

Annual Meeting of Plant Research 2026 | AGENDA

MONDAY, 23 March 2026		
11:30	13:00	Registration and Welcome Snack
13:00	13:30	Welcome address by BMFTR: Christina de Wit, RL Sustainable Oeconomy; Bioeconomy Welcome address by PtJ/ Techn. Announcements
13:30	14:30	Keynote 1: Prof. Jörg Romeis / Prof. Detlef Bartsch <i>Lessons learned from decades of environmental biosafety research on the assessment and regulation of genetically modified plants</i>
14:30	15:30	Cereal (Pan-)Genomics (A) Chair: Dr. Srijan Jhingan
14:30	15:00	PREBreed - Pangenome Resource-Enhanced Breeding research in barley Prof. Nils Stein
15:00	15:15	PROGRESS: Novel approaches for more precision and efficiency in genome editing of crop plants Dr. Robert Hoffie
15:15	15:30	The pan-epigenome of barley reveals epigenetic consequences of structural variations Dr. Zihao Zhu
15:30	16:00	Photo & Coffee
16:00	17:30	Cereal (Pan-)Genomics (B) /// Traits & Genetic Resources (A) Chair: Quentin Burandt
16:00	16:30	Data-driven and genome-edited breeding of locally-adapted wheat varieties to enhance agricultural biodiversity, sustainable climate resilience, and resource efficiency (DRIVE) Prof. Jochen Reif
16:30	16:55	Harnessing the unexplored diversity of rye by genome-based breeding for climate-resilient grain production Dr. Bernd Hackauf
16:55	17:10	RYESILIENCE: Unravelling Drought Tolerance Mechanisms of Winter Rye for Climate-Resilient Agriculture Dr. Ehsan Ebrahimi
17:10	17:30	RaPEQ: Rapeseed as a domestic protein source of excellent quality for human consumption Prof. Corinna Dawid
17:30	17:50	Coffee & Posters
17:50	19:00	Traits & Genetic Resources (B) Chair: Quentin Burandt
17:50	18:05	Epigenetic control mechanisms of cold-induced flower induction and flower bud development in Brassica napus and Arabis alpina Sarah Duvneck
18:05	18:25	Quinoa for future diversified agricultural systems (Q4F) Prof. Karl Schmid
18:25	18:45	Optimizing water use efficiency in hops (<i>Humulus lupulus</i> L.) for a sustainable production. HOPTIMIZE Dr. Sebastian Gresset
18:45	19:00	ViLHair: Vitis Leaf Hair - A new functional trait for sustainable and climate-adapted viticulture Dr. Ludger Hausmann
19:00	20:30	Stand-up Reception and Networking
20:30	22:00	Individual Satellite Meetings, if applicable (workshop room)

TUESDAY, 24 March 2026

08:00 09:00 Registration and Reception

09:00 10:00 **Keynote 2: Dr. Jan Bartos**
Understanding Barriers Limiting the Use of Hybridization in Crop Improvement

10:00 11:00 Climate and Site Adaption (A) | Chair: Anika Unger

10:00 10:20 MAZE: Accessing the genomic and functional diversity of maize to improve quantitative traits | Prof. Chris-Carolin Schön

10:20 10:45 INTEGRA - Implementing Novel Technologies to Enhance Genetic Gain towards Resilient Rapeseed | Prof. Thomas Altmann

10:45 11:00 AIM4GEM: Strategic Mating under GxE and Phenomic Selection in Rapeseed | Dr. Sven Ernst Weber

11:00 11:20 Coffee & Posters

11:20 12:30 Climate and Site Adaption (B) | Chair: Anika Unger

11:20 11:50 FABALOUS – Faba bean abiotic stress tolerance for improved yield stability | Prof. Sarah Schießl-Weidenweber

11:50 12:10 BeetAdapt: Adapting sugar beet for climate resilience | Dr. Katja Kempe + Dr. Bettina Müller

12:10 12:30 Buckwheat Improvement by Modern Technologies for the Establishment of a Dual-Use Crop (BIMOTECH) | Dr. Laura Junker-Frohn

12:30 13:30 Lunch

13:30 15:35 Pest Protection | Chair: Lennard Roscher-Ehrig

13:30 14:00 Res4StRes: Novel resources for resistance breeding against insect pests and heat stress under low cropping intensities in oilseed rape | Dr. Christian Obermeier

14:00 14:25 Barley Co-Pan-Genome: Computational inference of GxGxE interactions in barley | Prof. Franziska Wespel

14:25 14:45 Priming for enhanced defense as a strategy to optimize crop resistance and as a possible breeding target | Dr. Adam Schikora

14:45 15:00 Epigenetic Editing of Intron Methylation as a Strategy to Modulate Barley Immunity Against Powdery Mildew | Prof. Chang Liu

15:00 15:20 INNO-TOM: Pangenomes and gene targeting to create disease resistant and biofortified cis and intra-genic INNOvative TOMato varieties | Prof. Alain Tissier

15:20 15:35 RecREdit: Generation of recessive resistance against aphid-transmitted viruses in sugar beet using new breeding technologies – a case study for the establishment of precise genome modification in a multiuse crop | Prof. Mark Varrelmann

15:35	17:15	Coffee & Poster Session
17:15	19:00	BMFTR - Partnerdialog „Pflanzenbiotechnologie für die Agrarwirtschaft“ für die Hightech Agenda Deutschland
		<p>Gesprächspartner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stefan Lütke Entrup (stellv. Geschäftsführer des BdP e. V.) • Prof. Nikolaus von Wirén (Geschäftsführender Direktor IPK Gatersleben) • Prof. Chris-Carolin Schön (Lehrstuhl für Pflanzenzüchtung, TUM) • Dr. Viktor Korzun (Sr. Lead Scientific Affairs; KWS SAAT SE & Co. KGaA) • Dr. Jens Lerchl (BASF SE & Vorsitzender SAB)
19:00	22:00	Stand-up Reception and Networking

WEDNESDAY, 25 March 2026

08:00	09:00	Reception
9:00	10:00	Keynote 3: Prof. Malcolm Hawkesford <i>Designing and delivering future sustainable wheat: a coordinated UK research programme</i>
10:00	11:00	Epigenetic Mechanisms Chair: Dr. Nicola Schmidt
10:00	10:15	EpicBeet: Stability and heritability of DNA methylation patterns in sugar beet – impact on phenotypic plasticity, influence on TE activity and potential for beet breeding Prof. Tony Heitkam
10:15	10:30	Characterizing transcriptomic drivers of microspore reprogramming Dr. Franziska Turck
10:30	10:45	epiSOMA - Environmentally induced somatic epimutations in trees and their potential link to seedling drought resistance Dr. Monica Berdugo Moreno
10:45	11:00	SEEDMAKER: Deciphering the epigenetic mechanisms necessary to engineer apomictic endosperm development in crops Dr. Duarte Figueiredo
11:00	11:30	Coffee & Posters
11:30	12:50	Big Data for Breeding Chair: Dr. Dominic Knoch
11:30	12:00	Potatoes for tomorrow: Improving genetic traits using potato genetic resources and new breeding techniques Prof. Benjamin Stich
12:00	12:15	DPPN-ACCESS - Providing access to state-of-the-art phenotyping infrastructures Dr. Simone Gatzke
12:15	12:35	SorBOOM: Sorghum – boosting breeding by multilevel modelling Dr. Steffen Windpassinger
12:35	12:50	Twin – A Digital Discovery Platform for Cereal Genetic Resources Dr. Martin Mascher
12:50	13:00	Closing Remarks Dr. Stefan Rauschen
13:00	14:00	Fairwell Lunch