

# **COST IPLANTA CA15223**

## **CORE GROUP MEETING**

**ENEA - headquarter**

**18/10/2018 - Bruxelles, BE**

### **MINUTE**

The meeting started at 8.45 with the following participants: Bruno Mezzetti, Jeremy Sweet, Huw Jones, Guy Smagghe, Salvatore Arpaia, Vera Ventura, Antje Dietz-Pfeilstetter, Tizi Clauvis Taning, Oliver Christiaens, Michel Ravelonandro, and agenda:

1. Follow up on the WG4 meeting at COPA-COGECA and EUP
2. Planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> iPlanta Conference, Lisbon (PT), February 27- March 01, 2019.
3. Other activities for GP3
4. Draft planning of GP4
5. Timetable scientific communication

#### **1. *Follow up on the WG4 meeting at COPA-COGECA and EUP***

All participants expressed their appreciation of the WG4 events organized at COPA – COGECA and EU Parliament. Both events had a large participation of stakeholders from industries, grower associations, cooperatives, private research institutions (in total about 30 representatives). The meeting at COPA-Cogeca offered the possibility to exchange knowledge now available on RNAi technology, application, biosafety and socio-economic impact. All stakeholders attending the meeting showed a high interest in the work done and on how it was presented. Most of the outputs raised from the morning discussion were taken to the afternoon meeting at the EUP. This meeting was attended by 2 MEPS and a representative from the office of a MEP that have followed with high interest the presentations of the COST program and the iPLANTA network. In the discussion, the main input received was to continue the work with the aim to develop scientific knowledge and information to be used for communicating the '*real benefits*' of the technology. More details on the event will be described in the minute of WG4 meeting.

Before ending this discussion, Bruno Mezzetti expressed his disappointment on the pressures addressed to the Chair of the Action of WG4 during the organization of WG4 meeting from a representative of a company supported by the WG5 chairs. He expressed his full disagreement on this behaviour and his will to exclude from the network those who behave the same way in the future. All participants agreed that such types of interference in the iPlanta plan of activities cannot be accepted.

#### **2. *Planning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> iPlanta Conference, Lisbon (PT), February 27- March 01, 2019.***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> iPlanta Conference and MC meeting, planned in Lisbon (PT), is the last major event to be organized for GP3. After a discussion all participants agreed to have the following organization of the event:

- 1) Three full days of plenary conference, including max a 3 hours slot for the MC meeting and if needed parallel small group meetings organized by the WGs.
- 2) The scientific program of the conference on RNAi technology (WG1, 2 and 3) has to be focused on the main aspects of RNAi products and include novelties in RNAi stability of both SIGS and HIGS. About SIGS, the main aspects related to the development of new RNAi based products should be included: dsRNA design for specificity, testing activity, , mobility, persistence, biosafety (food and environment), regulation. An invited speaker from Brazil will be included in the program. About HIGS, priority will be given to novelties on in-planta studies, efficiency and biosafety. An invited speaker from USDA –will be included in the program for presenting results on food safety studies of RNAi products.
- 3) A session will be dedicated to socio-economic impacts (WG4) by inviting new stakeholders, thanks also to the help of local organizers, and to present results from a survey started by WG4 Chair. An invited speaker from USA can be expected.
- 4) The WG5 session will include a presentation from Mark Lynas (Huw and Matina will verify his willingness to participate) and a discussion on the state of preparation of scientific materials (videos, position papers, reviews, book) to be used for a science-based communication program.
- 5) A call for abstracts will be open before the end of October with a first deadline for abstract submission of December 15<sup>th</sup>. All abstracts fitting with topics described above will be considered for oral presentations or for posters.
- 6) In the program about 3 hours will be dedicated to the Management Committee meeting (Thursday or better Friday afternoon) mostly focused on the discussion and approval of GP4 program. WG and STSM Chairs must be ready to present reports of GP3 activities and their plan of WG activities for GP4.

### **3. Other activities for GP3**

The proposal to have a WG3 SGM joint to ISBR Symposium programmed in Tarragona (SP) next April 1-4, 2019, was discussed. All agreed on the importance to organise an iPlanta session during the conference. WG3Ls together with Jeremy have to prepare a request of SGM, indicating the topic and the type of integration that will occur with the congress organization. iPlanta can cover costs for the participation of 4-5 experts, who must be aware that their reimbursement will depend to the immediate submission of the claims so to facilitate the administration to process the payments before the end of GP3 budget (April 30).

No other meetings will be organized on GP3 budget.

### **4. Draft planning of GP4**

WGLs have to prepare a program of activities for the next GP4, all events have to be planned with specific priorities strictly in line with tasks and deliverables of the WG (Deadline first week of February – plan to be presented at the MC meeting). The following preliminary program of events has been discussed:

- WG1 – Antalya – Athens?? Identify the most appropriate meeting place and program with priorities related to WG1 tasks and deliverables (decide a date in May-June-July 2019). The

meeting must be addressed to properly manage tasks and deliverables of WG1 and preparation of scientific papers.

- WG2 – (Germany – Antje will check and confirm) WG2 meeting can be combined with 3<sup>rd</sup> iPlanta School, organized with the same scheme of Rothamsted event. The school will have higher focus on RNAi topical application, with more time dedicated to practical activity (product preparation, spraying-injection, show the effects). The meeting must be addressed to properly manage tasks and deliverables of WG2 and preparation of scientific papers. September can be the most appropriate period.
- WG3 – A meeting will be planned in May-June with presentations on HIGS and SIGS biosafety. The meeting must be addressed to properly manage tasks and deliverables of WG3 and preparation of scientific papers (Location to be decided: Hungary, UK, .....).
- WG4 – A meeting will be organized jointly with the Crop Innovation and Regulation (CIR) Conference, planned in Barcelona (SP) next September 9-11, 2019. WG4 will contribute to the conference with the organization of one-two sessions. Experts will be identified together with CIR organizers. The aim of the meeting will be to discuss applications and rules of RNAi technology with industries and SMEs that will attend CIR conference and exposition. WG4 will also have a SGM to discuss and properly manage tasks and deliverables of WG4 and preparation of scientific papers.
- After the success of the last WG4 meeting, in October 2019 a meeting at COPA-COGECA and EU Parliament will be replicated in collaboration with WG5 and the involvement of a wider group of stakeholders and MEPs. The scientific communication documents prepared by WG1, 2 and 3 will be used for the communication activity (WG5). WG4 and 5 will identify the stakeholder networks and MEPs to be involved in this program.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Conference February 2020 – Place and local organizers to be identified at the next MC meeting. Aims and priorities of the conferences will be identified by a CG meeting organized after the next COPA-Cogeca/EUP meeting.

## **6. *Timetable scientific communication***

To this meeting plan will be associated an intense activity dedicated to preparing scientific papers/reviews. In fact, the discussion during WG4 meeting indicated the importance to increase scientific credibility and visibility of the group and to show the benefits of the technology. From the group discussion three major products were identified to be achieved in a programmed time schedule:

- 1) Position document on RNAi technology – comparing HIGS and SIGS, what are their potentialities and major constraints, what information is needed. To be written by Guy, Bruno, Jeremy, Huw and Salvatore – we don't need other expertise. This work will be coordinated by Guy, if he has not time by me or Jeremy. To be published max next January 2019. A second document can be prepared after the outcomes of the meetings planned in 2019. This document will propose terminology to identify SIGS, for example: Species Specific Crop Protection-Products (SSCP) or Highly Selective Crop Protection-System (HSCPS).
- 2) Plan the preparation of different reviews, in this case experts will be identified to develop specific topics (eg. SIGS formulation, rules,...). To contact experts of the action that can write review on the technology and applications. A first group of at least 3-4 reviews have

to be ready for March 2019. All reviews can be published on a special issue of an open access journal (eg. Frontiers in plants), publication of costs will be covered by GP4 budget. Another group of papers/review can be prepared for end 2019-early 2020.

3) iPlanta Book to be published by July 2020. A precise work timetable:

- 1 January 2019: authors of chapters submit abstracts or outlines of their chapters describing the main features and topics to be submitted to WG leaders and editors (Lorenzo, Bruno, Jeremy)
- 1 September 2019: Drafts of chapters written and submitted to WG leaders and editors (Lorenzo, Bruno, Jeremy).
- 1 November 2019: Comments and reviews submitted to authors by WG leaders and editors
- 1 January 2020: Final versions of chapters submitted to editors
- 1 February 2020: Editors prepare draft of book
- 1 March 2020: Editors prepare final version
- July 2020 – Book Published

WG leaders and vice leaders have all been informed of their responsibilities in relation to the book and assigned writing tasks to chapter authors. The book will also require an Introduction both to the iPlanta COST action and to RNAi. The editors will draft texts and send to Scientific Officer and WG leaders for comments.

All communication activities of iPlanta will be based on this scientific material, in order to have an exclusive *science-based* communication program.