

St. Pölten, August 2017

Call for papers

68th Plant Breeders Conference in Gumpenstein, Austria

November 20-22, 2017

Dear colleagues!

The Austrian Seed Association will organize the 68th Plant Breeders Conference in Raumberg-Gumpenstein, Austria, in November 20–22, 2017.

Topics:

1. Hybrid breeding & Seed legislation
2. Free topics

1. Hybrid breeding & Seed legislation

Significant progress in the breeding of open pollinated crops has been made in the last hundred years by hybrid breeding. But also in partially open-pollinated and self-pollinated crops, hybrid varieties entered the market in recent decades with different success. In some vegetable crops hybrid varieties are nowadays predominant, whereas in e.g. barley and wheat they are still of only minor importance. New investments in research and the availability of new molecular techniques may bring forward the development of better performing hybrid varieties in inbreeding crops in the medium term. Presentations on the history, success and/or failure, problems, challenges, etc. of hybrid breeding in various crops are welcomed.

The new efforts in hybrid breeding of self-pollinating crops are critically seen by many people and they presume that this development should only avoid the use of farm saved seed, reduce competition and boost profits. Seed regulations and plant variety rights legislation are there to ensure seed health and to promote future investment by plant breeders for the development of varieties. Compliance with these regulations as well as possible restrictions for the treatment of farm saved seed are essential, however, faces resistance by diverse opponents. We kindly invite you to submit presentations on all kinds of aspects concerning farm saved seed, new developments in European seed legislation and/or new ideas for a sustainable funding of plant breeders' work.

2. Free topics

Traditionally the Gumpenstein Meeting also welcomes lectures deviant from the conference's prime topics if the papers present new and interesting findings for the breeding community.

We invite you to submit your oral or poster contribution using the submission form

until **25th September 2017**

Alternatively you can submit your contribution online at:

www.saatgut-austria.at (follow the frame "Jahrestagung")

The official conference language is English. Usually oral presentations are limited to 15 – 25 minutes. Keynote lectures can be longer.

You will be informed by the organizers immediately after the deadline for submission of contributions, whether your contribution is accepted as oral presentation or as poster. We kindly request your understanding if your presentation will be accepted as poster because of time constraints.

For posters we recommend the size DIN-A0.

The conference proceedings will be available in spring 2018. Therefore it is necessary that **we receive your manuscript at the latest end of December 2017 in electronic form** (e-mail). Instructions for authors will be distributed after registration by the editor of the proceedings.

The conference fee is € 110.- for participants; € 90.- for members of *Saatgut-Austria*; and € 70.- for students (with a valid certificate only). The fee covers participation in the conference, coffee breaks, all documents (including proceedings) and the buffet at the conference dinner (drinks are at your own expense). For speakers we waive the conference fee.

For participants travelling by train, a shuttle service from the station to the accommodation will be provided at your own cost.

Final registration for participation is possible with a separate registration form or online at www.saatgut-austria.at .

For the
Austrian Seed Association

Heinrich Grausgruber

Anton Brandstetter