorge Marques da Silva, SPBP is encouraging a strong Portuguese participation. As part of its

commitment to supporting young researchers, SPBP has awarded eight travel grants to PhD students who will present oral communications at the congress, promoting scientific dissemination and networking among the next generation of plant biologists.

- Following the *XV Portuguese-Spanish Plant Water Relations Symposium* (Lisbon, Portugal (on-line), January 26-28, 2022), an editorial was published highlighting the urgent need to rethink water use in agriculture under changing climate conditions: **Caldeira, M. C., Costa, J. M., & Lobo-do-Vale, R. (2024). *The need of a blue revolution*. *Agricultural Water Management*, 297, 109041. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agwat.2024.109041>**

- SPBP collaborated with SEBP in the organization of the XVI Spanish – Portuguese Symposium on Plant Water Relations (Zaragoza, Spain, February 14 – 16, 2024). The SPBP members Conceição Caldeira, Raquel Lobo do Vale and Jorge Marques da Silva integrated the Organizing Commission. Nine Portuguese scientists were part of the Scientific Commission.

- At the international level, SPBP was virtually represented by its President (Jorge Marques da Silva) at COP28 in Dubai, following the Global Plant Council's accreditation to participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference.

- Institutionally, SPBP continued its participation in multilateral efforts toward the creation of the *Federation of Ibero-American Societies of Plant Biology*.

- In terms of outreach, SPBP once again participated in the *Fascination of Plants Day 2024* (<http://www.plantday12.eu/>), in collaboration with the ITQB NOVA communication office. Nelson Saibo, SPBP Treasurer, served as national representative for the initiative.

- Lastly, SPBP expanded its online presence through regular activity on Facebook and the creation of a new account on X (@SPBPlantas), reinforcing communication with the wider plant science community.

The activities carried out by SPBP in 2024 and early 2025 highlight its continued role in promoting collaboration, advancing plant biology research, and supporting young scientists. The Society remains a key link between researchers from Portugal, Spain, and other countries, while also contributing to global discussions on sustainability, climate change, and the future of plant science.

Society for Experimental Biology
<https://www.sebiology.org>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr. Liana Acevedo-Siaca, Plant Section Deputy Chair, liana.acevedosiaca@wur.nl

Name of the current president

Prof. Tracy Lawson

Term of the current president

2023-2025

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Pamela Mortimer, CEO

Prof. Gudrun De Boeck, Vice President (President Elect)

Prof. John Love, Treasurer

Dr. Diana Santelia, Publications Officer

Dr. George Littlejohn, Plant Section Chair

Dr. Felix Mark, Animal Section Chair

Dr. Ross Sozzani, Cell Section Chair

Member Report July 2024–July 2025

The SEB publishes Annual Reports here:

<https://www.sebiology.org/who-we-are/structure-and-governance/annual-report.html>

The SEB 2020-2025 Strategic Plan was reviewed and the new SEB 2025-2030 Strategic Plan was published (read about it here: <https://www.sebiology.org/who-we-are/structure-and-governance/strategy.html>)

Events Organized

- Annual conference held in Prague: 2nd-5th July 2024.
- Cell Symposium in Clermont Ferrand, France: 10th-12th July 2024.
- OED Symposium at Imperial College London: 10th-11th September 2024.
- Regular virtual webinars for the SEB journals, highlighting key, high impact papers.
- Planning for Annual Conference in Antwerp, 8th-11th July 2025.
- Planning for Plant Environmental Physiology Group (PEPG)s Field Techniques Workshop 2025, Quinta de Sao Pedro field study centre, Portugal. 17th-19th September 2025.

- Planning for JXB 75-year anniversary celebrations, Edinburgh, 17th-19th September 2025.

- A range of OED arranged activities for SEB members and the public. Highlights include sessions on Storytelling and Narrative to Communicate Your Research, Poster Design and Delivery for Researchers, Tap That Network Progress in Your Career, Building Your Academic Web Presence, Project Management Essentials For Researchers, as well as the launch of a new Mentoring Scheme.

- Co-sponsored with AAB: Plant Biology Education: Creating a Vision for the Future, Lancaster, UK, 7th-8th January 2025.

Major Awards (Plant Science)

Woolhouse Lecturer 2024

Professor Seung Yon Rhee

Woolhouse Lecturer 2025
Illinois

Prof. Andrew Leakey, University of

Cell Lecturer 2025

Prof. Lucia Strader, Duke University

President's Medallist, Plant 2024

Dr. Pallavi Singh, University of Essex

President's Medallist, Plant 2025
Nottingham

Dr. Bipin Pandey, University of

Grants awarded

In 2024, SEB administered grants totaling:

- £36,700 via the Company of Biologists Travel Grant,
- £20,000 for the SEB Annual Conference Travel Grant
- £4,624.61 for 8 Outreach Grants
- Support was also given for several meetings through member applications to the Plant Section Committee.

SEB Journals

The SEB has activity via four plant journals:

- Journal of Experimental Botany, owned by SEB and published by Wiley
- The Plant Journal, co-owned by SEB and Wiley. The journal moved to a continuous publication model in January 2025.
- Plant Biotechnology Journal, co-owned by SEB, AAB and Wiley
- Plant Direct, co-owned by SEB, ASPB and Wiley

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Paula Pongrac (Paula.Pongrac@bf.uni-lj.si)

Name of the current president

Paula Pongrac

Term of the current president

2024-2028

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Treasurer & executive board member: Aleš Kladnik [ales.kladnik@bf-uni.lj.si](mailto:ales.kladnik@bf.uni.lj.si)

Secretary & executive board member: Eva Praprotnik
(Eva.Praprotnik@kis.si)

Members of the executive board: Špela Baebler spela.baebler@nib.si
Andreja Urbanek Krajnc
andreja.urbanek@um.si

Member Report July 2024–July 2025

The Society is the core organiser of Fascination of Plants Day events in Slovenia. This year's main event took place on May 23rd in Ljubljana. It attracted over 1300 schoolchildren, their teachers, and families who attended 36 stands featuring plant science-related experiments and demonstrations. Participating institutions, photo gallery, media reports: <https://www.plantslo.org/wp/dan-ocarljivih-raslin-2025>; video: <https://youtu.be/1zg3syMe57o?si=hAXxZ6SMp41YyOb0>.

In September 2024, we co-organised the final conference of the PLANTMETALS (Trace metal metabolism in plants COST-CA19116 (https://plantmetals.eu/PLANTMETALS2024_Book-of-Abstracts_25092024_print_final.pdf), which took place at the Department of Biology, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana. There were 116 attendees from more than 20 countries who listened to one plenary talk, six invited talks and 22 contributed talks, and could see 77 posters.

In October 2024, we organised a field trip for our members and supporters to the Karst region, entitled "On the trail of mulberries", with the aim of learning about the ethnobotanical background of the once-important silkworm industry in Slovenia.

We organised two scientific lectures that were attended by members of the Society, Biology students, PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and others. In February 2025, we welcomed Dr Antony van der Ent from Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands, who gave a talk entitled “Farming for metals: an introduction to nickel phytomining”. In March 2025, a PhD candidate, Marija Polić Pasković from the Institute of Agriculture and Tourism Poreč, Croatia, presented a talk entitled Olive Tree: “A Biochemical Powerhouse”.

In March 2025, we held a general assembly, where substantive and financial reports for 2023 and 2024, as well as plans for 2025 and 2026, were adopted.

Taiwan Society of Plant Biologists

<https://tspb.org.tw/>

Name and email of current representative to the GPC

Fuh-Jyh Jan, fjjan@nchu.edu.tw

I-Chun Pan, icp@dragon.nchu.edu.tw

Name of current president

Fuh-Jyh Jan

Term of current president

2025-2026

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

General Secretary: I-Chun Pan (icp@dragon.nchu.edu)

Member Report September 2024 July–June 2025

TSPB (Taiwan Society of Plant Biologists) held the Annual meeting and a Symposium on Nov 22-23, 2024, in Taipei, Taiwan https://tspb.org.tw/ZH_TW/member_meeting?searchYear=2024 . The main topic of the symposium is Planting the Future: A New Era of Plant Science. The TSPB community focused on several specific issues, including Plant growth and development, crop science, stress biology, evolution and adaptation, and technical advances in plant science.

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Kieran Woof – kieran.woof@rsb.org.uk

Name of the current president

Sir Ian Boyd

Term of the current president

2022-2026

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Head of Science Policy: Laura Marshall - laura.marshall@rsb.org.uk

Director of Policy: Arianne Matlin - arianne.matlin@rsb.org.uk

Member Report July 2024–July 2025

The RSB has continued running its [Plant Health Undergraduate Studentship Scheme](#) this year, in partnership with Defra, which gives students studying in the UK the opportunity to undertake 8-10 week funded summer placements in plant health research, relevant to current priorities in this area. 10 studentships are taking place this year across various UK institutions.

The RSB has produced a number of policy outputs this year on issues related to the plant sciences. These include a [response](#) to the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee inquiry into animal and plant health, a [response](#) to the Defra Land Use Consultation, and a [representation](#) to the UK Spending Review 2025.

Through its network of Member Organisations, the RSB brings together experts from across the plant science community to develop a coordinated approach to policy and practice in research, industry, funding, education and outreach, wherever possible. The RSB is currently undergoing a review exercise in conjunction with its new 5 year strategy to determine how it can effectively support the needs of this network and deliver against the [RSB's Science Policy priorities](#).

The RSB has run a number of Plant Health related events in the past 12 months. These included talks on the [importance of plant health in one health](#), a [behind the scenes visit to Kew Gardens](#), and an online plant health conference. In addition the RSB maintains the [Plant Health professional register](#), which was

created in partnership with Defra to recognise individuals with skills and experience that align with the current [Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain](#). In November 2023, the RSB launched a [new online training course](#) to support applicants to the register. Since launching, over 200 people have accessed the course. The RSB also recently launched the Biorisk Professional Registration Scheme (BPRS), aimed at those involved in management, control or containment of biorisk.

Our Plant Science Newsletter is a monthly round-up of science and policy news about plant science. To stay up to date with RSB activities and UK and international news in plant science, sign into [mySociety](#), choose 'Subscribe to our publications' and select the Plant Science Newsletter to subscribe.

Annex 2. GPC Member Organizations Websites

1. **African Crop Science Society (ACSS)**
2. **Association of Applied Biologists**
<https://www.aab.org.uk/>
3. **Australian National University (ANU)**
<http://www.anu.edu.au/>
4. **Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS)**
<http://www.asps.org.au>
5. **Argentine Society of Plant Physiology (SAFV)**
<http://www.fisiologiavegetal.org>
6. **Chilean Society of Plant Biologists (ChilSPB)**
<http://www.biologiavegetal.cl>
7. **Chinese Society of Plant Biology (ChSPB)**
<http://www.cspb.org.cn>
8. **Cluster of Excellence on Plant Science (CEPLAS)**
<https://www.ceplas.eu/en/home/>
9. **European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)**
<http://www.epsoweb.org>
10. **The Heat and Drought Wheat Improvement Consortium (HeDWIC)**
<https://www.hedwic.org>
11. **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**
<http://irri.org/>
12. **Indian Society for Plant Physiology (ISPP)**
<http://www.ispponline.org>
13. **King Abdullah University of Science and Technology**
<https://kaust.edu.sa/>
14. **Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee**
<http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/>

- 15.MSU-DOE Plant Research Laboratory**
<https://prl.natsci.msu.edu>
- 16.New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists (NZSPB)**
<http://plantbiology.science.org.nz>
- 17.Plant Canada (PC)**
<http://www.plantcanada.ca>
- 18.Portuguese Society of Plant Physiology (SPFV)**
<http://www.spfv.pt>
- 19.Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society (SPPS)**
<http://www.spps.se>
- 20.Slovenian Society of Plant Biology (SSPB)**
<https://www.plantslo.org/wp/>
- 21.Society for Experimental Biology (SEB)**
<http://www.sebiology.org/>
- 22.Taiwan Society of Plant Biologists (TSPB)**
http://tspb.org.tw/TSPB_en/
- 23.Royal Society of Biology**
<https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/groups-and-committees/ukpsf>