



Global Plant Council Annual Report 2022–2023

1th July 2023

Written by I. Mendoza (CCO)

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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

Message from our President Geraint Parry

I was honoured to be asked to become GPC President at the end of 2022 albeit wary of having to fill the large-shoes of past-president Ros Gleadow. I have viewed the growth of the GPC from the sidelines since its inception in 2009 as a close colleague of Dr Ruth Bastow, who was one of the driving-forces behind the early days of the GPC. The past decade has seen a steady increase in the GPC membership and more importantly in the impact of the GPC activities. This is evidenced by our recent interactions with professional Event-Organisers who have engaged with us to promote their plant-science focussed activities, clearly well-aware of the scale of the GPC reach.

As ever the GPC would be nothing without the phenomenal contribution of our Communications Officer Isabel Mendoza who does all the excellent on-the-groundwork that has facilitated the growth of the GPC.

At time of writing GPC membership includes 27 organisations, which includes new members from USA, Saudi Arabia and Ecuador. We are delighted to welcome members of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Michigan State University and the Ecuadorian Botanical Society to the GPC family. Over the coming years we look forward to working with you to promote your activities and to represent your members at the global level.

The strength of the Global Plant Council comes from our remit 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 Associations that are aligned to a country or cohort of scientists. Global issues of importance to the GPC include the how plant science impacts topics related to climate change, the sharing of digital sequence information (DSI) and the uptake of gene-editing technologies.

Arguably the most impactful achievement of the past year has seen the GPC gaining Observer status at both the *UN COP15 Diversity Conference* and the *UN COP28 Climate Conference*. Deena Errampalli represented the GPC at COP15 in Montreal and participated in a DSI workshop organised by the DSI Scientific Network. Isabel Mendoza and KC Bansal will represent GPC on-the-ground at COP28 in the UAE in December 2023 and are currently planning their interactions at the event. If you have any connections at COP28 of which the GPC take advantage then please contact Isabel. Furthermore, GPC are able to nominate online observers for COP28 so if a member of your organisation is interested in participating in the meeting, then please let us know.

Over the past year GPC has interacted with WIKIFARMER to organise a set of webinars that has explored issues of importance to farmers across the world, namely the impact of gene-edited crops and of climate-smart agriculture.

Two challenges for plant scientists are the attempts secure research funding and to find effective ways of communicating their science. Over the coming months the GPC will be active in both areas. Firstly, we will collaborate with the American Society of Plant Biology and the Association of Applied Biologists to host a ‘Social Media for Scientists’ workshop at the SEB annual meeting in Edinburgh, July 2023. Further we are collaborating with ‘Women in Crop Science’ network to repeat a similar event online, where we will address the specific challenges of being a women online.

Secondly, we are planning a series of webinars that promote the cross-border funding opportunities that exist in different global regions; specifically hosting webinars relevant for researchers in the Americas, Europe, Africa and India and the Far East. We will also organise a Spanish-language webinar. Look out for details coming soon.

Finally, I must provide a huge thanks for those people who are rotating off the GPC Board of Directors after the 2023 AMOM. These are Ros Gleadow, Katherine Denby and Weihua Tang. These people have been involved with the GPC for a long time and have been instrumental in its 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. June 2023.

Executive Summary

The Global Plant Council (GPC) has made significant progress over the past period (1st September 2022-1st July 2023) in achieving its mission to promote plant science and its applications worldwide. This executive summary highlights key achievements, social media reach, webinar activities, and the GPC's involvement in global initiatives.

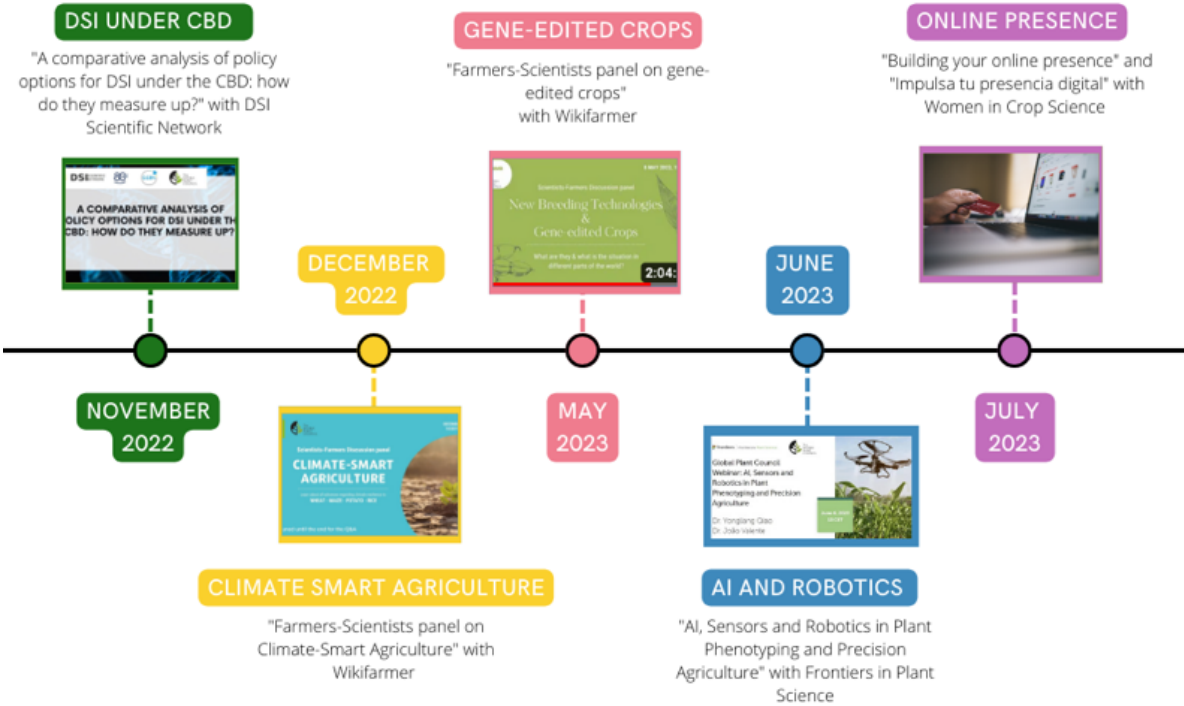
Global Initiatives: The GPC's commitment to addressing global challenges is evident through its active involvement in international initiatives. The GPC is member of the SPG Coalition, Divseek and has recently joined AIM for Climate, showcasing its dedication to tackling climate change through plant science solutions. Moreover, the GPC received observer/consultative status at prestigious global events including the Convention on Biological Diversity, Climate Summit, and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). GPC attended the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal in December 2022, and will attend annual climate summit (COP28) in Dubai later in 2023. This highlights the GPC's motivation to contribute its expertise and influence policy decisions on a global scale.



Social Media Reach: The GPC has witnessed remarkable growth in its online presence, with a following of 41,000 across various social media platforms and average of 272,000 monthly views. This substantial reach allows the GPC to engage with a diverse global audience and disseminate information about plant science advancements, research, and initiatives effectively.

Newsletter Subscribers: The GPC's newsletters have garnered significant interest, attracting close to 5,000 subscribers. This achievement underscores the relevance of the GPC's content and demonstrates the value placed on the organization's contributions to the plant science community.

Webinar Activities: Since our last AMOM in September 2022, the GPC successfully hosted four (4) webinars with a total of 925 attendees and is currently preparing for two (2) more, all in collaboration with organizations such as DSI Scientific Network, Wikifarmer, Frontiers in Plant Science, and Women in Crop Science. These webinars serve as platforms for knowledge exchange, fostering collaboration among experts, and disseminating ideas in the field of plant science.



GPC webinars September 2022 - July 2023

In addition, the Global Plant Council has made substantial improvements on the communication front, specifically focusing on enhancing the website's speed and accessibility through mobile phones. Through the implementation of caching techniques, content optimization, and server enhancements, the GPC has significantly reduced page load times by 45% on mobile devices, allowing visitors to access information more efficiently.

The Global Plant Council Day-by-Day

The GPC has one staff member (Isabel Mendoza, our Chief 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:** Geraint Parry, Executive Officer, Association of Applied Biologists
- **Chair:** Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson, Assistant professor at University of Copenhagen
- **Treasurer:** Deena Errampalli, past president of Plant Canada
- **Board members:**
 - Ros Gleadow from Monash University where she leads the Plant Ecophysiology group.
 - Katherine Denby, from University of York, Director of UK N8 Partnership
 - 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
 - Francisca Blanco-Herrera, Associate Professor of the Plant Biotechnology Center at the Universidad Andres Bello
 - Liana Acevedo-Herrera, researcher in the Michigan State University-Department of Energy (MSU-DOE) Plant Research Laboratory (PRL)
 - Makoto Hayashi, RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science, Yokohama, Japan

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. One press release (News Tab) or post (Blog Tab) is published every weekday before 9:00 CET. These stories are shared on all GPC social media channels, at 9:00 or 10:00 CET.
- 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, and Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson to discuss course of action and activities.

Monthly and Bi-monthly tasks

- Monthly general newsletter to subscribers.
- Organizing and hosting the GPC's bi-monthly community calls.
- 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 plant science-based 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 train on web management, social media management, use of AIs, banner and image design, e-marketing, and science communication whenever the opportunity arises.

The Global Plant Council member updates

Currently, The Global Plant Council groups 27 members. Since our last meeting, three new members have to join The Global Plant Council: the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Michigan State University and the Ecuadorian Botanical Society. Meanwhile, during the period, the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology, Copenhagen Plant Science Centre and the Spanish Sociate of Plant Biologists have withdrawn as members.

The Global Plant Council sponsors

We are grateful to ‘*The New Phytologist Trust (NPT)*’ for continued sponsorship of the Global Plant Council with their two journals, *New Phytologist* and *Plants People Planet*.

Currently, we are working towards continuing our relationship with Frontiers in Plant Science. In the 2023 call for Frontiers Research Topics, three prizes equivalent to one full APCs (Article Processing Charges) each were offered, applicable for the Frontiers in Plant Science journal (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/frontiers-topics/>). In 2023, the first-place award was given to the Research Topic on "AI, Sensors, and Robotics in Plant Phenotyping and Precision Agriculture."

In early 2022 we have started a relationship [Wikifarmer](#), a global platform that provides of farmers with education and offers them access to the open market to sell their products at fair prices. We have organized together bilateral webinars connecting Farmers and Researchers with great success that will be reported in the webinars section.

In April 2023 we have started a relationship with [Scientific Societies](#), a not-for-profit association management cooperative that offers full-service solutions for science-based professional societies.



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:

The Early-Career Researcher (ECR) International Network, the ECRi, is a collection of activities addressed to help the ECRs with 4 essential pillars:

- job hunting (ECRi Jobs)
- grant writing (ECRi Grants)
- communication (ECRi communication)
- and networking (ECRi 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 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. We welcome guest posts from ECRs and students (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/ecri-communication-and-dissemination-activity/>).

Published blog post by ECRs per year				
	2020 (Mar-Dec)	2021	2022	2023
Number of posts	3	10	13	-

6. The Global Plant Council team up in 2022 with *Frontiers in Plant Science* for a special Frontiers Research Topic call (<https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/frontiers-topics/>).
7. Since April 2021, we have hosted monthly webinars on different topics of interest.

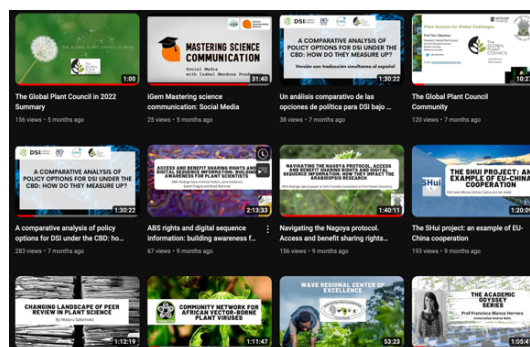
Any offers of help in rolling out this network will be greatly appreciated. Please, contact Isabel Mendoza (isabel@globalplantcouncil.org), our Communications Officer with suggestions.

Webinars and Videos

In April 2021, the Global Plant Council (GPC) launched a series of monthly plantsci webinars. These webinars aimed to cover transversal and high-level topics of interest for plant scientists worldwide and were conducted in both English and Spanish. All the webinar recordings can be accessed on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheGlobalPlantCouncil>.

TABLE. SUMMARY OF WEBINARS HOSTED BY GPC SINCE 2021

	2021	2022	2023*
WEBINARS	8	8	2
REGISTRATIONS	956	1.755	955
ATTENDEES	438	772	287
* until June 2023			



Throughout 2022, the GPC hosted a total of 8 webinars, with 1 conducted in Spanish and 7 in English. In 2023, as of now, 2 webinars have been hosted, both in English. Additionally, 3 more webinars are in preparation. Here are the details:

Table. Extended Summary of Webinars hosted or in preparation by GPC in 2022 and 2023				
Date (D/M)/ and Title	Registered	Attendees	Colab?	Language
2022				
09/03. Ethics in Plant Science by Prof John Bryant https://youtu.be/166RceJgonA	82	24	-	EN
05/04. The Academic Odyssey Series: Prof Francisca Blanco Herrera https://youtu.be/KNRf_UQajYA	26	14	-	ES
05/05. Webinar presenting the WAVE Regional Center of Excellence https://youtu.be/a2nTINT_Qsw	13	13	WAVE	EN
08/06. CONNECTED: Community Network for African Vector-Borne Plant Viruses https://youtu.be/Pgh_TpCJAjg	43	15	CONNECTED	EN

14/07. Changing Landscape of Peer Review in Plant Science https://youtu.be/UUNiSjkSfKI	71	35	-	EN
23/08. The SHUI project: an example of EU-China cooperation https://youtu.be/xpRCHzugmto	47	33	SHUI	EN
07/11. A comparative analysis of policy options for DSI under the CBD https://youtu.be/vPETz9xYhAI	408	273	DSI Scientific Network	EN
07/12. Farmers-Scientists panel on Climate-Smart Agriculture https://www.youtube.com/live/ouWDcuKviH0?feature=share	1065	365	Wikifarmer	EN
2023				
08/05. Farmers-Scientists panel on gene-edited crops https://www.youtube.com/live/pZhoOKW0K40?feature=share	705	214	Wikifarmer	EN
06/06. AI, Sensors and Robotics in Plant Phenotyping and Precision Agriculture	250	73	Frontiers in Plant Science	EN
18/07. Building your online presence	-	-	Women in Crop Science	EN
20/07. Impulsa tu presencia digital	-	-	Women in Crop Science	ES

The GPC remains committed to providing valuable webinars to plant scientists worldwide, fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration within the plant science community. We look forward to the upcoming webinars in 2023 and encourage you to stay tuned for further updates on our YouTube channel and website.

iGEM

The [iGEM](#) Foundation is an organization dedicated to the advancement of synthetic biology. iGEM is an annual competition that brings together teams of students to design and construct genetically engineered biological systems. Participants use genetic engineering techniques to address real-world problems in fields like healthcare and agriculture. The competition culminates in the Grand Jamboree, where teams present their projects and compete for awards. iGEM promotes collaboration and open-source practices, encouraging teams to share their designs and findings. It provides students with hands-on experience in synthetic biology, fostering scientific and engineering skills, teamwork, and ethical awareness. iGEM plays a crucial role in advancing the field of synthetic biology and finding innovative solutions to global challenges.

In March 2022 we were contacted by [iGEM](#) community to participate as speakers in a training addressed to the participants of future [iGEM](#) competitions. Isabel Mendoza recorded the training session in August 2022 that was realised in December 2022 and is now available in our Youtube channel (<https://youtu.be/bKmEuJxYfCI>).

Policy Work

Digital Sequence Information (DSI)

By the end of 2020, the Global Plant Council (GPC) made the decision to establish a working group (WG) focused on raising awareness among plant scientists regarding their obligations to respect access and benefit-sharing (ABS) rights under the [Convention on Biodiversity](#), the [FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources](#), and the [Nagoya Protocols on Access and Benefit Sharing](#).

During 2021, the WG organized several events related to digital sequence information (DSI) and ABS that were reported in our previous Annual Report. These events included policy panels, webinars, and workshops held in collaboration with various organizations and societies. The recordings of these events are available on the GPC YouTube channel. The WG's work has been compiled and made public on the GPC website, providing resources such as videos, and papers.



In addition to these events, in February 2022, we were approached by the DSI Scientific Network to sign their open letter, which was released in March (here: <https://www.dsiscientificnetwork.org/open-letter/>). We joined forces with 32 other organizations and over 1,000 scientists in endorsing the letter, expressing our support for their cause.

Webinar on DSI

To establish and implement an effective Post-2020 Framework for Biodiversity, it is crucial to reach an agreement on a solution for Digital Sequence Information (DSI) that ensures fair and equitable sharing of benefits while preserving open access for research, biodiversity conservation, food security, and public health.

In pursuit of the overarching goal of the DSI WG, The Global Plant Council together with the DSI Scientific Network, the Global Genome Biodiversity Network, and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture organized a joint webinar in November 2022. The

webinar aimed to discuss the implications of different policy options for a benefit-sharing mechanism related to DSI just in time for the COP15 in December. Experts shared their perspectives on the potential impacts of these policy options and identified areas where win-win solutions could be found from a research standpoint.

The webinar was moderated by our chair, Elizabeth Neilson, and Martha Cepeda from the DSI Scientific Network. It began with an introduction and was followed by presentations from various speakers. Andrew Hufton from Wiley provided an overview of the concept of "open access." Manuela da Silva from Fiocruz and David Nicholson from the Wellcome Sanger Institute discussed the CBD policy options matrix and evaluated their effectiveness. Derek Eaton from the Smart Prosperity Institute explored the economic implications of the policy options.

The use of DSI in research and the importance of open access were emphasized in presentations by Sarah Hearne from CIMMYT, who discussed the case of wheat and maize, and Christine Prat from the European Virus Archive, who highlighted the use of DSI for public health purposes.

The webinar concluded with a question-and-answer session, allowing participants to engage with the speakers and further explore the topics discussed. By fostering dialogue and knowledge sharing, the webinar aimed to contribute to finding effective solutions for benefit sharing related to DSI, considering the diverse perspectives and needs of stakeholders involved in research, conservation, and public health.

This webinar was attended by 273 people live and was published on our Youtube channel in two versions, in English and with a Spanish translation. The recording has been viewed over 300 times.

COP15 in Montreal (Canada)

COP15, the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), took place in December 2022 in Montreal, Canada. Over 12,000 delegates from 188 countries attended the conference to discuss global biodiversity conservation. Deena Errampalli, our treasurer and board member, led the GPC delegation as an observer at the conference. Scientists from various organizations, including the DSI Scientific Network and GPC, presented science-based information and engaged in consultations with different parties at the convention.

During COP15, discussions focused on developing a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to address nature loss and protect 30 percent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030 (also known as '30 X 30'). One of the topics advocated by GPC was the issue of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic sources. Deena Errampalli presented a case study on the potential of DSI to revolutionize food security at a side event organized by the DSI Scientific Network.

After two weeks of intense negotiations, the delegates from 188 countries reached a landmark agreement in the early hours of December 19, 2022. The agreement included goals and targets for 2030 to address biodiversity conservation and benefit-sharing related to DSI derived from genetic resources. The scientific research community welcomed the open access to gene-sequence information outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity text.

The Global Biodiversity Framework agreement marked an important milestone for global biodiversity conservation, similar to the significance of the Paris Agreement for the environment. The delegates celebrated the agreement and emphasized the importance of implementing the framework to safeguard the planet's biodiversity. Deena Errampalli expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend COP15 and be part of the convention that approved the Global Biodiversity Framework, highlighting the shared goal of protecting the Earth's biodiversity and working towards harmony with nature.

SPG coalition

In September 2021 we joined the **Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation Coalition** ([SPG Coalition](#)) that was launched to the public also on September 2021 at the [United Nation's Food Systems Summit](#). The coalition is led by USDA and other members include FAO, CIMMYT, International Potato Center, 2Blades Foundation, DivSeek International, Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation, World Resources Institute, other regions and countries and organizations of the private sector. There are no obligations for members, financial or otherwise. It is expected to attend the meetings when possible and contribute to the events and annual report with the activities we see fit.

This year the SPG coalition has been continuing working towards its goals. One of their achievements is the expansion of the website that serves as a hub for sharing information, resources, and updates on their initiatives and events. Additionally, the coalition members have been meeting online every six months to discuss progress, exchange ideas, and strategize for future actions. The work culminated in the AIM for Climate Summit in May 2023, where they showcased their outputs and shared their insights with a wider audience.

AIM for Climate

The Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) is a voluntary initiative launched at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in 2021. Its objective is to increase and accelerate agricultural and food systems innovation in support of climate action. AIM for Climate aims to raise global ambition by catalysing investment and support for climate-smart agricultural innovation. It focuses on scientific breakthroughs, applied research, and the development, demonstration, and deployment of innovative products and knowledge. The initiative encourages collaboration, cooperation, and coordination among participating governments, institutions, and organizations. It emphasizes diversity, gender equity, and inclusion and operates through voluntary participation and various activities such as high-level meetings, innovation sprints, and joint communications.

In May 2023, the Global Plant Council joined the AIM for Climate initiative along with the other 356 organization and over 50 countries.

COP28

In parallel to issuing our climate change in time for the COP26, the board make the point to increase our potential impact by applying to observer status the upcoming COP meetings. This will allow GPC representatives to attend meetings and provide a voice for the global plant science community. We submitted all paperwork in August 2022, and received in February 2022 provisional admission. **Attending COP28 in 2023 is closer to a reality.** To prepare for

the meeting we sent out a survey to delimitate our topics of interest for the meeting with our representatives. Top priorities emerged are Plant Health, New Breeding Technologies and Carbon sequestration.

UN ECOSOC

In May 2023 GPC submitted all the paperwork required to be granted consultative status to UN ECOSOC. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and plays a crucial role in promoting economic and social development worldwide. ECOSOC consists of 54 member states elected by the United Nations General Assembly, and it meets annually to discuss and address global economic, social, and environmental challenges. The primary objectives of ECOSOC are to foster international cooperation, encourage dialogue, and facilitate coordination among nations, specialized agencies, and other stakeholders. It serves as a platform for member states to exchange ideas, share experiences, and develop strategies to tackle pressing global issues.

Furthermore, ECOSOC serves as a gateway for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to engage with the United Nations system. It grants consultative status to NGOs, allowing them to participate in its work, contribute expertise, and offer perspectives from civil society.

COMMUNICATION

The Global Plant Council 2022 AMOM agreed to increase the efforts devoted to communication during the 2022-2023 period. These efforts aim to enhance outreach, improve accessibility, and foster engagement with our target audience. Beside the work performed on the website and established social media channels, the following activities have been undertaken:

Wikipedia Page

The Global Plant Council has initiated the creation of a Wikipedia page to establish a comprehensive online presence. The page provides an overview of our organization, its mission, and notable achievements. Currently, the page is awaiting review and approval by Wikipedia editors. Once approved, it will serve as a valuable resource for individuals seeking information about The Global Plant Council.

New Mailing Service

Due to the increasing number of subscribers, The Global Plant Council has set up a new mailing service to effectively manage and streamline communication. One mailing list, specifically dedicated to events, has witnessed remarkable growth, surpassing 2000 subscribers in a short period. The new mailing service ensures prompt and reliable dissemination of event updates, news, and relevant information to our subscribers.

Mastodon Account

To expand our social media presence, The Global Plant Council has recently established a new Mastodon account. Mastodon is an open-source social networking platform that emphasizes privacy and decentralized communication. By utilizing this platform, we aim to reach a wider audience and engage in meaningful conversations. Link: <https://mastodon.social/@globalplantGPC>

GPC website

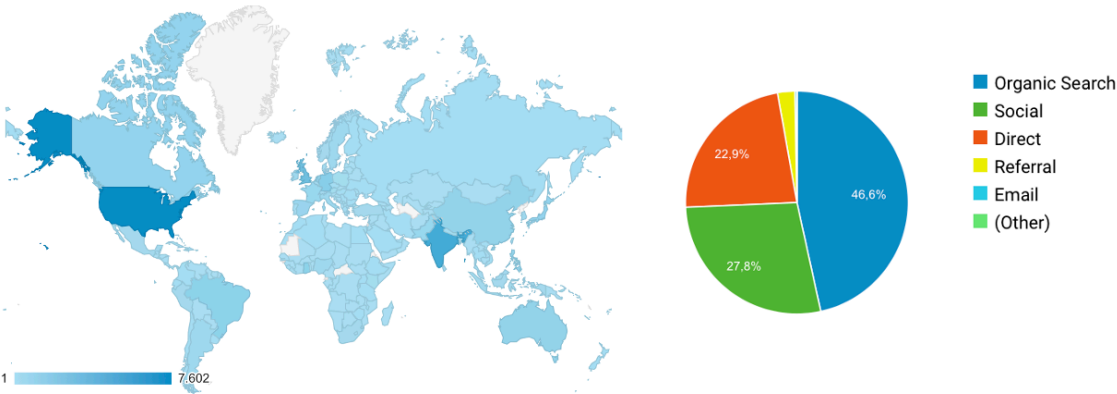
Since the last GPC AMOM (September 2022) until the 28th of June 2023, the GPC website has collected over **187 news items, 17 blog posts and 89 events**. The website has been maintained by Isabel Mendoza.

Recognizing the importance of accessibility and user experience, The Global Plant Council has undertaken efforts to optimize the organization's website. Emphasis has been placed on **increasing loading speed and improving accessibility**, particularly for users in regions with slow internet connections. These updates ensure that individuals from all backgrounds and locations can access and navigate our website seamlessly.

Since we last met, we have gathered over **1.100.000 impressions (110.000 per month) and 18.700 clicks in Google** searches. Besides:

- 215 sites are linked to our website, accounting for a total of 1987 links.
- At least 1,000 keyword combinations have given back results from our site in Google. From these, there are **767** where someone has clicked and entered our site.

During the 2022-2023 period, Google Analytics has continued to provide us with information on our visitors' profiles. In total this working year we have welcomed 49.395 individual visitors from 189 countries which have *surfed* a total of 95.737 pages and posts on our site.



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

During the period, visitors have landed at our website mostly via organic searches in Google, Baidu, Bing or similar search engines (46,6%), followed by social media, especially via Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn (27,8%).

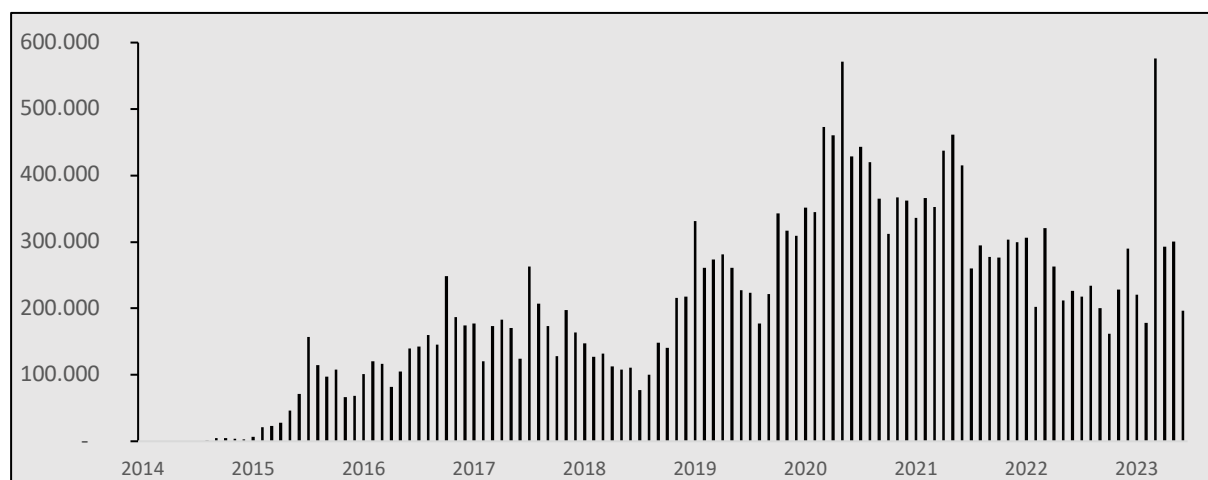
List of GPC social media accounts

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>

Summary of social media numbers

<i>Followers' growth 2014-2023.</i>							
	Twitter	Facebook	Newsletters ***	LinkedIn	Instagram	Others	Total
2014*	750	-	-	-	-	-	750
2015*	2.300	275	900	-	-	-	3.475
2016*	4.000	640	975	-	-	-	5.615
2017*	5.640	1.000	1.100	-	-	-	7.740
2018	7.234	1.894	1.262	505	-	48	10.943
2019	9.074	5.362	1.337	1.994	254	59	18.080
2020	11.553	8.324	1.629	2.665	523	75	24.769
2021	14.023	9.493	2.252	3.483	753	124	30.128
2022	16.845	11.323	2.842	4.116	915	203	36.244
2023**	18.105	12.149	4.952	4.544	1.002	347	41.099

** Estimated values **2023 includes figures from January until the 28th of June *** Newsletters include General, ECRi and Events*



Graph: Social Media views per month between January 2014 - June 2023.

Annex 1. GPC Individual Organizations Reports

Association of Applied Biologists

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

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr Geraint Parry

Name of the current president

Professor Mike Gooding

Term of the current president

2023-2024

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

President-Elect: Professor Dale Saunders

Secretary: Dr Guy Barker

Treasurer: Professor Nigel Halford

Member Report June 2022–September 2023

Prepared by Mike Gooding and Geraint Parry

AAB strategy is to address these challenges: Growing, supporting, and engaging a membership concerned with the application of excellent biology to address relevant societal challenges.

1. Growing, supporting, and engaging our membership

AAB membership reached an all-time high of 1100+ in 2022. We aim to encourage many of these new members to stay with the Association over coming years. The prime membership benefits are:

- Reduced fees for ALL AAB events. Regular members pay £100 and ECP members pay £50 LESS than equivalent non-members to attend AAB in-person events. ECP members can join events as an online delegate for free.
- 20% discount on Article Publishing Charges when submitting to Plant Biotechnology Journal
- ECPs are eligible for travel grants to any AAB event (up to £300)
- All members are eligible for Carer grants (up to £500)

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

2. AAB Specialist groups

The ‘Horticultural Quality and Food Loss’ specialist group was inaugurated in early 2023 (<https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/horticultural-quality-and-food-loss/>). This group aims to keep together the BBSRC-funded HortQFL network by providing of a base for future activities.

This group is added to the existing groups: Applied Plant Pathology, Applied Tree and Forest Biology, Biocontrol and IPM, Cropping and the Environment, Food Systems, Nematology, Pesticide Application, Plant Physiology and Crop Improvement, Soil Biology and Virology.

3. Conferences, symposia, and workshops

In 2022 over 1800 delegates registered for AAB organised events, which is a large increase from pre-pandemic levels of ~450. This has been enabled by organisation of high-quality hybrid events as standard. At the time of writing in June we have organised 3 events in 2023 that have engaged over 400 delegates. The remaining planned events for 2023 and 2024 can be found here: <https://www.aab.org.uk/events/>

4. Scientific journals

The purpose of our scientific journals (*Annals of Applied Biology and Plant Biotechnology Journal with the Society of Experimental Biology*) is to provide an opportunity for members and other authors to disseminate their work; for members and others to access quality-controlled research articles; to provide a sustainable income stream to support AAB charitable goals; and to increase the visibility of the society in the journals and vice-versa.

Throughout 2023-24 AAB will: i. Review and future proof the business models for the journals, ii. Ensure that the journals uphold the best standards of equality, diversity, inclusion, and ethics, iii. Review editorial offices, ensuring they are serving the needs of authors and represent good value for money, iv. Encourage journals to support special issues that are published in coordination with both AAB events and with those organised by other relevant societies.

5. Further activities to promote applied biology

The AAB will promote applied biology via interactions with a number of other organisations which include the Global Plant Council, the Royal Society of Biology, the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology, and the EU PlantEd Cost Action on plant genome editing. Additionally, we will support the promotion of applied biology through the wider collaborations and representations of individual members of council, and the broader membership of the AAB.

Australian Society of Plant Scientists
<https://www.asps.org.au/>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Prof Ros Gleadow (ros.gleadow@monash.edu) is a member of the ASPS and is currently President of GPC. Prof Martha Ludwig (martha.ludwig@uwa.edu.au) is the ASPS representative.

Name of the current president

Prof Martha Ludwig (martha.ludwig@uwa.edu.au)

Term of the current president

December 2022 – November 2024

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

Dr Kim Johnson (Hon Secretary; K.Johnson@latrobe.edu.au)

Dr Mark Waters (Hon Treasurer; mark.waters@uwa.edu.au)

Member Report September 2022–July 2023

Scientific Meetings: ASPS joined with four other biological societies from Australia and New Zealand to organise ComBio2022, which was held 22 – 27 September 2022 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. While some plenary speakers gave online talks, the conference was for the most part an in-person meeting. ASPS has approximately 540 members across all categories and 174 members attended ComBio2022. Our AGM was held during the conference and was followed by the Society's annual dinner. Members were delighted to meet, catch up, and network in person post pandemic. Plans for our 2023 meeting, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 28 November – 1 December are well underway. Members of ASPS are on the Local Organising and Australian Scientific Advisory Committees for the International Plant Molecular Biology (IPMB) Congress to be held in Cairns, 24 – 28 June 2024. ASPS will support travel of student members to IMPB to help showcase Australian plant science to the global research community.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: ASPS remains committed to supporting DEI in our activities. Gender parity, career stage, and cultural and linguistic diversity are considered in selection of conference session organisers, chairs, and speakers; members of the executive; and our discipline representatives. Our DEI Policy is available to all on our website and our DEI Officer, along with her team, is active in ensuring our membership knows about our Carers' Support Travel Grants and, new for 2023, our Indigenous Travel Grants.

Outreach: Closer ties between ASPS and the New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists, including a joint hybrid meeting in 2024, are being planned. Phytogen, the ASPS Newsletter, gives our award winners the chance to share their research experiences with the greater membership, and make members aware of plant science events and opportunities in Australia and internationally.

Science Meets Parliament: ASPS, as a member of Science Technology Australia (STA), again supported two early career researchers to attend the STA-organised Science Meets Parliament (SMP) event for 2023. STA represents Australia's science and technology professionals and their societies and has a voice in influencing public policy in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics-related areas. It brings together scientists, industries, governments, and the wider community at their education and outreach events. At the 2023 SMP event in March our members had professional development opportunities and met with members of the Australian Parliament.

Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee
<http://arabidopsisresearch.org>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr Geraint Parry, arabidopsiseventsuk@gmail.com

Name of the current president

Professor Nicholas Provart, nicholas.provart@utoronto.ca

Term of the current president

Open-ended Term, although we will soon start succession planning.

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 September 2022–July 2023

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 Provart, Siobhan Brady and Geraint Parry respectively.

<http://Arabidopsisresearch.org/>

The MASC website is an information resource for previous MASC related activities.

This is a current list of the MASC board of directors:

- 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)

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

The 2022-2023 Annual report is currently begin prepared by Dr Parry and Jamie Newbold from Cranfield University in the UK. This can be downloaded here from early July:
<http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/publications>

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

and MASC country representatives. These groups submit reports that are included with the Annual report.

International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)

Over the past decade the flagship ICAR meeting has rotated through locations in Asia, North America and Europe. ICAR2023 was organised June 5-9 2023 in Chiba, Japan and hosted a remarkable 1200+ in-person delegates. <https://icar2023.org/>

This is extremely positive for the continued interest in Arabidopsis research and also perhaps demonstrates the wish for scientists to travel to the Far East after being unable for the past 3 years! The MASC 2022-23 Annual Report will include a short report from ICAR2023.

Organisation of ICAR 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.

The locations for upcoming ICAR meetings:

- 34th ICAR, San Diego, United States of America, July 15-19 2024
<https://icar2024.weebly.com/>

- 35th ICAR, Gent, Belgium, June 16-20 2025 www.icar2025.com

The MASC Code of Conduct

ICAR conferences will provide a safe and productive environment that promotes equal opportunity and treatment for all participants that is free of harassment and discrimination and allows the sharing of unpublished scientific findings. The code of conduct applies to all registered attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff, contractors, volunteers, and guests; and it applies both within the ICAR conference venues and in associated events and locations where ICAR conference delegates are present.

A PDF of the updated Code of Conduct for ICAR2022 can be [downloaded here](#).

The Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP)
<https://jspp.org/en/>

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Makoto Hayashi, makoto.hayashi@riken.jp

Name of the current president

Takayuki Kohchi

Term of the current president

2022-2024

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

Secretary General: Ryuichi Nishihama, nishihama@rs.tus.ac.jp

Member Report September 2022–July 2023

- The JSPP held the 64th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP) on 15-17 March 2023, Sendai (hybrid), Japan.

The JSPP organized Fasciation of Plants Day (FoPD) 2023 in Japan from 12 May to 3 June 2023. We had 10 onsite/online events hosted by universities, research institutes, etc. FoPD 2023 in Japan was continuously supported by JSPP. Japanese coordinators updated FoPD-related web sites, called for the plant science communities to join FoPD activities through several mailing lists, and passed out the event flyers with the financial support from JSPP.

- The JSPP published the official journal of the JSPP “Plant and Cell Physiology (PCP)” monthly with Oxford University Press (OUP). This year’s published highlights included Special Issues on trending topics such as “Continuous Plant Biotic Interactions” (Vol. 63, No. 10), “Classical and De Novo Plant Domestication” (Vol. 63, No. 11), “Plant Growth Regulators” (Vol. 63, No. 12), and “Plant Stem Cells” (Vol. 64, No. 3). In addition, PCP engaged in various outreach and promotional activities, e.g., Fasciation of Plants Day, PCP luncheon seminar at the JSPP Annual Meeting.

Sociedade Portuguesa de Biologia de Plantas (SPBP)
<http://www.spbp.pt/>

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, Chair of the Financial Council, tavares@bio.uminho.pt

Maria Margarida Oliveira, Chair of the General Council, mmolive@itqb.unl.pt

Member Report September 2022–July 2023

1. Organization and Co-organization of Scientific Meetings

a) Institutional participation in the XVIII Brazilian Congress of Plant Physiology / I Ibero-latinamerican Congress of Plant Biology, held in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, between 6 and 9 September 2022. SPBP was represented in the Scientific Committee and his President was at the table of the Opening Session. The meeting had several Portuguese scientists, members of SPBP, as invited speakers or participants in round tables.

b) Continuation of the organizational work, in collaboration with the Spanish Society of Plant Biology, of the Iberian Plant Biology 2023 - XVIII Portuguese - Spanish Congress of Plant Biology, which will be held from 9 to 12 July 2023, in Braga, Portugal. The Organizing Committee is chaired by our member Teresa Lino-Neto, from the University of Minho. The Congress includes a round table about “Women in Sciences”, open to the scientific community and society, and two satellite meetings: the “3rd PhD. Meeting in Plant Science” and the “Teaching for Innovation”.

c) Beginning of the preparatory work for the organization of the XVIII Portuguese-Spanish Symposium on Plant Mineral Nutrition - NutriPlanta 2024, under the coordination of the SPBP member Cristina Cruz and the Plant Nutrition Working Group.

d) Beginning of the collaboration, through the Working Group on Water Relations, with the SEBP counterpart group for the organization of the XVI Spanish-Portuguese Plant Water Relations, which will be held in Zaragoza, Spain, between 14 and 16 February 2024. SPBP is represented in the Organizing Committee by its members Conceição Caldeira, Raquel Lobo do Vale and Jorge Marques da Silva.

e) Beginning of the collaboration to the organization of Post-24, which will take place in Madrid, on the 12-14 June 2024. This collaboration is assured by the coordinator of our Post-Harvest Group, Ana M. Cavaco, in articulation with Carmen Merodio, the leader of Biotecnología y Calidad Posrecolección of ICTAN-CSIC, and the President of Post-24 Organizing Committee. The Spanish partners are currently preparing the flyers and the web page for the meeting.

2. Participation in International Scientific Platforms

- a) With the coordination of Cristina Cruz from its Plant Nutrition Group, SPBP continues the collaboration with the European Phosphorus Platform.
- b) SPBP'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 organizations was supported.
- c) SPBP continues to participate in the development of the Federation of Ibero-Latinamerican Societies of Plant Biology (FISPB).

The Royal Society of Biology
<https://www.rsb.org.uk/>

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

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

Member Report September 2022–July 2023

The RSB has continued running its [Plant Health Undergraduate studentships](#) 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. 12 studentships are taking place this year across various UK institutions.

The RSB has produced a number of policy outputs concerning issues of plant science. These included a [letter](#) to government ministers advocating for greater biodiversity protection and restoration ahead of the COP15 conference in Montreal last year, and also [responding](#) to the UK Government Science and Technology committees call for evidence on emerging diseases and learnings from Covid-19, including the threat from plant pathogens.

The [RSB Plant Science Group](#) is currently comprised of 18 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. The group recently discussed the topic of plant science education in the UK curriculum.

The RSB has run a number of Plant Health related events in the past 12 months. These included talks on [Defra's research and development strategy](#), [managing diseases in Californian grapevines and tree crops](#), and an [online conference](#) covering a range of plant health topics, which had over 100 attendees. The RSB also 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 May 2023, the RSB

launched updated competences for the register, and a refreshed guidance document. These changes aimed to simplify the application process, expand the reach of the register, and bring it up to date with the 2023 GB strategy.

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. **ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, Australia (PEB)**
<http://www.plantenergy.uwa.edu.au>
4. **Australian National University (ANU)**
<http://www.anu.edu.au/>
5. **Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS)**
<http://www.asps.org.au>
6. **Argentine Society of Plant Physiology (SAFV)**
<http://www.fisiologiavegetal.org>
7. **Chilean Society of Plant Biologists (ChilSPB)**
<http://www.biologiavegetal.cl>
8. **Chinese Society of Plant Biology (ChSPB)**
<http://www.cspb.org.cn>
9. **Cluster of Excellence on Plant Science (CEPLAS)**
<https://www.ceplas.eu/en/home/>
10. **European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)**
<http://www.epsoweb.org>
11. **The Heat and Drought Wheat Improvement Consortium (HeDWIC)**
<https://www.hedwic.org>
12. **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**
<http://irri.org/>
13. **Indian Society for Plant Physiology (ISPP)**
<http://www.ispponline.org>
14. **Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP)**
<http://www.jspp.org>
15. **King Abdullah University of Science and Technology**
<https://kaust.edu.sa/>
16. **Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University**
<https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec>
17. **Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee**

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

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