



ABIC 2004

12-15 September, Cologne, Germany

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Infos on the Cologne Fair
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Ohio State University, Columbus, OH USA, 07/07/04

The Role of Ecologists in developing transgenic Crops

For over a decade, academic ecologists have studied ecological risks and benefits of transgenic crops. Too often, though, their findings are overlooked amidst rancorous and politically-charged debates. It's unfortunate that dispassionate, scientific studies are ignored, while exaggerated claims about the dangers of genetically modified crops dominate the news and the internet.

To make matters worse, there is little international agreement about how biosafety concerns should be evaluated. Real biosafety issues are not mere inventions of the industry's foes - they revolve around key scientific questions that need to be addressed by qualified experts.



Dr. Allison Snow | Professor, Dept. EEO Biology, Ohio State University

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Gent, Belgium , 07/07/04

European Start-up Companies continue to play a Key Role...



Karl-Peter Schlichting, Ph.D.
CEO of CropDesign NV, Gent, Belgium

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CEO of CropDesign NV, Gent, Belgium

Dr. Karl-Peter Schlichting holds a Ph.D. in plant production from the University of Kiel in Germany. He has spent more than 21 years of his career with Hoechst AG, Hoechst Schering AgrEvo GmbH and Aventis Crop-Science. During this time he held management positions in Sales, Marketing and General Management accountable for Crop Protection, Environmental Health and Seed/AgBiotech. Before he joined CropDesign he was Head of Region Asia Pacific and Country Head for Japan for AgrEvo, followed by the role as Regional Head for Aventis CropScience after formation of the JV of Hoechst AG and Rhone Poulenc SA.

Europe has played a major role in laying the ground for the Ag-Biotechnology industry. The development of Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of genes to agricultural crops in the early 1980s at the University of Gent, the Max-Planck-Planck Institute in Cologne and the University of Leiden by Drs. Van Montagu, Schell and Schilperoort was a pre-requisite to the global breakthrough of agricultural biotechnology. The creation of the first-generation AgBiotech companies followed suit with the founding of pioneers like Plant Genetic Systems in Belgium and Mogen in The Netherlands. Today transgenic crops containing input traits have been rapidly adopted in a...

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Dr. Allison Snow_▶▶▶

Dr. Allison Snow
Professor, Dept. of Evolution,
Ecology, and Organismal Biology

Dr. Snow, who will give a talk on ABIC 2004 on the "Environmental Assessment of Risks and Benefits of Regulated Expression" is the lead author of a position paper of the Ecological Society of America, titled "Genetically Engineered Organisms and the Environment: Current Status and Recommendation", which is to be published in the journal of Ecological Applications. She is also the president of the Botanical Society of America and Secretary/Treasurer of the International Society for Biosafety Research, which publishes the journal "Environmental Biosafety Research".

Recently, she has coauthored a report by the National Research Council (2004), U.S. National Academy of Sciences, titled "Biological Confinement of Genetically Engineered Organisms".

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The ABIC Foundation - www.abic.ca

CropDesign N.V., Company Profile

CropDesign is an AgBiotech company delivering traits for the global commercial seed markets. The company's trait discovery and development program focuses on corn with increased yield and heightened tolerance to abiotic stresses. This trait discovery program is powered by the TraitMill applied genomics platform, a unique high-throughput platform that allows testing of a high number of gene constructs. TraitMill includes proprietary bioinformatics tools, high throughput gene engineering systems, efficient methods for plant transformation, and a unique set of automated evaluation systems for crop performance. CropDesign was founded in 1998 as a spin-off from the Flanders Interuniversity Institute for Biotechnology (VIB), and employs over 70 people at its facilities in Gent.

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So far, ecological research has focused more on the potential risks of transgenic crops than on how these crops could benefit the environment. Fortunately, few problems have been identified with currently used products (e.g., in maize, soybean, cotton, canola, papaya). In Canada, for example, transgenic herbicide resistance has spread to weedy volunteer canola, and to a weedy relative, Brassica rapa. But another possible problem - that insect pests could quickly evolve resistance to Bt crops - has not been detected despite several years of exposure in Bt cotton. Also, ecological studies showed that pollen from Bt maize is not likely to harm local butterfly populations in the USA.

In the United Kingdom, short-term, farm-scale experiments with herbicide-tolerant crops demonstrated negative effects on certain butterflies, bees, and beetles, but these studies are just a first step toward understanding longer-term community effects. Also, the potential problems that were identi-

fied in these experiments are not unique to transgenic crops. Agriculture often displaces local biodiversity, but there is no a priori reason to assume that transgenic crops will exacerbate these problems. In some cases, just the opposite is expected.

These examples illustrate the constructive role that academic ecologists can play in evaluating questions that are beyond the scientific domain of crop breeders and molecular biologists. In the future, the need for ecological studies will be even greater when transgenic grasses, trees, algae, bacteria, viruses, insects, and fish are proposed for deregulation.

Much less is known about how to breed these types of organisms, and how to limit their ability to reproduce in nature. As applications of biotechnology expand, it will become increasingly important for ecologists to help with the development of GMOs that offer neutral or beneficial effects on the environment.

▶ WEB LINKS

- ▶ Position paper of the Ecological Society of America: www.esa.org/pao/esaPositions/Papers/geo_position.htm
- ▶ Botanical Society of America: www.botany.org
- ▶ International Society for Biosafety Research: www.isbr.info
- ▶ Report "Biological Confinement of Genetically Engineered Organisms": www.nap.edu/books/0309090857/html



Photo: Bee on rape flower

Karl-Peter Schlichting, Ph.D._▶▶▶

...in driving Innovation in AgBiotechnology

...number of important agricultural markets. To date, GMO crops have been grown on more than 68 million hectares with an estimated market value of \$ 5 billion.

AgBiotechnology will definitely continue to contribute to the growing need for healthier, higher quality food tailored to specific dietary requirements. Agricultural production will become more environmentally friendly and the development of novel biomaterials and renewable resources will be further boosted. The progress in breeding will be facilitated allowing more produce to be obtained using less land. As a synopsis, these developments will be imperative in improving the sustainability of plant production with a clear benefit for all stakeholders involved and, last but not least, for the consumer enjoying healthier and more affordable food.

Currently, the world budget spent on (private) Ag-Biotechnology R&D is estimated at around \$ 900 million per year; 85% of this amount is financed by the global Plant Production Companies, while the remaining 15% is contributed by more than 20 small

start-up companies. As proven through recent history, these small entrepreneurial companies with unique scientific expertise and a specific focus on innovative technology will continue to play a driving role in AgBiotechnology. Partnering up with the leading Crop Production Industries provides value creation opportunities for their technology through integration into the global product development and marketing platform of established large players.

The creation of a stimulating and encouraging economic environment within Europe will be of paramount importance to the growth and establishment of new innovative ventures. However, this can only succeed if the Crop Production Industry as a whole remains committed to AgBiotechnology in Europe. However, as recently quoted by Mr. Busquin, European Commissioner for Research, political and institutional opposition to GMOs in Europe has stalled the European investments in plant genomics and biotechnology.

To ensure global competitiveness, policy makers in the EU need to ensure that the current regulatory environment, judged irrational in some aspects and over-regulated, will rely more on a balanced scientific assessment of demonstrable benefits versus potential risks. The attitude of total risk avoidance has led to the strange situation that the vast majority of publicly funded...

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...research programs are related to risk assessment on GMOs, rather than fostering the benefits of green biotech as embraced in the world outside Europe. One example, China, has devoted in a five year programme \$ 1.2 billion to AgBiotech research, of which 10% has been allocated to the development of GM rice. The hostile environment for AgBiotechnology in Europe has consequently led to a constant migration of scientific and industrial resources to the Americas and to Asia.

The other important factor in driving innovation and commitment of resources is the protection of intel-

lectual property. In this regard, the recent rejection of the Greenpeace appeal by the European Patent Office against a granted patent from Bayer Crop-Science on a modified glufosinate tolerance gene and its expression in plants is an important step forward for AgBiotechnology.

If all stakeholders would share the understanding on the essential requirements and benefits flowing from plant biotechnology, it would not be too late for Europe to regain a leading role in driving innovation in green biotechnology.

Karl-Peter Schlichting, Ph.D.

> TOUR 1

A City tour by coach with cathedral visit

The Cologne cathedral with its two spires 157 m in height has been the city's most famous landmark for centuries and the most well-known architectural monument in Germany.

It took 632 years until construction of the largest German cathedral was completed. After the laying of the foundations in the year 1248 and making rapid progress initially, construction work gradually came to a standstill. It was only with 19th century romantic enthusiasm for the Middle Ages and the commitment of the Prussian Court that construction work resumed in 1842. In 1880, completion of the cathedral was celebrated as a national event.

The relics of the Holy Epiphany found their last resting place in the cathedral. The Sarcophagus of Epiphany (dating from the 13th century) surpasses all comparable golden sarcophagi in Western Christendom, in terms of scale and magnificence. Other outstanding works of art are to be found in the cathedral treasure chamber.

> TOUR 2

»Kölsch-Tour«: the beer, the idioms, the way of life

The legendary "kölsch" way of life, of course, involves more than just the beer. In a city, however, where in the Middle Ages, monasteries and convents stood and prosperous citizens lived, the daily consumption of "Kölsch" was understandably high. There is something special about the "top-fermented" brew in the cathedral city. You will find out why the waiter is known as "Köbes", why he is dressed in blue, how the "Kölscher Foderkaat" (menu) got some of its specialities and where beer is still brewed in the old town. What it really means to have a glass of "frisch Gezapftes" is something you had better try for yourself.

Therefore, we drop in - on request during - but in any case, after the tour, on one of the brewery taverns so beloved by the people of Cologne. You will see, after a couple of glasses of Kölsch, you will already feel like one of the locals.

> TOUR 3

Rhine-tour with bus & ship

Making a boat trip on the Rhine is one of the duties for every Cologne-visitor, especially when the weather is high. Three shipping companies always offer several trips of various durations. Being on board you'll have a beautiful panorama view on Cologne's nice old town.

Visiting Cologne - AgBiotech goes Kölsch!

ABIC 2004 does not only open an opportunity to meet the most important representatives of science, business and politics of AgBiotechnology but also to see life in one of the most charming cities of Germany - Cologne!

On occasion of ABIC 2004, several tours have been organized that will bring this cosmopolitan metropolis boasting more than a million inhabitants, which, despite its size, has never lost its neighborly character, nearer to you.

More Infos and pricing information about the tour program can be found on the ABIC 2004 website:
www.abic2004.org



More interesting tours
are being planned
- be surprised...

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CALL FOR POSTERS

Best three posters will win one delegate ticket.

You are invited to take part in the ABIC 2004 Poster Session competition. The contest is open to all non-commercial institutions. The subject of the work presented should be in relation to the topics of the program (see below).

The best 3 posters selected by an independent committee will be awarded with a free ABIC 2004 delegate ticket.

For participation, registration as a delegate is required. For more details please contact the **Phytowelt GmbH Conference Office ABIC 2004** or mail to:

posters@abic2004.org

PROGRAM UPDATE

The full program can be downloaded as a PDF-file from this location:

www.abic2004.org/download/ABIC2004_program.pdf

Trade Fair Conditions and Rates

Complementary with the conference, the business of AgBiotechnology will have the unique chance to present products and services. The Trade Fair will take place in the localities of the Cologne Fair. Main Sponsors will present in the especially well located exhibition area at the Auenplatz, which is the central place of the Congress Center West. Due to its immediate vicinity to the Netherlands, Belgium and France and being less than one flight hour from Great Britain, the Cologne Fair is the place of choice to get in contact with European customers and partners.

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North Rhine-Westphalia, Ministry of Economy and Labor | www.mwa.nrw.de

BOOTH RATES

In HALL 3 50 pre-equipped booths of 9 m² will be available. The price per square meter is **Euro 290,-** (=250,- + 16% V.A.T.). In addition, raw space is available with minimum size of 15 m²; the price for the raw space will be **Euro 220,40** (=190,- + 16% V.A.T.) per square meter.

9 m² booth (pre-equipped):

Regular: **Euro 2610,-** (=2250,- + 16% V.A.T.)

Premium: **Euro 4350,-** (=3750,- + 16% V.A.T.)

15 m² booth (raw space): **Euro 3306,-** (=2850,- + 16% V.A.T.)

The full exhibitors manual will be sent to you on request.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION RATES

Prices include Breakfast, Lunch and Beverages

Regular Rate: **Euro 870,-** (=750,- + 16% V.A.T.)

Academic Rate*: **Euro 217,50** (=187,50 + 16% V.A.T.)

Student Rate*: **Euro 145,-** (=125,- + 16% V.A.T.)

One Day Delegate Rate: **Euro 290,-** (=250,- + 16% V.A.T.)

Exhibitor Delegate Rate: **Euro 290,-** (=250,- + 16% V.A.T.)

Group Discounts:
3-5 Delegates: - 10%
6 or more Delegates: - 15%

* Academic and Student Delegates: You must provide verification of academic or student status to qualify for the Academic or Student rate.

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Special Partnering Event

One session of the Conference program will be fully dedicated to the subject of Business Partnering (see program below). Approximately 20 companies will be given time and technology to appropriately present themselves as part of the **Premium Partnering Package**. Throughout ABIC 2004 a special area in the trade fair hall will provide optimized partnering procedures for registered partnering event participants. In addition a special section of the ABIC 2004 website www.abic2004.org will be reserved for the partnering event. This service will be made available in due time.

PARTNERING RATES

Regular Partnering: **Euro 406,-** (=350,- + 16% V.A.T.)

(one to one meetings plus Web Partnering)

Premium Partnering: **Euro 870,-** (=750,- + 16% V.A.T.)

(Business Presentation at Forum plus Regular Partnering)

Prices are added to Delegate Rates.

Partnering possible throughout ABIC 2004 to allow participants to arrange meetings at convenience.

Session (Day)	The Business of Biotechnology	Advances in Plant Improvement	New Opportunities through Biotechnology
01	The Role and Importance of Ethics for Agricultural Biotechnology in Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Round Table Discussion 	Controlling Expression in Transgenes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulating Expression of Transgenes in Plants Expression of Genes in specific Tissues Environmental Assessment of Risks and Benefits of Regulated Expression 	Plants as green factories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies for producing PMPs* in Plants (Molecular Farming) Improvement of Fiber Crops by Genetic Engineering Engineering New Biosynthetic Pathways * Plant-made pharmaceuticals
02	Co-existence of Transgenic and Non-Transgenic Crops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gene Flow and Co-Existence Scientific Basis of Co-Existence Ecological Impact of GMOs 	Synergies between Breeding and Biotechnology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genomics/Allele Mining Advanced Mapping Tools Use of Model Genomes 	Biotechnology and Food Security for the Resource-Poor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of the Need for new Solutions: Africa Case Study of a real Biotech Solution: Mexico Biotechnology for Food Security in Developing Countries in the Context of Global Warming and Prospects for Organic Agriculture
03	Business Forum: Consumer Benefits and Industrial Perspectives of AgBiotechnology / Industry Presentations		
04	The Business of Biotechnology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investments in Biotech in Japan Dos and Dents for Biotech Start-ups Todays and Future Markets in Plant Biotech 	Improvements in Non-Food Crops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biotechnological Applications in Forestry Oil Palm Breeding and competitive Approaches Biotechnology and Ornamental Plants 	Nutraceuticals as Links between Food and Health: Using Biotechnology to Improve Our Food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polyunsaturated Fatty acids "Golden Rice" Classical Breeding / Food Processing / Fortification

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