

Call for Abstracts

The WG3 of the COST action iPLANTA in cooperation with the scientific committee of the XI European Congress of Entomology organizes a workshop on “Biosafety issues associated with RNAi”. The meeting will last two days, the first of which will be reserved to a subgroup meeting between WG3 and WG5. The second day will be dedicated to scientific communications and a general discussion regarding future activities of the working Group 3.

The workshop will address important issues about biosafety assessment of RNAi technology:

- 1) *Food/feed safety and regulatory aspects of dsRNA*
- 2) *Use of RNA interference for insect control (Joint Session with European Congress of Entomology 2018)*

The workshop contributes to the following research objectives of the iPlanta Action:

- Disseminate available information on plant RNAi and on RNAi systems in pests and pathogens of crop plants;
- Analyse the biosafety implications of new RNAi plants regarding regulatory and risk assessment frameworks;
- Identify the specific biosafety data requirements for the risk assessment and risk management of GM RNAi plants and their products;
- Organize a network of scientists to achieve scientific understanding of RNAi mechanisms and interactions and develop approaches for the safe exploitation of RNAi for plant production and protection.

The workshop contributes to the following capacity building objectives of the iPlanta Action:

- Develop a common platform to evaluate the biosafety implications of this new technology in the EU, including technical and legal aspects of biosafety assessment.
- Promote collaboration among European interested parties and stakeholders, and with interested parties outside Europe.
- Encourage the development of new relevant research consortia and programmes within the EU.

The workshop in particular will contribute to achieving the deliverables and milestones of WG3 as outlined in the proposal, in particular discussing the data requirement for environmental risk assessment of RNAi in crop protection and highlighting current knowledge gaps related to biosafety.

The programme will include contributions by scientists attending the XI European Congress of Entomology as well as contributions by COST partners through this call.

Preliminary Programme

July 2 (afternoon): Discussion on communication messages by the iPlanta COST action and contribution from the working group

July 3 (morning): iPlanta COST Action scientific session “Biosafety of RNAi expressing genetically modified plants”. Contributions on the following themes will be particularly welcomed:

- Regulatory aspects of RNAi applications (biopesticides and genetically modified plants);
- Food/feed safety issues related to RNAi
- Knowledge gaps with relevance for risk assessment

July 3 (afternoon): Use of RNA interference for insect control (Joint Session with the XI European Congress of Entomology). Presentations will be selected by the scientific committee of ECE 2018

A number of scientists from Member States which joined the iPlanta COST Action can be supported for travelling and subsistence to attend the meeting. Preference will be given to scientists submitting abstracts for a presentation either at the ECE 2018 or to the iPlanta meeting in the morning session. The submission of an abstract for the Congress however, is linked to the registration.

Abstract submissions for the iPlanta meeting must be made electronically through the iPlanta web site (<http://iplanta.univpm.it/>). The abstract submission deadline is Wednesday, May 15th, 2018. In case of a high number of abstracts for the morning session, a specific poster session will be organized.

Upon agreement with the organizers of ECE2018, scientists who will participate in the Congress only for the session on RNAi will receive a daily pass to attend the workshop.