



European Technology Platform “Plants for the Future”

**ABIC 2008
Cork**

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www.euroseeds.org**

ETP “Plants for the Future”

History (I)



European Council spring 2003:

„...create European technology platforms ... to strengthen the European Research and Innovation Area ... in areas such as nanotechnology and plant genomics“

- **bring together stakeholders**
 - Industry
 - R&D institutions
 - funding bodies
 - regulatory authorities
- **define common research agenda**



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History (II)



2004: “2025 – a European vision for plant genomics and biotechnology” (political)



2005: DRAFT Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)

2005/6: consultation process with >1000 participants incl. EP and COM



2007: FINAL Strategic Research Agenda presented at special event at EP, Brussels defining 5 challenges for society to which this ETP can contribute:



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Contribution to society - the 5 challenges



5 challenges for society to which the Plant ETP can contribute:

1. Healthy, safe and sufficient food and feed
2. Plant based products: chemicals and bioenergy
3. Sustainable agriculture, forestry and landscape
4. Vibrant and competitive research
5. Competitiveness, consumer choice and governance



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Contribution to society – the 5 challenges (II)



Healthy, safe and sufficient food and feed

Sufficient, diversified, affordable high-quality plant raw materials for food

Safe plant raw materials for feed and food

Tailor plant raw materials for certain health benefits and specific consumer groups

High-quality, sufficient, affordable and sustainable feed



Plant based products: chemicals and bioenergy

Biochemical production (materials and pharmaceuticals)

Bio-energy production (sustainable systems)

Enabling research for plant-based products



Sustainable agriculture, forestry and landscape

Improving plants productivity and quality

Reduce and optimize the environmental impact of agriculture

Enhance biodiversity

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Contribution to society – the 5 challenges (II)



Vibrant and competitive basic research

Genome sequences of European crops and major pathogens

Detailing the parts list of genomes

From gene to phenotype

Systems biology and prediction of novel traits

Human Resources, infrastructure and networking



Consumer choice and governance

Public and consumer involvement

Ethics and food security

Legal and financial environment



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SRA implementation phase – the concept

Concept

- **Strategic:** be multidisciplinary, reach critical mass
- **Focus:** set goals regarding **science topics, policy topics, countries**
- **Create a membership based and industry-led ETP:**
European associations of SMEs, academia, farmers
Individual companies





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The concept: strategic, multidisciplinary, critical mass

Concept: strategic, be multidisciplinary, reach critical mass

Work with multinational programmes ...

Plant-KBBE: private-public partnerships (DE, FR, ES)

ERA-PG: public partnerships (AU, BE, FI, DE, IL, NL, PT, UK)

... and with national programmes

MS consultations discussing SRA proposal in 2005/06

- Some MSs **use information from the SRA**
- Some MSs are **establishing NTPs** or similar bodies
e.g.: Italian National Technology Platform “Plants for the Future”

Local efforts incl. Structural funds

First examples in preparation

Provide information to encourage



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The concept: strategic, multidisciplinary, critical mass (II)

- Cooperation with KBBE ETPs (I)

Past:

- Informal collaboration
- Meetings (ad-hoc / one off)
- EP event May 2006

6 ETPs, coordinated by Plant TP

Debate on:

"FP7 budget approval

The future of the Knowledge Based Bio Economy threatened"





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The concept: strategic, multidisciplinary, critical mass (III)

- Cooperation with KBBE ETPs (II)

Future:

- Scientific workshops

- Proposal of 9 Bio ETPs for 2009-2010:
Closer, more coordinated collaboration



White paper: recommendations for better interaction between KBBE ETP stakeholders along product chains and sustainability (multidisciplinary research, application and policy issues)

Interact with policy bodies: Discussions between EU and national, public and private research initiatives to foster implementation of the SRAs based on recommendations developed between ETPs



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The concept: membership based, industry led (I)

Create and sustainably finance a membership based ETP:

European associations and individual companies from

- industry
- academia
- farmers





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The concept: membership based, industry led (II)

Manage a membership based ETP

➤ Structure and statutes

- Assure commonly agreed policies and priorities
- Efficient and effective working methods and structures
- Executive Committee composed of the three groups with a (certain) constitutional need for consensus

➤ Coordinator and Secretariat

- Assure practical management
- Give a face to the ETP towards third parties
- Starting date: 15.09.2008
- Based at ESA European Seed Association office, Brussels



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SRA implementation phase: the ETP’s next steps

- **Framework Programmes**

FP7 **implement! ERC, People, to come: RIs**

FP8 **assure prominent place and funds, find advocates**

- **Lead markets**

Biobased products

SusChem + Forest + Plant ETPs

- **Joint programming**

New initiative by Commissioner Potocnik

High interest from Plant ETP



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What are we really doing?

Establishing a long term strategic lobbying framework to promote and enact political and financial support of plant science R&D

Bringing ag-biotech and plants back to the EU’S policy agenda as solutions, not problems

Raise awareness of the importance and needs of the agri-food sector and its input industries

- **Coalition and institution building**
- **Communication, education and outreach**
- **Effective, efficient and continuous policy formulation and lobbying**

When, if not now?



For further information, please contact:

