



## Networks in Plant Biology - 1<sup>st</sup> EPSO Conference

Seehotel Waldstätterhof, Brunnen, Switzerland

27. - 31. Oct. 2002

<http://www.epsoweb.org/catalog/conf2002.htm>



### Editorial

**EPSO Conference**, the European Plant Sciences Forum, has a vital role to play in contributing to the development of Plant Sciences in Europe to ensure that they remain

- On the forefront of plant sciences worldwide
- Beneficial to humankind and our environment
- Valuable to Society at large
- Committed to ethics.

In order to achieve this ambition, the **European Plant Science Organisation, EPSO**, has established itself as a platform for dialogue for all that have an interest in Plant Sciences. This includes members of academia and industry, as well as consumer representatives and Society at large.

EPSO aims to

- Increase impact and visibility of the European plant science community
- Articulate the vision of the European plant science community for the future and advise on decisions of funding agencies at the European and national level on long term strategies to support plant science
- Communicate with academia, industry and the general public to ensure independent dissemination of plant science information
- Contribute to the development of agriculture, horticulture, forestry and ecology.

Members of EPSO are academic organisations, such as institutes and universities. They interact with the EPSO observers from industry and consumer organisations. EPSO has links to specialized organisations in the area of plant and life sciences in Europe, and plant science organisations worldwide.

We are delighted to welcome you to **the 1<sup>st</sup> EPSO Conference**, to actively take part in the debates that will have a significant impact on the most crucial aspects of plant science and its contribution to our society.

This conference brings together world leading plant scientists from 36 countries to discuss cutting edge science and organize networks in four thematic areas:

- System Approaches to Plant Biology
- Basic Biological Processes
- Plants as key to food quality and health improvement
- Plants as source for sustainable development.

They will develop a recommendation paper on future directions and means of plant research in Europe and beyond which will be communicated to politicians and funding agencies at national and European level.

Representatives from academia, industry, consumers and politics discuss socially relevant topics, such as

- How to improve the acceptance of biotechnology
- How to improve the collaborations between academia and industry.

We wish you an enjoyable conference in the inspiring surroundings of the Lake Luzern and would like to thank our Swiss colleagues for their enthusiasm in preparing this conference.

**Karin Metzloff**  
European Plant Science Organisation, Gent

**Thomas Hohn**  
Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel