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## Current Challenges in Plant Breeding: Breeding for Diversification

8<sup>th</sup> annual seminar of the SGPW-SSA Working Group on Plant Breeding

Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 09:15 - 17:00  
ETH Zurich, LEE E101, Leonhardstrasse 21, 8092 Zurich

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On behalf of the SGPW-SSA Working Group on Plant Breeding, we kindly invite you to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> annual working group seminar, this year with the topic „Breeding for Diversification“.

Diversification is a fundamental concept in many aspects of our life and essential in agriculture and plant breeding for maintaining and enhancing resilience and sustainability of agroecosystems. This seminar aims to elucidate how plant breeding can contribute to diversification of agricultural systems across different levels. This may include the promotion of orphan and neglected crop species to increase agrobiodiversity at the system level, the integration of species mixtures at the field level, the development of cultivar mixtures at the crop level and fostering beneficial plant-microbe interactions at the plant level.

This seminar is part of the ETH Zurich lecture „Current Challenges in Plant Breeding“, where we aim to bring together MSc and doctoral students with national and international experts in plant breeding to discuss current activities, latest achievements and future perspectives. Therefore, the students will give their views and insights on how breeding strategies aimed at diversification can spearhead agricultural sustainability, resilience, and productivity.

In addition, we have assembled a selection of very interesting keynote presentations by eminent speakers such as Prof. Karl Schmid (University of Hohenheim, Germany), Dr. Monika Messmer (FiBL, Switzerland), Dr. Samuel Wüst (Agroscope, Switzerland) and Dr. Peng Yu (University of Bonn, Germany).

Please register before 10.01.2024 under <https://sgpw-ssa.ch/de/events/ccpb>.

We are looking forward to an interesting seminar.

Best regards,

Bruno Studer

## Program

	(titles tentative)
09:15 - 09:30	<b>Arrival and registration</b>
09:30 - 09:40	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> Bruno Studer, ETH Zurich
09:40 - 10:00	<b>Breeding for diversification - the system level</b> Manuel Cavigelli, Elias Nehring, Jonata Ribeiro, Camille Sammali (tutors: Fabian Hess & Flavian Tschurr)
10:00 - 10:45	<b>Breeding for orphan/neglected crops to increase agrobiodiversity</b> Karl Schmid, University of Hohenheim, Germany
10:45 - 11:05	<b>Breeding for diversification - the field level</b> Rouven Herrmann, Linn Huser, Joschuha Sahl, Felix Wiener, Flurina Zahn (tutors: Michelle Nay & Jenny Kiesbauer )
11:05 - 11:35	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:35 - 12:20	<b>Breeding with/for species mixtures</b> Monika Messmer, FiBL, Switzerland
12:20 - 12:40	<b>Breeding for diversification - the crop level</b> Leonard Barahona, Nicole Härter, Karia Kögler, Dominik Moser (tutor: Samuel Wüst)
12:40 - 14:10	<b>Lunch in the ETH Mensa</b>
14:10 - 14:55	<b>Breeding for variety/cultivar mixtures and heterogeneous material</b> Samuel Wüst, Agroscope, Switzerland
14:55 - 15:15	<b>Breeding for diversification - the plant level</b> Alesia Boiko, Elina Jansone, Alexander Pettersson, Naifang Tian, Deborah Wyss (tutors: Daniel Ariza & Tania Galindo)
15:15 - 16:00	<b>Genetic basis and environmental regulation of root development and its associated microbiome in maize</b> Peng Yu, University of Bonn, Germany
16:00 -	<b>Conclusion of the seminar, reception</b>

## Registration

Please register before 10.01.2024 under <https://sgpw-ssa.ch/de/events/ccpb>. Registration fee: 50.00 CHF (including coffee break, lunch voucher and reception), to be paid by invoice after the symposium.

Kindly supported by

