



Global Plant Council Annual Report 2020–2021

20th June 2021

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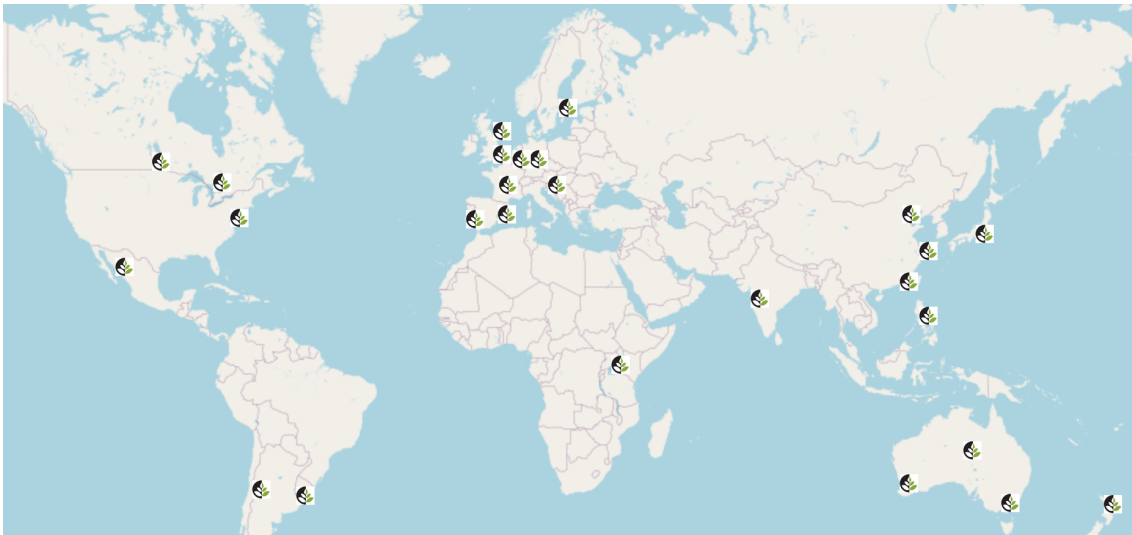
The Global Plant Council

The Global Plant Council (GPC) is a coalition of 27 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

Message from our president

The aims of the Global Plant Council can be summed up as promoting plant sciences and raising awareness of the importance of the discipline to society. We do that through communication and education, supporting researchers, (especially ECRs) and plant science organisations around the world. A large part of what drives me, and many plant scientists, is the desperate need to achieve food security without destroying the environment. I believe we are making progress, despite the many challenges, not least of which is the current global pandemic.



Ros Gleadow, GPC President

For the past year, our focus has been on communication (up, down and sideways) and establishing working groups to work on specific issues in line with the consensus document we agreed on at the last meeting. We have also continued to promote the International Year of Plant Health (2020) and the International Year of Fruit and Vegetables. When there is so much need, this approach has enabled us to focus our energies in specific areas.

The communication strategy is state of the art that reaches different audiences and people with different preferences, including:

- Daily blogs and reports on current science – this is a great way to access the highlights of what is happening in scientific research
- Social media outreach– we continue to build on the already large level of engagement across different platforms including YouTube, Instagram, Twitter, Weibo, Facebook, LinkedIn
- Curated monthly newsletters for subscribers
- Newsletter for Early Career Researchers ECRs
- Plant Science Jobs program

New initiatives for 2020-2021 included:

- Microblogging competition on plant science, sponsored by *Plants, People, Planet*
- The Webinar series in Spanish and English
- Working Group on the DSI (Digital Sequence information)
- Support for the UN International Year of Fruit and Vegetables

We have not gained as much traction with the UN International Year of Fruit and Vegetables as we did in the previous year's International Year of Plant Health. Nevertheless, this is an important issue and is giving us a voice in circles where previously we had none.

The Webinars are being offered on different themes. It is not so much hardcore science because these are covered elsewhere, for example through some of our collaborators such as the Journal of Experimental Botany, UKPlantSciPresents, the American Society of Plant Scientists and Plantae. Instead, our themes have a more global perspective, e.g., international research linkages; science odyssey's (where people present their personal stories) and communication strategies, including scientific publishing and social media. I am particularly pleased that we are venturing into different languages.

The DSI Working Group has been meeting regularly. I chair it and Isabel administers it. Our aim is to bring the attention of plant scientists to the apparent conflicts with the benefit and sharing of information, the Nagoya protocol, and the Convention on Biodiversity, Material Transfer

Agreements, and the upcoming discussions at COP26 in Glasgow later this year. The complexity of navigating research in this policy environment is challenging, especially as each country seems to be interpreting the conventions differently. The worry is that this could interfere with the free exchange of data and materials. This is a long-term process. To date we have had:

- Brought together experts in the field, including people working in bioethics and the law
- Three meetings of the working group
- Published a blog to start raising awareness
- Organised a discussion panel at Plant Biology Europe 2021
- Organised a discussion panel at the XXXIII Argentinian meeting of Plant Physiology
- Applied to run a workshop at SEB in 2021.

Going forward: 2021-2022

As a global organisation, we focus on what can be done at the international level. While our aim is to promote plant science there is also a need to support the needs of our members more directly. Members have access to the Blogs, where they can promote their research (and organisation), wide promotion of their activities, research outputs and job opportunities on social media, the GPC YouTube channel to host videos, and networking opportunities (virtual at the moment). I have had a few one-on-one meetings with members to see how we can support them in more specific ways. A recurring theme is the costs associated with publishing in Open Access journals. We are exploring some ways we may be able to help. No promises, but I really think this is a big issue. I also want to increase membership and connections in less represented regions, e.g., Africa, Eastern Europe and Southeast Asia. Whether or not we will be able to meet face to face in 2022 remains unknown.

Sum up and thanks

It has been a tough year for just about everyone. The regular Board meetings have been a highlight – so many different perspectives on how the coronavirus pandemic has been playing out across the world, and then hearing all the fantastic advances in research, and how people are managing to organise conferences and write papers. Thank you to each and every one of you!

I particularly want to thank Dr Deena Errampalli for her work as Treasurer, and Prof Bill Davies for his work as immediate past President. Bill will be stepping aside at this meeting, after a decade of involvement with the GPC. Bill was a driving force in building the organisation, and for its clear focus on the need for a global organisation to address the needs of plant science, food security, climate change and international collaborations. He will leave a big hole. I have relied on Bill's advice many times over in the two years since I became President, and I assure you, I am going to continue pestering him with emails! I also want to thank Dr Francisca Blanco Herrera for her time as Chair. Unfortunately, due to her other commitments at work, and a global pandemic, she had to step aside at the end of last year. Instead, we welcome Assistant Professor Elizabeth Neilson from the University of Copenhagen. Finally, a big thank you to Dr Isabel Mendoza, who manages the GPC, organises the meetings and does our social media. I particularly want to thank her for being positive, and working effectively despite the challenges of the pandemic, including getting COVID-19.

Best wishes to you all for the 2021-2022 cycle. May your plants grow well!

Signed: Ros Gleadow

GPC Report 2020-2021

The Global Plant Council Day-by-Day

As for today, the GPC has one staff member (Isabel Mendoza, our Communications officer) who is the driving force for the day-to-day operation of the organization. Dr. Mendoza is supported in her duties by the board of directors that provide strategic vision for the organization. The members of board of directors are the following:

- **President:** Ros Gleadow from Monash University where she leads the Plant Ecophysiology group.
- **Past President:** Bill Davies, from Lancaster Environment Centre
- **Chair:** Francisca Blanco-Herrera, past president of the Chilean Society of Plant Biology
- **Treasurer:** Deena Errampalli, past president of Plant Canada
- **Board members:**
 - Wataru Sakamoto, director of the Institute of Plant Science and Resources, Okayama University
 - Katherine Denby, from University of York, Director of UK N8 Partnership
 - Matthew Reynolds, Head of Crop Physiology at Cimmyt
 - Weihua Tang, from CAS Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences (Shanghai)
 - KC Bansal, former Director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
 - Pablo Manavella, researcher of CONICET and associated professor of Universidad Nacional del Litoral
- **Observer:**
 - And Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson, Assistant professor at University of Copenhagen

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. Besides, the board in its entirety meets online every 6 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. One press release (News Tab) or post (Blog Tab) is published every weekday before 9:00 CEST. These stories are shared on all GPC social media channels, at 9:00 or 10:00 CEST. We try to keep the news varied by topic (plant science, plant health, agronomy, molecular biology, genomics, forestry...), geography (North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania, South America, Africa) and the journal where the original paper was published.
- 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, Server...).
- Check on analytics for suspicious bot activity.
- Communication with members regarding preparation and collections of fees, reports, and dissemination of news, webinars and other issues.

Weekly tasks

- Small council meeting between Isabel Mendoza, Ros Gleadow, Bill Davies and Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson to discuss course of action and activities.

Monthly and Bi-monthly tasks

- Monthly general newsletter to subscribers.
- Since April 2021, organizing and hosting GPC's monthly webinar.
- Bi-monthly newsletter to ECRs.
- Meeting with members of the board (every 6 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 task

- Design of banners, images and videos for social media, webpage and other marketing tools.
- Attendance at plant science-based webinars and events.
- Organizing the annual meeting of members, webinars and workshops.
- Curation of website sections when appropriate, especially the ones for Home, IYPH, Events and ECRi.
- Identify and contact potential sponsors and members.
- Isabel Mendoza undergoes training on web management, social media management, banner and image design, e-marketing and science communication whenever the opportunity arises. This year she attended the 6 weeks online training "**Scientific Community Engagement Fundamentals**" by the CSCCE (Center for Scientific Collaboration and Community Engagement).

The Global Plant Council member updates

During this period, the following members have left the GPC: The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists. We are also in talks with ASPB and FESPB.

On the bright side, two new members decided to join The Global Plant Council:

- The Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences ([CEPLAS](#)), a joint initiative of [Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf \(HHU\)](#), [University of Cologne \(UoC\)](#), [Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research Cologne \(MIPZ\)](#) and [Forschungszentrum Jülich \(FZJ\)](#).
- And the [Slovenian Society of Plant Biology](#).



The Global Plant Council sponsor updates

We are grateful to ‘*The New Phytologist Trust (NPT)*’ for continued sponsorship of the Global Plant Council.

In addition, we have continued developing our special collaboration with the NPT journal “*Plants People Planet*” (PPP). GPC and PPP have held since 2019, three social media contests addressed to plant science ECRs (#PlantSciART in 2019, #PlantSciVid in 2020 and #PlantSciStory2021) where PPP provided prizes for the winners.

This year we updated our relationship with ‘*Frontiers in Plant Science*’ and we launched a special call of Frontiers Research Topics with the possibility of obtaining a prize equivalent to three full APCs (Article Processing Charges) applicable for Frontiers in Plant Science journal.



New
Phytologist



frontiers
in Plant Science



Social media highlights

GPC has continued its strategy of publishing plant science news on a daily basis in its website and social media channels. Some comparative indicators available in the table below these lines.

Table 1. Indicators comparison Jan-May 2018-2019-2020-2021

<i>Platform</i>	Jan-May 2018		Jan-May 2019		Jan-May 2020		Jan-May 2021	
	Followers	Impres./reads	Followers	Impres./reads	Followers.	Impres./reads	Followers	Impres./reads
<i>Twitter</i>	6.456	622.072	8.022	1.078.477	10.210	1.911.800	12.434	1.746.550
<i>Facebook (page)</i>	1.164	34.771	3.221	324.131	6.335	225.807	8.900	63.451
<i>LinkedIn</i>	-	-	1.225	37.500	2.259	40.000	3.013	44.000
<i>Newsletter</i>	1.238	27,3%	1.303	26,7%	1.391	20,7%	1.539	21,6%
<i>ECRi news</i>	-	-	-	-	113	36,1%	300	39,1%
<i>Others</i>	35	-	157	20.000	411	75.000	743	99.000
<i>Total</i>	8.893	656.843	13.928	1.460.108	20.719	2.252.607	26.929	1.953.001

Annual reports and snapshots impact

Starting last year, The Global Plant Council has been monitoring the number of downloads of the 2019-2020 annual report and the snapshot issued in March 2021.

- Since June 22, 2020, the annual report has been downloaded 435 times.
- Since it was issued on 2nd March 2021, the snapshot (below these lines) has been downloaded 255 times.

March
2021



The
GLOBAL
PLANT
COUNCIL

Snapshot

The Global Plant Council's mission is to:

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



**THE GLOBAL PLANT COUNCIL
PROMOTES
PLANT SCIENCE
ACROSS BORDERS AND
DISCIPLINES**

**WHO IS PART OF THE
CONVERSATION?**



27 MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS
AROUND THE GLOBE

25.500
FOLLOWERS

4.950.000
VIEWS IN 2020

It is always challenging to assess the true impact of an organization. We have chosen the best indicators we could think of to provide a hint of our immediate impact on the plant science community.

These numbers show a clear growth in our reach and impact (x3 followers and views over the past 2 years) within and around the plant science community, growing even in the challenging situations we are facing during a pandemic.

[Full report here](#)

WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE GLOBAL PLANT COUNCIL

**THE
TEAM**

President: Ros Gleadow (AU)

Past President: Bill Davies (UK)

Treasurer: Deena Errampalli (CA)

Board members

Wataru Sakamoto (JP)

Katherine Denby (UK)

Matthew Reynolds (MX)

Weihua Tang (CN)

KC Bansal (IN)

Pablo Manavella (AR)

Francisca Blanco-Herrera (CL)

CCO: Isabel Mendoza (ES)

This 2021 we are:

- 1) Scheduling a program of webinars that will begin on the 7th of April
- 2) Launching a working group on benefits-sharing and digital sequence information
- 3) Organizing and participating in sessions at relevant meetings on plant science and scicomm (e.g Plant Biology Europe 2021, Biología de Plantas 2021, 16th International Public Communication of Science and Technology Conference)
- 4) Reaching out to each member organization to explore ways in which GPC could add value
- 5) We will soon launch activities for ECRs in collaboration with *New Phytologist Foundation* and *Frontiers in Plant Science*



Early Career Researcher International Network (ECRi)

The early-career period is one of the most pressured stages for a researcher. GPC put in motion in late 2018 the **Early Career Researcher International Network (ECRi)**. The idea behind the network is based on helping ECRs with 4 essential pillars:

- job hunting
- grant funding
- dissemination of research results
- and networking

The network has a physical anchor in our website in its specific focused section (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/>). It comprises a set of activities specifically focused on ECRs. **The following activities are active:**

1. The traditional monthly #plantscijobs “storm” on Twitter. During one-hour, we tweet multiple job offers from the Global Plant Council principal Twitter account with the hashtag #plantscijobs. **The storms are schedule every last Friday of the month, between 3-4 pm CEST.**
2. A Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/plantscijobs>) and a LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12274424/>) group where we post almost daily opportunities related to plant science. Those posts are posted regularly, with the hashtags #plantscijobs.
3. We have a curated list of plant science jobs (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-jobs/>) and grants (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-grants/>) resources provided by our members.
4. We are gathering a collection of resources to help plant scientists communicate their research more efficiently (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/>).
5. Currently we are also gathering means of online networking in the COVID era in our ECRi networking sections (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-networking/>).
6. We welcome guest posts from ECRs and students (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/ecri-communication-and-dissemination-activity/>).
7. The Global Plant Council has team up with *Frontiers in Plant Science* for a special Frontiers Research Topic call (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/frontiers-topics/>).
8. For the last 3 years, The Global Plant Council and *Plants, People, Planet* are holding a science communication contest (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/annual-scicomm-contests/>).
9. Since April 2021, we have hosted monthly webinars on different topics of interest. More on that follows in the next section.

Any offers of help in rolling out this network will be greatly appreciated. Please, contact Isabel Mendoza (isabel@globalplantcouncil.org), our Communications Officer with suggestions.

Webinars

GPC launched in April a series of monthly plant sci webinars with focus on transversal and high-level topics of interest for plant scientists, both in English and Spanish. Since the launch, we have hosted 3 webinars, two on scicomm in Spanish and one on international collaborations in English (by Matthew Reynolds).

First two webinars were streamed using Blackboard, a platform kindly provided by the ScienceFlows research group from the University of Valencia (Spain). Beginning in June, we have started using Zoom webinars platform combined with a live stream on our YouTube channel.

- **Webinar 1: 7th April 2021 – Principios de comunicación científica**

Speaker and topic: Isabel Mendoza, science communication

Language: Spanish

People registered: 162 people

Attendees: 73 people attended, with an average of 58 min

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/CX-kO2WtoSM>

YouTube views (until 15th June): 120

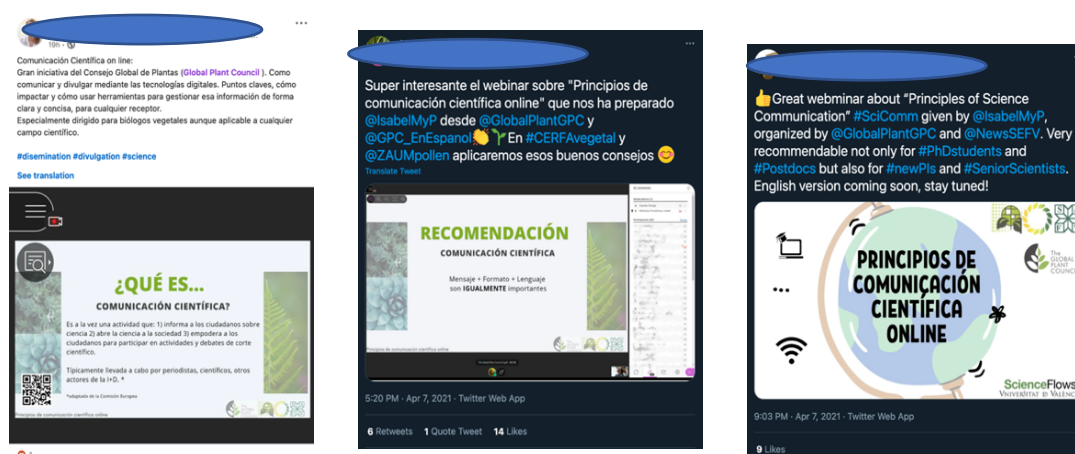
Survey's feedback: 28 surveys. Questions were rated with 5=very high... 1=very low. Averages shown below.

- **What is your level of satisfaction with the webinar as a whole?** Average 4.3
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its usefulness?** Average 4.1
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its organization?** Average 4.6
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its content?** Average 4.4

Qualitatives feedback in the survey and social media (selection)

“The communication in science is not a straightforward and this webinar was important”

“More webinars of this type would be great. Thanks”



- **Webinar 2: 5th May 2021 – Comunicación científica en redes sociales**

Speakers: Isabel Mendoza (host and technical support), and panelist Gabriela Auge and Ana Caño Delgado.

Language: Spanish

People registered: 127 people

Attendees and length of their attendance: 72 people, with an average of 56 min

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/iFEyyzzqZcc>

YouTube views (until 15th June): 67

Survey's feedback: 22 surveys. Questions were rated with 5=very high... 1=very low

- **What is your level of satisfaction with the webinar as a whole?** Average 4.5
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its usefulness?** Average 4.4
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its organization?** Average 4.7
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its Content?** Average 4.3

Qualitative feedback in the survey and social media (selection)

“Good organization and good selection of speakers, with different perspectives”

“Keep it up!”

“Good job, thanks”



- **Webinar 3: 9th June 2021 – “Heat and Drought Wheat Improvement Consortium (HeDWIC)”**

Speakers: Matthew Reynolds, Isabel Mendoza as technical support

Language: English

People registered: 181

Attendees and length of their attendance: 85-90 people. Average time 65 min. Q&A lasted for 34 extra minutes.

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/Y1YP2EtVgvU>

YouTube views (until 15th June): 51

Survey’s feedback: 17 surveys. Questions were rated with 5=very high... 1=very low

- **What is your level of satisfaction with the webinar as a whole?** Average 4.4
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its usefulness?** Average 4.1
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its organization?** Average 4.2
- **What is your level of satisfaction with its content?** Average 4.6

Qualitative feedback in the survey (selection)

“I like a lot the part of the questions. For me the most interesting part was how to start a proposal as a young researcher.”

“I learned about how to design strategies to solve problems”

“This organization provides very good opportunity for the scientists to share their experiences”

“It was very informative meeting for me. It helps us to improve knowledge about drought and heat aspects.”

“Mathews presentation material and presentation style was impressive”



Upcoming webinars:

- **Webinar 4: 6th July 2021 – “Rice breeding for Africa by using gricultural genes”**

Speakers: Moto Ashikari, Isabel Mendoza as technical support

Language: English

People registered until the 20th June 2021: 80

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rice-breeding-for-africa-by-using-useful-agricultural-genes-tickets-150886211721>

- **Webinar 5: 8th September 2021 – “Where should I send my paper? How to choose where to publish your results”**

Speakers: Oula Ghannoum, Isabel Mendoza as technical support

Language: English

People registered until the 20th June 2021: 23

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/where-should-i-send-my-paper-how-to-choose-where-to-publish-your-results-tickets-154545587011>

- **Webinar 6: 6th October 2021, 16:00 CET – “International Plant Phenotyping Network (IPPN)”**

Speakers: Philipp von Gillhaussen, Isabel Mendoza as technical support

Language: English

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/international-plant-phenotyping-network-ippn-tickets-157634963419>

- **Webinar 7: 10th November 2021– “Un dulce final: aplicación de la biotecnología en la mejora del almendro”**

Speakers: Raquel Sánchez Pérez, Isabel Mendoza as technical support

Language: Spanish

Link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/un-dulce-final-aplicacion-de-la-biotecnologia-en-la-mejora-del-almendro-tickets-159615860335>

Meetings and Workshops since June 2020

2020 was a terrible year all around, which reflected on the meetings that were held and how they were.

Since our last online Annual Meeting in June 2020, The Global Plant Council has been involved in attending or to some degree in the organization of a number of online meetings, many still in the making. Namely:

- In July 2020, The Global Plant Council attended the Plant Biology 2020 Worldwide Summit (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/event/plant-biology-2020/>) hosted by ASPB. Our communications officer attended and live-tweeted all plenary sessions, engaging in the online conversation.
- In September 2020, our communications officer attended the webinar [Plantae Presents: Sophien Kamoun and Phil Carella](#) hosted by ASPB.
- In December 2020, our communications officer attended the webinar [Plantae Presents – Zach Lippman and Arjun Khakhar](#) hosted by ASPB.
- In January 2021, our communications officer attended the webinar "#UKPlantSciPresents PlantSci Journal Special" hosted by #UKPlantSciPresents.
- In April-May 2021, our communications officer attended the PCST 2021 online conference with the poster “Presenting the Global Plant Council. Bringing plant science closer to society by helping plant scientists increase the impact of their research” (next page)
- In May 2021, our communications officer attended the first session of the “Connecting Plants & People” organized by SPPS <https://physiologiaplantarum.org/2021/04/29/connecting-plants-people-new-webinar-series/>
- In June 2021, The Global Plant Council will attend Plant Biology Europe 2021, the biannual congress jointly organized by EPSO and FESPB. GPC will lead the:
 - o Scicomm workshop with Michele Catanzaro on the 29th June 2021
 - o DSI policy panel jointly organized by the DSI Working group from GPC and the Nagoya Working group from EPSO on the 29th of June 2021
- July 2021, The Global Plant Council will attend Biología de Plantas 2021 (PB2021), a biannual congress jointly organized by the Spanish Society of Plant Biology and the Portuguese Society of Plant Physiology. GPC will be in charge of the after-congress on the 9th July with:
 - o *The what, who, why and how of preprints* by [Iratxe Puebla](#), [ASAPBio](#)
 - o *The FAIR Data Principles* by [Connie Clare](#), [4TU.ResearchData](#)
 - o *Science communication on social media* with Mary Williams (ASPB) and Geraint Parry (MASC)
- In September 2021, The Global Plant Council will attend RAFV CONFERENCE 2021 – XXXIII Argentinian meeting of Plant Physiology, organized by the Argentinian Society of Plant Biology. GPC will lead the panel “*Will the Nagoya protocol change how we deal with digital sequence information in plant research? Research and Law perspectives*” on the 13th of September 2021.

PRESENTING THE GLOBAL PLANT COUNCIL. BRINGING PLANT SCIENCE CLOSER TO SOCIETY BY HELPING PLANT SCIENTISTS INCREASE THE IMPACT OF THEIR RESEARCH

A BRIEF HISTORY OF The GLOBAL PLANT COUNCIL [COMMUNICATION STRATEGY]

The Global Plant Council is a vibrant community of plant scientists that provides a platform for networking and collaboration. Currently, it assembles ALMOST 30 member organizations across the globe, representing over 50,000 plant specialists. our aim is to promote plant science across borders, supporting those directly involved in research, but also in education and training, while increasing awareness of the key role of plant research in both science and society.

By acting as a central plant science hub, the Global Plant Council aims to enhance and develop coordination and communication mechanisms among Member Organizations and their stakeholders.

In order to do this, we have rolled out a new social media and communication strategy to engage with different audiences.



As of March 2021, ECRi has an audience of 4,697 Followers



Job & grant offers, resources, webinars, scicomm, tips and tools, contests, and networking opportunities. Activities in detail:

- Monthly #plantscijobs "storm" on Twitter.
- Facebook and a LinkedIn #plantscijobs groups
- Curated list of plant science jobs and grants resources provided by our members.
- Collection of resources to help plant scientists communicate their research more efficiently, including webinars.
- Online networking resources and opportunities
- We welcome guest posts from ECRi (and students!).
- Collaboration on a special Frontiers Research Topic call with *Frontiers in Plant Science*.
- Since 2019, an annual scicomm contest address to plant scientist in collaboration with "Plants, people, Planet".

One-to-one Meetings and Community calls 2021

Since March, Ros Gleadow has been scheduling one-to-one meetings with representatives via Zoom.

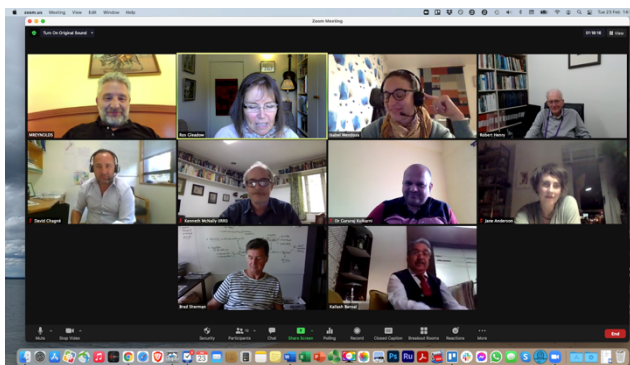
In April 2021 it was scheduled for the first community call, although, due to a technical problem, it was not possible to connect with everyone who tried to join. We have solved this issue and luckily, it won't happen again.

The upcoming dates for community calls are the following:

- 14th July 2021, 7:00 – 8:00 CEST
- 15th September 2021 – 19:00 – 20:00 CEST
- 17th November 2021 – 10:00-11:00 CEST
- 12th January 2022 – 7:00 – 8:00 CEST
- 16th March 2022 – 19:00 – 20:00 CEST
- 18th May 2022 – 10:00-11:00 CEST

Digital Sequence Information (DSI) Working group

By the end of 2020, GPC decided to put together a working group (WG) to work on increasing awareness about among plant scientists on obligations to respect access and benefit-sharing rights under the [Convention on Biodiversity](#), the [FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources](#), and the [Nagoya Protocols on Access and Benefit Sharing](#).



In January 2021 GPC sent two messages to representatives asking for volunteers to be part of the WG. Finally, 11 scientists and law specialists (list below) agreed to be part of this. Since February 2021, the WG has met 3 times online and has set a draft timeline of activities, some of which are already in motion and had been already mention on this report:

- In June 2021, The Global Plant Council will co-lead a DSI policy panel jointly organized with EPSO on the 29th June 2021 at the Plant Biology Europe 2021, the biannual congress jointly organized by EPSO and FESPB.
- In September 2021, The Global Plant Council will lead a policy panel on the 13th September 2021 at RAFV CONFERENCE 2021 –XXXIII Argentinian meeting of Plant Physiology, organized by the Argentinian Society of Plant Biology.
- We have applied to a full-day session at the SEB2022 conference on the topic in Montpellier (France)

Eventually, after all these discussions, we hope to be able to write a policy paper on the matter, hopefully by the end 2022.

Members of the working group

Jane Anderson (US) is an Associate Professor in Anthropology and Museum Studies at New York University, Lenapehoking. Jane has a PhD in Law. She has spent 20 years working on intellectual

and cultural property law, Indigenous rights and the protection of Indigenous/traditional knowledge and cultural heritage.

KC Bansal (India) is a former Director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. He has served as Vice-Chair (Asia), Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, United Nations (2013-15). His research interests include functional genomics and transgenic development for abiotic stress tolerance in plants; developed the first series of transgenic crops with improved tolerance to drought and salt stress.

David Chagné (New Zealand) research focuses on the application of genetic mapping and genomics to elucidate the genetic control of important plant characters. He has a strong underpinning interest in the study of DNA variations in plant genomes. He has catalogued single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the apple and pear genomes and led an international project that has sequenced the European pear genome.

Katherine Denby (United Kingdom) obtained her D.Phil from Oxford University for work on metabolic regulation of gene expression. During postdoctoral training with Dr Rob Last at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Cornell University she investigated regulation of the tryptophan biosynthetic pathway. Through coordinated expression of this pathway during pathogen infection Katherine became interested in plant defence and unraveling how transcriptional reprogramming is controlled. Katherine moved to the University of York in 2016 where she is also Academic Director of the N8 AgriFood programme.

Ros Gleadow (Australia) is Professor of Plant Sciences at Monash University where she leads the Monash Plant Ecophysiology group. She researches the effect of climate change on food security with a focus on plants that make cyanide and the impact on human and animal health. Current projects are on the effect of CO₂, temperature and salinity on growth and allocation of resources in sorghum, cassava, taro and cycads working in Africa, the Pacific Islands and Australia. Since 2019 she is the President of The Global Plant Council.

Gururaj Guddappa Kulkarni (IRRI, Philippines) is the first Director of the new initiative and unique business model called IRRI BIO-INNOVATION CENTER (IBC). He is also an IRRI Senior Scientist and the Global Head of Research Infrastructure and Regulatory Compliance. More recently he was given the additional role of Integrative Research Support Platform Representative for the Asia & Africa region. He is also IRRI's representative nominee in the CG-Policy Platform working group that oversees the International policies and regulations with FAO, IPPC, ISTA, ISF etc.

Robert Henry's (Australia) speciality research area is the study of agricultural crops using molecular tools. He is particularly interested in Australian flora and plants of economic and social importance and has led the way in research into genome sequencing to capture novel genetic resources for the diversification of food crops to deliver improved food products.

Maui Hudson (New Zealand) affiliates to the Iwi of Te Whakatohea, Nga Ruahine, and Te Mahurehure. Maui is an interdisciplinary researcher based at the Faculty of Maori and Indigenous Studies at the University of Waikato. His research focuses on the application of mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge) to decision-making across a range of contemporary contexts from new technologies to health, the environment to innovation. He is working on projects exploring the interface of mātauranga Māori and science, the visualising of mātauranga Māori, the integration of mātauranga Māori within policy environments, and Māori data sovereignty.

Kenneth McNally's team works on the Genomics of diverse rice, applied Computational Genetics, Bioinformatics and Biosystematics. In 2012, Dr. McNally launched the International Rice Informatics Consortium that was formalized in 2013 and serves to engage the global rice community and support the development of open resources.

Matthew Reynolds develops and transfers technologies to increase productivity of wheat cropping systems worldwide, primarily focusing on less developed countries. At CIMMYT he's helped create a new generation of advanced lines based on physiological breeding approaches to widen the wheat gene pool, increase

Brad Sherman is a Professor of Law at The University of Queensland. His research helps to maximise the benefits while minimising the costs of using IP protection to improve agricultural productivity and food security in Australia and the Asia Pacific.

Online contest

Fascination of Plants Day 2021 #PlantSciStory2021

For FoP Day 2021, we partnered with Plants People Planet for our third annual scicomm contest. This time, we asked people to participate via:

- **Twitter:** A thread with a maximum length of 4 consecutive tweets. **Participants needed to tag @GlobalPlantGPC and @plantsppplanet, and include the hashtag #PlantSciStory2021 in one of the tweets in their thread.**
- **Instagram:** A single post with a maximum of 4 images / videos. They needed to include @GlobalPlantGPC @plantsppplanet and #PlantSciStory2021 in their caption text.
- **Weibo:** A thread with a maximum length of 2 consecutive posts, including @GlobalPlantGPC and #PlantSciStory2021 in their texts.

We have received a total of **36 entries, 28 in Twitter and 8 in Instagram**. Below these lines, the complete list of entries:

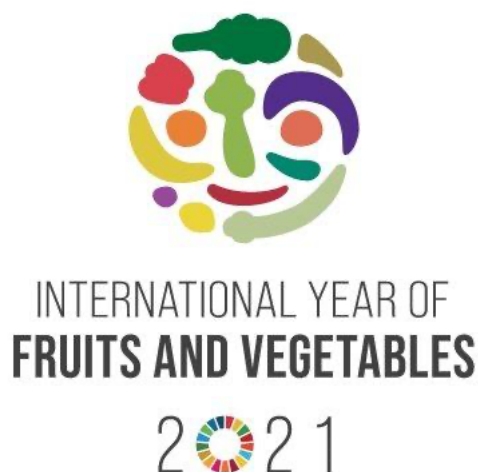
ID	User	Entry link	Platform
1	@zoemig	https://twitter.com/zoemig/status/1390389991612747776	Twitter
2	@KelseyOnScience	https://twitter.com/KelseyOnScience/status/1390262762337492997	Twitter
3	@ruizlalo	https://twitter.com/ruizlalo/status/1390068986365288450	Twitter
4	@nila bio	https://twitter.com/nila_bio/status/1389632523970301955	Twitter
5	@toral31KE	https://twitter.com/toral31KE/status/1392839011190730753	Twitter
6	@l teixeiracosta	https://twitter.com/l teixeiracosta/status/1393306040394043400	Twitter
7	@Jerry y Tom	https://twitter.com/Jerry_y_Tom/status/1393728488226557953	Twitter
8	@ElianeElHayek	https://twitter.com/ElianeElHayek/status/1394128290688823303	Twitter
9	@PKMNsandy	https://twitter.com/PKMNsandy/status/1394673994968743940	Twitter
10	@neto flames	https://twitter.com/neto_flames/status/1395829532133838854	Twitter
11	@rupeshayade	https://twitter.com/rupeshayade/status/1396467201226330122	Twitter
12	@AngelaClaireW	https://twitter.com/AngelaClaireW/status/1396776949314473985	Twitter
13	@glendagkoh	https://twitter.com/glendagkoh/status/1397049457485565957	Twitter
14	@laurabkor	https://twitter.com/laurabkor/status/1397542039529705473	Twitter
15	@NoPest_FETopen	https://twitter.com/NoPest_FETopen/status/1397861374080991232	Twitter
16	@AparnaMadhukarS	https://twitter.com/AparnaMadhukarS/status/1398564494339493888	Twitter
17	@spargeline	https://twitter.com/spargeline/status/1399012172764696583	Twitter
18	@PopPlantScience	https://twitter.com/PopPlantScience/status/1399114647534514178	Twitter
19	@Charlayization	https://twitter.com/Charlayization/status/1399279197084860417	Twitter
20	@Kavega21	https://twitter.com/Kavega21/status/1380490616950390792	Twitter
21	@EvaKnoch	https://twitter.com/EvaKnoch/status/1399421553276772355	Twitter
22	@agrigaurav	https://twitter.com/agrigaurav/status/1399409764849782790	Twitter
23	@J0hannaSchwarze	https://twitter.com/J0hannaSchwarze/status/1399392262480699395	Twitter
24	@Ayo x	https://twitter.com/Ayo_x/status/1399473091407925249	Twitter
25	@HeikeSeybold	https://twitter.com/HeikeSeybold/status/1399665964988391424	Twitter
26	@DianisCisC	https://twitter.com/DianisCisC/status/1401426754795937793	Twitter
27	@anirbanbasu9	https://twitter.com/anirbanbasu9/status/1401942070323941376	Twitter
28	@Chirpark	https://twitter.com/Chirpark/status/1402036743780638724	Twitter
29	@insta_gram_positive_bacteria	https://www.instagram.com/p/COuo7Akh2Do/	Instagram
30	@valentinogiarola	https://www.instagram.com/p/COYjYrXFsa/	Instagram
31	@anastazijadi	https://www.instagram.com/p/CPGKor7LjbB/	Instagram
32	@sbits	https://www.instagram.com/p/CPYhy9aBB-x/	Instagram
33	@alinequeirozr	https://www.instagram.com/p/CPZgf65Bp_N/	Instagram
34	@nopest_project	https://www.instagram.com/p/CPaM0BpjF6Z/	Instagram
35	@flora.l.design	https://www.instagram.com/p/CPiWB2MjLtR/	Instagram
36	@kmeanskatie	https://www.instagram.com/p/CPjaEcojxR/	Instagram

Entries range a variety of topics, from grafting two plants to plant menopause to anything in between.

Winners will be announced by the end of June/ beginning of July.

IYPV2021

During our last annual meeting of members, it was agreed to support the United Nations in the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables. It was decided to include a banner in the home page and a devoted section in the website, similar to the actions put in motion in 2020 for the International Year of Plant Health.



In this section (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/international-year-of-fruits-and-vegetables-iyfv/>) news on plants and vegetables are presented, along with web suggestions and key facts on plants and vegetables.

Based upon the press kit provided by the FAO, we designed a social media post to be shared regularly to raise awareness and increase the impact of IYPV2021. Currently, we have published during 2021 a total of **50 news items** related to the Fruits and Vegetables theme.

GPC Social Media and online presence

GPC website

Since the last GPC AMOM, (June 2020) the GPC website has collected over **234 news items, 20 blog posts and 109 events**. The website has been maintained by Isabel Mendoza.

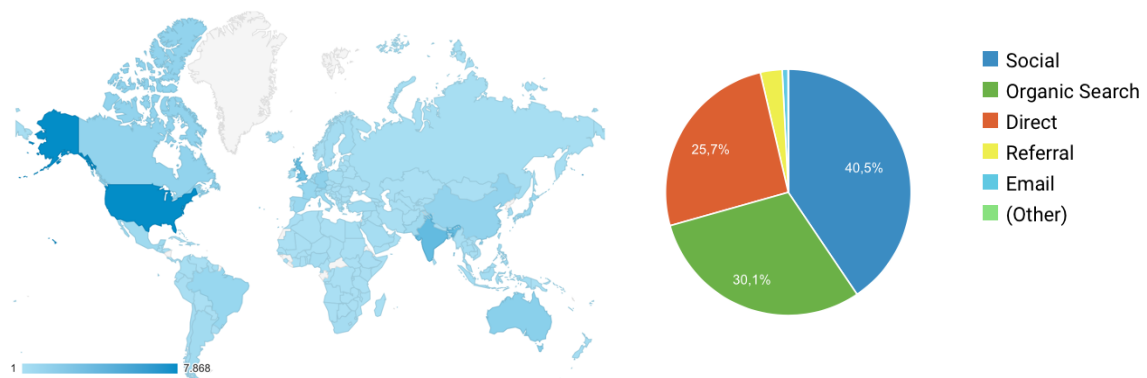
Since we last met, we have gathered over **600.000 impressions and 8.850 clicks in Google** searches (by 20th May 2020, Google Search Console data). Besides:

- 263 sites are linked to our website, accounting for a total of 2.104 links. Among these sites we found FAO, Wikipedia, Plantae, the Chilean Society of Plant Biology Website, Plant Canada, other members, and several blogs, reddit posts, ...
- At least 1,000 keyword combinations have given back results from our site in Google.

From these, there are 336 where someone has clicked and entered our site. That is over 4.370 times. Most important keywords are:

- global plant council (position 1; 632 impressions; 520 clicks)
- plant council (position 1; 258 impressions; 26 clicks)
- global plant (position 6; 2.857 impressions; 39 clicks)
- council plants (position 4; 66 impressions; 1 clicks)

Google Analytics has continued to provide us with information on our visitors' profiles. In total this working year we have welcomed 34.335 individual visitors from 185 countries which have *surfed* a total of 71.572 pages and posts on our site.



Left)Visitors map. Right) Preferred channels by website visitors

During the last 90 days (by 20th May) visitors have arrived at our website mostly via social media (40,5%) followed by organic searches in Google, Bing, Baidu or similar search engines (30,1%).

GPC Twitter accounts

The GPC's main English- language Twitter account [@GlobalPlantGPC](#) continues to grow in popularity: as of **1st June 2021** has **11.169 followers**.

The GPC also has a Spanish-language Twitter account, [@GPC_EnEspanol](#), which was initiated in April 2015. As of **1st June 2021**, this account had **1,265 followers**.



GPC e-Bulletin/Newsletter

The GPC Newsletter (<http://tinyurl.com/GPCsignup>) is sent out every month to individuals from the plant science community who can subscribe via the GPC website. As of **1st June 2020**, the e-Bulletin had **1,539 subscribers**, and it is also circulated by



Global Plant Council

Representing plant, crop, agricultural and environmental sciences across the globe.
Research · Hamilton, Ontario · **334 followers**

some of our Member Organizations, either by forwarding the email directly to individual members, or by providing a link on the Member's website and/or social media pages.

An ECRi Newsletter, addressed specifically to ECRs, is sent bi-monthly as well. For the time being, the newsletter has **300 subscribers** (<http://eepurl.com/grmx7T>).

Outreach to Member Organizations

As well as the GPC Newsletter, which is sent monthly, to anyone who wants to subscribe to it, we established a separate mailing list specifically for Member Organization representatives, presidents, and other key MO contacts (**over 100 contacts**). This mailing list is used to disseminate specific information from the GPC and on behalf of Member Organizations. For example, different kinds of reminders or the agenda of AMOM meetings.

This year we have used this mail list 14 times.

GPC Facebook

Launched in August 2015, the GPC [Facebook](#) page has **4,842 'followers (1st June 2020)**.

In addition to the page, a group attached was started in November 2018, as part of the ECRi network. As of the **1st of June 2020**, **4,058 people** have joined the group.



GPC LinkedIn

LinkedIn is the largest professional non-sectorial network social network, launched in May 2003. Many plant scientists are present on LinkedIn. Therefore, GPC opened in October 2018 two different profiles to increase our social reach: a standard profile (www.linkedin.com/in/globalplantcouncil)

and a company profile (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-plant-council/>). In addition, a group was started in July 2019, as part of the ECRi network.

By **1st June 2021**, **3,013 people** are following either of the two accounts or the ECRi devoted group (<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12274424/>).

GPC SlideShare

SlideShare is a hosting service for professional content including presentations, infographics, documents, and videos linked with LinkedIn. After the last meeting in November 2018, the board decided to open a SlideShare account to make available and easily findable the presentations of meetings. So far, **13 presentations are available**. Link Here: <https://www.slideshare.net/GlobalPlantCouncil>

GPC Instagram

Instagram is a photo and video sharing social network launched in 2010. As for June 2018 Instagram is reported to have 1 billion users and is considered the fastest growing social network. Regarding the users, 71% of them are below 34 years old.

GPC decided in March 2019 to join Instagram, to be able to access the younger generations of plant scientists.

As of the end of **1st June 2021**, **650 people** are following the GPC account in Instagram. Top countries of origin are India, Brazil, Usa, UK and Pakistan.



Link: <https://www.instagram.com/globalplantcouncil/>

GPC Weibo

A Weibo account was started in December 2019 to reach the Chinese community. Until now the account has gathered only **8 followers**. However, every posting in Weibo gets 100 views in a couple of days. Some even reached thousands of views. We are still trying to find a way to optimize the use of this platform. Link: <https://www.weibo.com/GlobalPlantGPC/>

The Global Plant Council impact summary

It is challenging to assess the overall actual impact of the work done by an organization. We have used the best indicators available, explained in this report, to infer from them the actual impact on the plant science community. These are very good numbers and show a clear growth in reach and therefore in potential impact on the community. The following tables try to illustrate the estimated impact on the general plant science community and its ECRs of the work done in the period.

Online events (June 2020- May 2021)	
<i>Attended</i>	6
<i>Organized</i>	3
<i>Total</i>	9
Newsletters send (June 2020-May 2021)	
<i>General newsletter</i>	12
<i>ECRi newsletter</i>	6
<i>Collective Messages to representatives</i>	13
Social media (views, June2020-May2021)	
<i>Twitter</i>	4.078.750
<i>Facebook</i>	257.876
<i>Others</i>	290.400
Website (June 2020-May 2021)	
<i>Views</i>	72.035
<i>News published</i>	234
<i>Blog posts published</i>	20
<i>Events published</i>	109
New members	2

On ECRs

As reported, several activities are especially addressed to ECRs to help them advance in their careers and hone their communication skills. In the table below, we have tried to put together a summary of this impact.

Impact summary on ECRs for the period June 2020-June 2021

<i>Webinars held /people registered/attendees (April-June)</i>	3 / 470 / 213
<i>Members of the #plantscijob groups (Facebook)</i>	4.058
<i>Members of the #plantscijob groups (LinkedIn)</i>	433
<i>ECRi Newsletter signers</i>	301
<i>Submissions accepted for the ECRs dissemination and communication activity</i>	4
<i>Submissions to the #PlantSciStory2021 competition</i>	36
<i>Submissions to the “Frontiers Topics” call (March-May)</i>	15
<i>Number of #plantscijobs Twitterstorms / job adds shared</i>	12 / +360

Annex 1. GPC Individual Organizations Reports

Australian Society of Plant Biologists (ASPS)

<https://www.asps.org.au/>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr Peter R Ryan (Email: peter.ryan@csiro.au)

Name of the current president

Dr Peter R Ryan

Term of the current president

Oct2020 to Nov 2022

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

Dr Simon Williams (Honorary Secretary, Email: Simon.Williams@anu.edu.au)

Dr Mike Haydon (Honorary Treasurer, Email m.haydon@unimelb.edu.au)

Member Report June 2020 – June 2021

Annual Meetings: In 2020 the Australian Society of Plant Scientists held a virtual annual conference where all members individually connected to pre-recorded talks and open discussions presentations. In 2021 ASPS is moving to a hybrid-style annual meeting. In this model the states will hold their own face-to-face local meetings, all on the same day. Later all sites will link together for a coordinated evening of plenary talks and presentations from our award winners and the AGM. In 2022 ASPS plans to convene a larger joint annual meeting in Melbourne with the Australian Society of and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology, the Genetics Society of AustralAsia and the New Zealand Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Science Meets Parliament: Science Meets Parliament is an annual event organised by Science and Technology Australia to connect parliamentarians with STEM leaders. The goal is to encourage communication and engagement between our national decision-makers and scientists and to highlight the excellence of Australian science. ASPS sponsored two early career members to attend this event which included media training as well as high level presentations from science leaders and direct meetings with government members.

Outreach initiative: One priority ASPS is addressing this year is the falling enrolments at schools and universities in plant science and agriculture-related subjects. This trend is especially alarming considering the unprecedented challenges posed by feeding 2 billion more people by the middle of the century. A leap in food and fibre production needs to occur rapidly, sustainably, in a changing climate and while the world attempts to reduce greenhouse emissions. Therefore, the sustainable intensification of current production systems is the only alternative.

Plant scientists will clearly play a pivotal role here. Hence, it is imperative that we encourage more bright and enthusiastic students to choose plant science as a career.

To this end, ASPS successfully applied for funding from the Australian Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to highlight plant science during National Science Week (14-22 August 2021). ASPS members will coordinate visits by the public to about twelve different universities and research institutes around Australia. Presentations will explain the challenges we face with regard to food security in a changing climate and highlight how Australian science is trying to meet those challenges. This will be followed by shorter presentations from younger scientists covering a range of topics. The talks will be relevant, engaging and place the science into a real-life context that the general public can understand. This will hopefully be followed by some simple lab activities, “show and tells” or perhaps even tours through research facilities.

We hope to emphasise how critical plant science and agriculture are to the future of the planet and to inspire young adults to consider these areas as a career.

Publications: ASPS is currently organising closer ties with the scientific journal *Functional Plant Biology* (CSIRO Publishing) while other Society communications are supported by the Society’s online newsletter *Phytogen* and our social-media aficionados.

Chinese Society for Plant Biology (CSPB)
<http://www.cspb.org.cn>

Name and email of current representative to the GPC

Weihua Tang , General Secretary
whtang@cemps.ac.cn

Name of current president

Xiaoya Chen
xychen@cemps.ac.cn

Term of current president

2019.7—2024.7

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

Bing Leng (Deputy General Secretary)
bleng@cemps.ac.cn

Member Report June 2020–June 2021

With the mission to promote the research, education and popularization of plant biology and plant biotechnology, the Chinese Society for Plant Biology (CSPB) and its members have largely engaged in academic activities, science popularization, periodicals, talent recommendations and awards, etc. During the year of June 2020–June 2021, the CSPB mainly activities are as follows:

- Academic Activities

National Congress on Plant Biology, Shenzhen, China, October 11-14, 2020

International Symposium on Organelle and Stress Biology, Shanghai, China, November 7, 2020

The 2nd National Conference on Photobiology , Shenzhen, China, November 20-23, 2020

The 2nd National Congress on Metabolic Biology, Haikou, China, December 4-7, 2020

The 4th National Symposium on Plant Stress Biology, Shanghai, China, May 31 – June 3, 2021

The 23rd National Symposium on Biological Nitrogen Fixation, Shanghai, China, June 3-6, 2021

- Science Popularization

CSPB has launched a series of activities in May 2021 to celebrate International Fascination of Plants Day. Numerous activities across the country will be organized to spread knowledge of plant science to the public, and increase people's awareness of the relationship between plant science and human life.

- Periodicals

Molecular Plant, which started its publication in 2008, has been ranked among top-level periodicals in the international plant science field. Its impact factor is 12.744 in 2019. And it starts a sister journal, *Plant Communications* in 2019. CSPB also publishes a Chinese journal, *Plant Physiology Journal*. Started in 1951, this journal has been selected as a core journal in Chinese education and libraries.

- Talent Awards

CSPB Lifetime Contribution Award

CSPB Outstanding Accomplishment Award

CSPB Outstanding Young Scientist Award

Wei Zhiming Award for innovation by Young Talents

Award for Outstanding Contribution to Photobiology

Award for Outstanding Young Women

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

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

Name of the current president

Dr. M.B. Chetti

Term of the current president

(till December, 2022)

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

President: Dr. M.B. Chetti, Email id: mbchetti_uas@rediffmail.com

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

Treasurer: Dr. Madan Pal Singh, Email id: madanpal@yahoo.com

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. M. Maheswari, Email id: mmandapaka59@gmail.com

Member Report June 2020–June 2021

Following activities were undertaken by the Indian Society for Plant Physiology, during the period of past 12 months (June 2020 – June 2021)

(A) Seminars/conference were organized

International Plant Physiology Virtual Conference-2020 during December 6-7, 2020 jointly by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu and Indian Society for Plant Physiology (ISPP), New Delhi, India

(B) Three memorial Award lectures were delivered by eminent researchers as mentioned below:

- (1) G.V. Joshi Memorial Lecture Award: Prof. M.S. Sheshshayee, Professor, Department of Crop Physiology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK Campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- (2) K.K. Nanda Memorial Lecture Award: Prof. Harsh Nayyar, Professor, Department of Botany, Punjab University, Chandigarh, India
- (3) S.K. Sinha Memorial Lecture Award: Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary DARE & DG, ICAR, New Delhi, India

(C) Young scientist Award of the Society:

Thirteen young scientists presented their excellent research work during a special session during Online International Plant Physiology Virtual Conference-2020 by Indian Society for Plant Physiology (ISPP), New Delhi, India. Among them **Dr. M. Nagaraj Kumar**, Division of Plant Physiology, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, **Dr. Bappa Das**, Natural Resource Management Section, ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Old Goa and **Dr. Urooj Fatima**, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi, were awarded young scientist award for the year-2020

(D) Fellows of the Society:

Following were awarded fellowship of the Society for the year-2020

- i. Dr. Ranjeet Ranjan Kumar, Senior Scientist, Division of Biochemistry, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012, India
- ii. Dr. Y.S. Shivay, Principal Scientist, Division of Agronomy, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012, India

(E) Gold Medal Awards:

Following scientists were selected for various gold medal award of the Society for the year-2020 as mentioned below:

- i. J.J. Chinoy Gold Medal Award: Dr. Brajesh Singh, Principal Scientist & Head, Division of Crop Physiology, Biochemistry & PHT, Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla-171001, Himachal Pradesh, India
- ii. J.C. Bose Gold Medal Award: Dr. Muthappa Senthil-Kumar, Staff Scientist, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067, India

(F) Junior scientist Award of the Society:

Eleven junior scientists presented their excellent research work during a special session during Online International Plant Physiology Virtual Conference-2020. Among them **Dr. Prakash Kumar Bhagat**, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, India, **Mr. V.V. Santosh Kumar**, Division of Plant Physiology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India and **Mr. Shashank K. Yadav**, Division of Plant Physiology, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, India, were awarded junior scientist award for the year-2020

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr Geraint Parry, geraint@garentcommunity

Name of the current president

Professor Nicholas Provar, nicholas.provar@utoronto.ca

Term of the current president

Open-ended Term

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

Treasurer: Professor Siobhan Brady, sbrady@ucdavis.edu

Member Report June 2020 – June 2021

MASC Inc is incorporated as a not-for-profit in Canada. This requires the official positions of President, Treasurer and Secretary, the current incumbents are Nicholas Provar, Siobhan Brady and Geraint Parry respectively.

MASC is overseen by a board of directors, the present members:

- 2018-2021: Xuelu Wang (China), Elizabeth Haswell (United States of America)
- 2018-2022: Blake Meyers (United States of America), Sean May (United Kingdom)
- 2018-2023: Rodrigo Gutierrez (Chile), Masatomo Kobayashi (Japan)
- 2020-2024: Shahid Mukhtar (United States of America), Yuling Jiao (China)

In late 2021 another two new directors will be elected for a four-year term. In that election we will improve the gender balance on the board of directors as well as maintaining geographical diversity.

Each year MASC publishes an Annual report that provides a summary of activities amongst the global Arabidopsis community.

The 2020-2021 Annual report can be downloaded here:

[LINK TO COME](#)

MASC operates through three groups who receive continuous input from the entire Arabidopsis community: MASC subcommittees, Arabidopsis community projects and resources and MASC country representatives.

The MASC subcommittees, proposed in 2002, were established to help tracking the progress

and advances made by the international Arabidopsis community. The 2020-2021 Annual report includes contributions from seven subcommittees: Bioinformatics, Epigenetics and Epigenomes, ORFeomics, Natural Variation and Comparative Genomics, Proteomics, Plant Immunity and Systems and Synthetic Biology. This is the final contribution of the

ORFeomics subcommittee so we thank Motoaki Seki and Joe Ecker for all their work on this over the past decade.

One strength of the global Arabidopsis research community comes in the form of the genomic resources and seed stocks that are available for use. The 2020-2021 Annual reports the three major international stock centres (ABRC, NASC, RIKEN Stock Centre), from two major international phenotyping projects, from Gramene and the Global Plant Council. Finally the report includes submissions from TAIR and the BAR project.

Country reports provide the bulk of the MASC report and highlight the new resources and publications that have been generated from different parts of the world. In this challenging year 26 Country representatives submitted a report for the MASc Annual report. In the 2020-2021 we provide a summary of the effect that the COVID pandemic has had on the individual communities. This provides an interesting perspective about the myriad impacts of this devastating disease.

International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)

Over the past decade the flagship ICAR meeting has rotated through locations in Asia, North America and Europe. However the board of directors are more than happy to consider other locations if there is a need to take the ICAR meeting to previously under-represented places.

For the first time since the mid-1990s the ICAR meeting was unable to take place in 2020, of course due to the COVID19 pandemic. In 2021 ICAR is a virtual event organised by the North American Arabidopsis Steering Committee, led by Joanna Friesner. This event has attracted over 900 attendees and hosted a remarkable 350+ virtual talks within 7 plenary and an amazing 36 community-selected minisymposia! The organisers have done a superb job of expanding accessibility of this event and the diversity of the selected speakers.

Organisation of these meetings relies upon a committed local organising committee who might engage a conference management company to deal with the meeting details. Unlike most major international meetings there is limited seed funding available from MASC to help with the organisational costs of ICARs.

We are hopeful that the international community will be able to come back together for a live event in 2022. ICAR2022 is organised by the GARNet network, led by Dr Geraint Parry. This will take place in the International Conference Centre in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The theme of the meeting is '*Come for the Science; Stay for the Stories*' so as to encourage our community to come back for a live meeting and share the stories that haven't been heard for years!

The locations for future ICAR meetings:

- 32nd ICAR, Belfast, UK: June 20th-24th 2022

<http://icar2022.Arabidopsisresearch.org/>

- 33rd ICAR, Chiba, Japan: June 5th-9th 2023. The concept for ICAR2023 will be '*Arabidopsis for Sustainable Development Goals*'.

Moving toward the Fourth Roadmap

Over the past 30 years MASC has led in the preparation of the series of decadal Roadmap documents that have advised on the future activities of the community. These Roadmaps were published in 1990 as ‘A Long range plan for the Genome Research project’; in 2002 as ‘Beyond the Whole genome Sequence’ and in 2012 as ‘From Bench to Bountiful Harvests’. The preparation of the fourth decadal Roadmap is now underway, which will be a document looking toward 2030 and the future of the Arabidopsis research community.

Plant Canada
<http://www.plantcanada.ca/>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Geoffrey Wasteneys Geoffrey.wasteneys@ubc.ca

Name of the current president

Geoffrey Wasteneys

Term of the current president

2019-2023

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

Vice President: Valérie Gravel, valerie.gravel@mcgill.ca

Secretary: Rima Menassa, rima.menassa@canada.ca

Member Report June 2020 – June 2021

Plant Canada is the umbrella organization for seven Canadian plant research societies and associations including the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists (CSPB), the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS), the Canadian Association of Plant Biotechnology (CAPB), The Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS), the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), the Canadian Botanical Association (CBA) and the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS). During this reporting period Plant Canada held two Board meetings, both by video conference, and much of our focus was devoted to working out financial aspects following the 2019 Plant Canada Meeting. At our July 24 Board meeting, we proposed to postpone our next scheduled meeting from 2023 to 2024, taking into account the postponement of meetings scheduled during 2020 due to the Pandemic. The President's report included updates on the activities and website of the Global Plant Council, and a motion to pay a 5% increase in our membership fee to GPC was passed.

Our Annual Meeting of Members was held December 21, 2020. Among many items, a motion to approve the election of Dr Valérie Gravel as the new Vice President was approved. In his report, the President discussed new research funding opportunities in Canada, including a new initiative called the New Frontiers in Research Fund – Transformation that will be providing substantial funding for 6-year transdisciplinary research.

In January 2021, Plant Canada contributed to a [joint statement](#) from eleven of Canada's Scientific Societies and Organizations expressing confidence in the Covid-19 vaccination program. We highlighted *"Canada's main contributions to the development of a Covid-19 vaccine through the Canadian biotech company Medicago, who are working to develop a vaccine using Nicotiana benthamiana for synthesis and packaging of the SARS CoV-2 spike protein."* We further emphasized *"the critical importance for supporting fundamental research in plant biology that goes well beyond agriculture, nutrition, food, and the environment, but also has tremendous potential in the field of medicine."*

The Covid 19 pandemic has had a serious impact on all aspects of life in Canada, so it is no surprise that all in-person meetings of member societies were cancelled during the reporting period, and many 2020 meetings postponed to 2021. Some organizations opted

to run smaller but well-attended virtual meetings, such as CSHS' first graduate student conference (Aug 27, 2020), and CSPB's one-day Scientific Meeting (Nov 7, 2020). CBA shifted quickly to hold its 2020 annual meeting on schedule virtually (June 1-2, 2020). CWSS also held its scheduled 2020 annual meeting, originally intended for Gatineau QC, virtually (November 23-27). CSPB's June 2020 meeting in Saskatoon was postponed to a virtual meeting (June 7-10, 2021). CBA's 2021 annual meeting, jointly with the International Associations of Bryologists, the American Bryological and Lichenological Society and the Société Québécoise de Bryologie takes place from June 21-24. CPS, CSA and CSHS are holding a Tri-society virtual conference (July 5-9, 2021). CAPB has postponed its 2021 meeting until further notice but in early 2021 began a virtual seminar series.

(Formerly: Sociedade Portuguesa de Fisiologia Vegetal *Portuguese Society of Plant Physiology*)

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Maria Margarida Oliveira; mmolive@itqb.unl.pt

Name of the current president

Jorge Marques da Silva

Term of the current president

2020-2023

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

Nelson Saibo, Treasurer, saibo@itqb.unl.pt

Anabela Bernardes da Silva, Secretary, arsilva@fc.ul.pt

Rui Tavares, President of the Financial Council, tavares@bio.uminho.pt

Maria Margarida Oliveira, President of the General Assembly, mmolive@itqb.unl.pt

Member Report June 2020 – June 2021

1. Dissemination of Plant Biology in the Community

- a) Continuation of the work on the remodeling of the website, making it more attractive and easier to update, fostering better contact with members. New information, provided by the board and working group members, was uploaded. The dynamization of the web presence went mostly through the activity on the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SPFisiolVeg>), which has recorded a growing number of visits and subscriptions.
- b) The Fascination of Plants Day 2021 (virtual) was celebrated by SPBP with the official inauguration of the new website (www.spbp.pt). Members of SPBP and the Portuguese community of plant science were invited to explore the new webpage and to contribute to its enrichment. Moreover, ITQB/NOVA and SPBP were, once more, the national coordinators of the numerous activities planned all over the country (<https://plantday18may.org/category/europe/portugal/> and <https://www.itqb.unl.pt/news/fascination-of-plants-day-2021-online-events>).

2. Organization and Co-organization of Scientific Meetings

- a) SPBP started the planning of the XVIII Portuguese-Spanish Congress on Plant Biology, to be held in Braga, Portugal, in 2023, in dates to be announced. The local organization will be by SPBP members from Universidade do Minho.
- b) SPBP continued to prepare the organization of the 15th Portuguese-Spanish Symposium on Plant-Water Relations, which should have taken place between 30 September and 3 October 2020, at ITQB, Oeiras. In view of the pandemic situation, the meeting was postponed to early 2022 (dates not yet set), on-line.
- c) SPBP is engaged on the organization of the scientific program of the XVIII Brazilian Congress of Plant Physiology and I Ibero-Latin American Congress of Plant Biology, which should be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from September 19 to 23, 2021. Due to the COVID pandemics, the Congresses were postponed to 2022, September 5-9.
- d) SPBP is organizing the Session “Plant Biology and Biotechnology”, included in the XXI National Congress of Biochemistry, to be held in Évora, Portugal, 3-5th December 2020. Due to the COVID pandemics, the Congress was postponed to October 14-16, 2021.

3. Participation in International Scientific Platforms

- a) With the coordination of its Plant Nutrition Group, SPBP continues the process of integration into the European Phosphorus Platform, in collaboration with the Spanish Society of Plant Biology.
- b) SPPB's participation in the Global Plant Council was maintained and deepened, and the activities of the European Plant Science Organization were monitored. Several surveys were answered, opinions were given, and the political position of these organisations was supported.
- c) SPPB continues to participate in the development

RSB Plant Science Group (formerly UK Plant Sciences Federation)
<https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/groups-and-committees/ukpsf>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Jonathan Carruthers (jonathan.carruthers@rsb.org.uk)

Name of the current president

Chair: Geraint Parry

Term of the current president

Term of chair: current term ends 28 Feb 2022

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

Royal Society of Biology Head of Policy & Public Affairs: Laura Bellingan (laura.bellingan@rsb.org.uk)

Member Report June 2020 – June 2021

The Royal Society of Biology's special advisory group for plant science has a new name, amid a refresh of its structure. Formerly the UK Plant Sciences Federation (UKPSF), the group is now known as the RSB Plant Science Group, reflecting its relationship with the Society and its role in advising it.

The [RSB Plant Science Group](#) is currently comprised of 21 RSB Member Organisations with an interest in plant science. It brings together organisations 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 Group meets on quarterly video calls, facilitating discussion and coordinating activity on current issues. It recently hosted a discussion with representatives from the UK Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to discuss its consultation on the regulation of genetic technologies, to which the RSB submitted a [response](#).

This summer, the RSB Plant Science Group has arranged 10 placement projects for undergraduates to work with leading plant health researchers, through our [Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships](#) programme. The scheme, now in its fourth year, aims to provide training opportunities for undergraduates, while producing research relevant to current priorities in plant health.

In March 2021, the RSB Plant Science Group hosted the [Plant Health Summit for Future Leaders](#). The event engaged around 70 early career professionals from across plant health, and encouraged the formation of networks between those working in industry, government, academic research and non-governmental organisations. The event was organised in partnership and with the support of other key organisations in plant science. 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.

Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society
www.spps.se

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Thorsten Hamann, thorsten.hamann@ntnu.no

Name of the current president

Christiane Funk

Term of the current president

August 2019- August 2021

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

Vice President: Mats Hansson, mats.hansson@biol.lu.se

Secretary General: Thorsten Hamann, thorsten.hamann@ntnu.no

Society Secretary: Anke Carius, anke.carius@umu.se

Member Report June 2020–June 2021

Until recently, before Covid-19 became a global pandemic, SPPS used to distribute grants for conferences and travel within the Nordic countries. During the last year, SPPS has instead created new grants, such as the SPPS Career Development Grant to support plant scientists without anyone having to travel. The SPPS-PhD student conference was held online in September 2020. It was a great success and the PhD students and SPPS learned a lot about online events.

In May 2021, SPPS started a webinar series together with our journal, *Physiologia Plantarum*. The first event of hopefully many was a big success with more than 200 participants. <https://www.workcast.com/register?cpak=8962775371727487>

SPPS also made an animated film to provide an overview over our activities. It can be watched here: <https://twitter.com/plantspps>

Currently, planning for the SPPS2021 conference on Svalbard, Norway, is ongoing and we are hopeful to be able to have one of the first physical plant science conferences post Covid-19. Then, we hope to take up our usual business again, including some of our newly invented grants as well, of course.

Slovenian Society of Plant biology
<https://www.plantslo.org/>

(currently reconstructing webpage, so information might not be up-to date)

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Špela Baebler spela.baebler@nib.si

Name of the current president

Špela Baebler

Term of the current president

2021-2025

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

Secretary & executive board member: Tine Grebenc tine.grebenc@gozdis.si

Members of executive board: Marina Dermastia marina.dermastia@nib.si, Andreja Urbanek Krajnc andreja.urbanek@um.si

Member Report June 2020 – June 2021

- The Society is the main organizer of Fascination of Plants Day events in Slovenia. This year, instead of live workshops aimed at schoolchildren, we have compiled a children book entitled “Fascinating experiments with plants” (<https://plantday18may.org/news/ocarljivi-poskusi-z-rastlinami/>), which comprises 25 most successful experiments from the previous FoPDs. Each experiment has a short introduction, followed with a detailed instruction how to execute the experiment. The experiments are accompanied by videos of the experiment performed by a scientist/teacher in a lab and/or performed by children at home. The editors and most of the chapter authors are coming from the Society. The book was presented at the virtual lecture by our member and book co-editor Marina Dermastia, “Fascinating afternoon with plants” organized by a textbook publisher Rokus Klett.
- We have organized three professional lectures
 1. June 2020 (in hybrid form, as a part of the 2020 General assembly), Peter Železnik (Society member & Forestry Institute of Slovenia): "100 myths about trees: Some of the most common misconceptions about (urban) trees and their consequences
 2. January 2021, Jaša Veno Grujić (Society member & University of Maribor): “Establishment of a bioreactor system and optimization of the production process of *Haematococcus pluvialis* algae”
 3. March 2021, Eliana Bianucci (INIAB-CONICET, Argentina & Autonomus University of Barcelona): “Legume-bacteria interactions as a biotechnological tool to avoid crop grain contamination”.
- In June 2020, we will organize the Society general assembly where we have elected all the Society bodies for the period 2020-2024.

- We are continuously informing of members on interesting lectures, conferences, project calls, job openings via email and society webpage
- We are a national coordinator of the EU-SAGE (regulation of gene editing in EU), members of Federation of Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology, International Association of Plant Biotechnology (IAPB). We have joined GPC in October 2021, following the recommendation by a GPC board member.

Name and email of current representative to the GPC:

Stefan Kepinski, S.Kepinski@leeds.ac.uk

Name of current president:

Craig Franklin , c.franklin@uq.edu.au

Term of current president: 2019-2021

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

Pamela Mortimer (CEO) - p.mortimer@sebiology.org

Jim Murray (Vice President) - murrayja1@cardiff.ac.uk

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of December - 2020 the SEB had 1,587 members of which 718 are members of the SEB Plant Section. The membership for each interest group within the Plant Section as at 31 December 2020 was as follows:

- Plan Transport 254
- Photosynthesis & Metabolism 336
- Plant Environmental Physiology 428
- Plant Development 410
- Integrative Plant Biology 398
- Interactions of Plants with Other Organisms 298
- Crop Molecular Genetics 293
- Abiotic Stress and Climate Change 203
- Plant Biotechnology and Synthetic Biology 144

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

In 2020 the majority of SEB events (including our Annual Conference) were cancelled due to the impact of the pandemic on conferences. However we held a few online events and the SEB organised the following plant biology focused event:

JOURNAL OF EXPERIMENTAL BIOLOGY 70th ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

- Total registrations: 181
- Total number of attendees at meeting: 134

A webinar recording of the event has also been published on the SEB youtube channel and promoted widely.

PLANT SECTION AWARDS

Although our 2020 Annual conference was cancelled we still awarded the following Plant Section Awards:

- Woolhouse Lecturer: Julia Bailey-Serres (University of California, Riverside)
- President's Medallist: Johannes Kromdijk

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The Society (co) owns four primary research journals (Journal of Experimental Botany, The Plant Journal, Plant Biotechnology Journal and Conservation Physiology) and one cascade journal (Plant Direct).

These journals continue to be ranked highly among other journals publishing similar scientific papers and to be well regarded by the communities they support and we encourage GPC members to publish in our journals.

Detail on the journals and recent activity is set out below.

JOURNAL IMPACT FACTORS AND RECENT ACTIVITY

Journal of Experimental Botany

Impact factor 5.908

<https://academic.oup.com/jxb>

The Journal of Experimental Botany (JXB) publishes papers that describe novel and rigorous

research addressing broad principles in plant science. As a Society-owned journal, JXB's primary focus is supporting the global plant science community to foster constructive scientific discussion and to disseminate its findings.

JXB continues to support the highest quality SEB science by publishing Special Issues from SEB meetings, as well as sessions at the Annual Conference. SEB Plant Section President's Medallists will also write a prestigious Darwin Review for JXB, further strengthening the link between the Journal and the Society.

The Plant Journal

Impact factor 6.141

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/1365313x>

The Plant Journal provides a dynamic forum for the ever-growing international plant sciences research community and publishes in all key areas of plant biology.

In 2020 the Society in collaboration with Wiley ran the SEB –Wiley-TPJ Outstanding Paper Awards which celebrate some of the most significant research published by The Plant

Journal each year (introduced in 2019). Awards were given in the following categories:

- Outstanding Original Research Article
- Outstanding Technical Advance Article
- Outstanding Resource Article

Details of the winners of the SEB-Wiley-TPJ outstanding papers published in 2020 can be found here <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tpj.15238>. The first author of all winning papers will receive a year's membership of the SEB. The student first authors will also receive free registration for next year's SEB's 2021 Annual Conference.

Plant Biotechnology Journal

Impact factor 8.154

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14677652>

Plant Biotechnology Journal, an Open Access journal, publishes high-impact original research and incisive reviews with an emphasis on molecular plant sciences and their applications through plant biotechnology.

Conservation Physiology

Impact factor (third impact factor for the journal) 2.570

<http://academic.oup.com/conphys>

Conservation Physiology is an online-only, open access journal published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the SEB. Now in its third volume, it is edited by a prestigious team of experts who helped to define the discipline.

Plant Direct

Impact factor: 1.725

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/24754455>

Plant Direct is an open access, sound science journal for the plant sciences that gives prompt and equal consideration to papers reporting work dealing with a variety of subjects. It is a collaborative journal launched by the American Society of Plant Biologists, the Society for Experimental Biology, and Wiley.

The journal received its first impact factor in 2020 which is 1.725.

The Lancaster Environment Centre
<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec>

Name and email of current representative to the GPC:
William Davies

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

This has been a challenging year for many people and our thoughts are with friends and colleagues in many parts of the world where the virus continues to cause terrible problems. The University system has been challenged in many ways, not-least by the reduced access that students have had, and in some cases still do have, to teaching and research infrastructure and to fellow students and research and teaching staff. Lancaster is no different to other Universities in this respect but at the time of writing, face-to-face activities are increasing. On line teaching has generally been well received and in some cases has revealed new opportunities for the participants. Lancaster has a range of online plant science programmes, with our Masters level Food Security distance learning course continuing to be particularly relevant.

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/food-security-distance-learning-msc/>

Those interested in a more detailed bespoke research programme, supervised by one or more of our academic staff, may be interested in

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/plant-sciences-msc-by-research/>

This recent paper (co-authored by a Lancaster staff member) addresses several of the global challenges which are a current focus of Lancaster research

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41477-021-00877-2>

One significant Lancaster research development this year, which is relevant to a range of disciplines, including Plant Sciences, is the £14m Eco-I North West R&D programme, which recruits graduate researchers to work with small- and medium-sized enterprises who want to develop innovative carbon saving products and services. The projects are co-designed with the business, who provide a mentor to work alongside academic supervisors. Further details of the programme can be found here

<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/global-eco-innovation/about/news/the-best-of-both-worlds>

Annex 2. GPC Member Organizations Websites

African Crop Science Society (ACSS)

American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)

<http://www.aspb.org>

ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, Australia (PEB)

<http://www.plantenergy.uwa.edu.au>

Argentine Society of Plant Physiology (SAFV)

<http://www.fisiologiavegetal.org>

Australian National University (ANU)

<http://www.anu.edu.au/>

Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS)

<http://www.asps.org.au>

Chilean Society of Plant Biologists (ChilSPB)

<http://www.biologiavegetal.cl>

Chinese Society of Plant Biology (ChSPB)

<http://www.cspb.org.cn>

Cluster of Excellence on Plant Science (CEPLAS)

<https://www.ceplas.eu/en/home/>

European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)

<http://www.epsoweb.org>

Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology (FESPB)

<http://www.fespb.org>

The Heat and Drought Wheat Improvement Consortium (HeDWIC)

<https://www.hedwic.org>

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

<http://irri.org/>

Indian Society for Plant Physiology (ISPP)

<http://www.ispponline.org>

Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP)

<http://www2.jspp.org>

Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology

<http://www.mpimp-golm.mpg.de>

Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee

<http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/>

New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists (NZSPB)

<http://plantbiology.science.org.nz>

Plant Canada (PC)

<http://www.plantcanada.ca>

Portuguese Society of Plant Physiology (SPFV)

<http://www.spfv.pt>

Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society (SPPS)

<http://www.spps.fi>

Slovenian Society of Plant Biology (SSPB)

<https://www.plantslo.org/home.php>

Spanish Society of Plant Physiology (SEFV)

<http://www.sefv.net>

Society for Experimental Biology (SEB)

<http://www.sebiology.org/>

Taiwan Society of Plant Biologists (TSPB)

http://tspb.org.tw/TSPB_en/

RSB Plant Sciences Group (UKPSG)

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/groups-and-committees/ukpsf>