



CommNet

COMMUNICATING THE BIOECONOMY

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Editorial

Plant-based research for agricultural crops

Bioeconomy is about delivering innovation that affects our lives. Among its many aspects, agriculture has a key role to play in improving crops used to produce our daily food.

Thus, addressing fundamental questions about the biological mechanisms of plants is key. As featured [in a recent interview about the TiMeT project](#), **knowledge about key plant traits allows improvements in plant breeding via precision genetic engineering and crop management**. Ultimately, this will allow improving yields, colours, fragrances and disease resistance of agricultural crops.

Meanwhile **GMSAFOOD** – a recently completed research project related to the production of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) - **looks into [identifying their potential health effects once they have reached the market](#)**. This project, which originally aimed at identifying possible biomarkers for indicating adverse health effects of GM food, has failed to identify such biomarkers. Most experts believe key testing should be done before the GMO reach the market.

On the same topic of plant research for use in agriculture, the **ABSTRESS** project aims at **[developing plants that are resilient to extreme climate conditions](#)**. In particular, this project focuses on legumes and a key group of crops such as peas that take nitrogen from the atmosphere and add it to the soil, reducing the need for nitrogenous fertilisers.

A new feature on the CommNet website now offers the possibility to **submit events and press releases that will be visible to the whole project community**. A great opportunity for all members to raise the profile of each project and spread the word about it.

Access the Media section in the [Members' Area](#) and submit your events and press releases!

Join our community

You can now follow CommNet on social networks! Stay tuned with the latest news from the Bioeconomy on Twitter and join the conversation in our LinkedIn Group.

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Projects' life



Peter Freeman: Plants tell time

Plants tell time. And understanding the workings of their internal clocks can help us improve what we get from our crops.



No biomarkers identified to assess potential health effects of GMOs

Identifying biomarkers in GM food or feed susceptible of identifying their potential adverse health effects, once they have reached the market, has proven a big challenge.



Tougher climate-resistant crops

When legumes improved thanks to genetic analysis act as a test bench for more resilient plants, susceptible of ultimately reducing EU dependence on food and feed imports.

Next CommNet events...

Date	Free training	
10/07 11:30 UK 12:30 CET	Writing press releases for research communications Fifth webinar	Know more
30/09 - 1/10 Brussels, BE	2nd Bioeconomy Forum - Science, Industry and Communication	Know more
1/10 - 3/10 Brussels, BE	Effective & Entrepreneurial Communications for Research Projects across the Bioeconomy - Free Training from CommNet	Know more

... and other events

Date	Events	
13 -14/09 Granada, ES	NutriMENTHE final conference The NUTRIMENTHE final international conference will showcase the results of the project providing delegates with a wealth of new information and key messages on how the diet of pregnant women and children can influence mental performance in childhood.	Know more
13/09 Granada, ES	Young Scientists' Forum Competition. The aim of the Forum is to give young scientists the opportunity to showcase their work to their peers and an internationally renowned audience of researchers.	Know more
30/09 - 2/10 Brussels, BE	EFIB 2013 European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology.	Know more

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