

Global Plant Council Annual Report 2019–2020

22nd June 2020

Written by I. Mendoza (Communications Officer)

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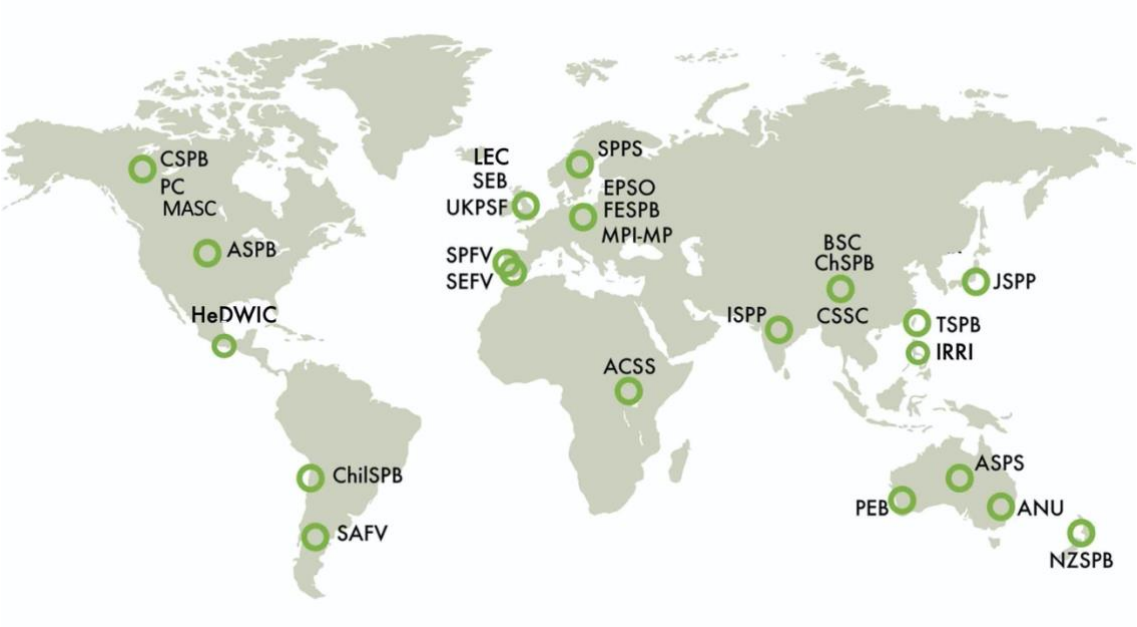
The Global Plant Council

The Global Plant Council (GPC) is a coalition of 28 national, regional and international organizations representing plant, crop, agricultural, and environmental sciences across the globe.

GPC promotes plant science across borders and disciplines: it aims to support those directly involved in research, but also in education and training, to increase awareness of the key contribution of plants and plant science to societies across the planet.

The GPC's mission is therefore to:

- Facilitate the development of plant science to enable us to address global challenges;
- Foster international collaborations, and enable the effective use of knowledge and resources;
- Provide an independent and inclusive forum to bring together all those involved in plant and crop research, training and education.



Map showing the distribution of Global Plant Council Member Organizations

Message from our president


Ros Gleadow, GPC President

As plant scientists, we are all only too aware of the 'plant blindness' that pervades the world. The Global Plant Council aims to raise awareness about the importance of plant science (and its scientists) for society globally.

Getting the attention of policymakers and funding agencies, and presenting a united front, benefits us all. Our members, rightly, are focused on meeting the needs of their own members. I see the GPC as an opportunity to rise above potentially competing interests to present a united front at a global level. Recent approaches from international organizations and funding agencies to act as expert advisers testify that we are on the right track.

Every day, we (at the GPC) leverage our resources to address real challenges facing the plant science community — all in an environment that fosters cooperation and a sense of belonging. We have a large following on social media from every continent and drawing from the different disciplines within the plant sciences. This past year, we achieved a historic milestone, surpassing 20,000 followers, enlarging tremendously the reach of our members and sponsors. I am particularly pleased with the growth in Instagram because this puts us into contact with a much younger audience.

I am profoundly grateful for the contributions of every member of our community as we travel together on this global journey. A big thank you to our communications officer Isabel Mendoza who has shown enormous initiative. I also want to thank the Board members, who are increasingly being proactive about our future, even while attending meetings at all times of the day and night, especially our treasurer Deena Errampalli. I also want to thank Bill Davies who has been President for the past 5 years and continues to mentor those of us starting on this road. Finally, I want to thank Barry Pogson who has been chair of the GPC since 2015. Barry has been a great advocate for the GPC and has been very wise in his management. We welcome Francisca Blanco Herrera as the new Chair. Francisca has been Deputy Chair most of this year and we are definitely in good hands.

The current backdrop of the global pandemic seems to be, perversely, driving both more individualistic behaviour and more collaboration. To solve major world problems such as food security and habitat destruction, we all need to pull together Let's do this and make the most of the GPC! One thing you can say is we have a great name!

Signed: Ros Gleadow

GPC Report 2019-2020

The Global Plant Council Day-by-Day

As for today, the GPC has one full-time staff member (Isabel Mendoza, our Communications officer) who is the driving force for the day to day operation of the organization. Dr. Mendoza is supported in her duties by the board of directors that provide strategic vision for the organization. The members of board of directors are the following:

- **President**: Ros Gleadow from Monash University where she leads the Plant Ecophysiology group.
- **Past President**: Bill Davies, from Lancaster Environment Centre
- **Chair**: Barry Pogson, from ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology at the Australian National University
- **Deputy-Chair**: Francisca Blanco-Herrera, president of the Chilean Society of Plant Biology
- **Treasurer**: Deena Errampalli, past president of Plant Canada
- **Board members**:
    - Wataru Sakamoto, director of the Institute of Plant Science and Resources, Okayama University
    - Katherine Denby, from University of York, Director of UK N8 Partnership
    - Matthew Reynolds Head of Crop Physiology at Cimmyt
    - Weihua Tang, from CAS Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Sciences (Shanghai)
    - KC Bansal, former Director of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

Our communications officer is in frequent communication with the members of the board via email. She holds weekly online meetings with at least one board member. Besides, the board in its entirety meets online every 4-6 weeks to follow up on financial matters and generate policy and priorities that either are being developed or should be.

Daily tasks

- Collection, editing, publication and dissemination of plant science-related news and events. One press release (News Tab) or post (Blog Tab) is published every weekday at about 9:00 CEST. These stories are shared on all GPC social media channels, at 9:00 or 10:00 CEST. We try to keep the news varied by topic (plant science, plant health, agronomy, molecular

biology, genomics, forestry…), geography (North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania, South America, Africa) and journal where the original paper was published.

- Curation of social media posts, including shares and retweets from fellow members, sponsors and other plant science-relevant actors.
- Collection of #plantscijobs opportunities and post on the appropriate channels (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter).
- Checks on updates of website and tools from the technical point of view (Plugins, Themes, WordPress, Server…)
- Check on analytics for suspicious bot activity
- Communication with members regarding preparation and collections of fees, reports, and dissemination of news, and other issues.

Weekly tasks

- Small council meeting between Isabel Mendoza, Ros Gleadow, Barry Pogson, Bill Davies and Francisca Blanco to discuss course of action and activities.

Monthly and Bi-monthly tasks

- Monthly general newsletter to subscribers
- Bi-monthly newsletter to ECRs
- Meeting with members of the board (every 6 weeks) to discuss course of action and activities.

Non-periodic task

- Design of banners, images and videos for social media, webpage and other marketing tools.
- Attendance at plant science-based webinars and events
- Organizing the annual meeting of members and its accompanying workshop.
- Curation of website sections when appropriate, especially the ones for Home, IYPH, Events and ECRi.
- Identify and contact potential sponsors and members
- Isabel Mendoza undergoes training on web management, social media management, banner and image design, e-marketing and science communication whenever the opportunity arises.

The Global Plant Council member updates

During this period, the following members have left the GPC: The Genetics Society of China and the International Crop Science Society. Besides, a third member, the Center for Plant Aging Research, Institute of Basic Science, in Korea informed of the closing of their organization.

On the bright side, a new member has decided to join the Global Plant Council, the Lancaster Environment Center, a community based in the UK of world-class environmental researchers, government scientists, students and commercial enterprises working together to address today's biggest environmental challenges.

The Global Plant Council sponsor updates

We are grateful to 'Frontiers in Plant Science' and 'The New Phytologist Trust (NPT)' for continued sponsorship of the Global Plant Council (Silver and Bronze sponsorships respectively). In addition, we have developed a special collaboration with the NPT journal "Plants People Planet (PPP)". GPC and PPP have held two online contests for ECRs (#PlantSciART in 2019 and #PlantSciVid in 2020) where PPP provided prizes for the winners. Additionally, our communications officer was pleased to be invited to attend the first PPP symposium, held in London in September 2019.

Since June 2020, we have further developed our relationship with The American Society for Plant Biology (ASPB) via a sponsorship package involving the display on our website of banners promoting the ASPB journals 'Plant Physiology' and 'The Plant Cell', the 'ASPB' as a whole and the 'PB20 Worldwide Summit'.

GPC would be pleased to hear from organizations which are keen to develop sponsorship opportunities to promote particular activities and novel developments. Elsewhere in this report we detail the international reach of GPC on-line and social media activity illustrating potential promotional opportunities through GPC.

Social media highlights

GPC has continued its strategy of publishing plant science news on a daily basis in its website and social media channels.

By May 2018, GPC was present in the two mainstream social networks (Twitter and Facebook) with two devoted accounts: Twitter and one page in Facebook, gathering 7.655 followers altogether. However, beginning in September 2018, after hiring the new communications officer, GPC changed its social strategy dramatically. First, by increasing the posting rhythm on the established networks and secondly, by opening new channels:

- In October/November 2018: a SlideShare channel, two LinkedIn accounts (personal and company) and a Facebook (#plantscijobs) group
- In March 2019: an Instagram account
- In July 2019: a LinkedIn (#plantscijobs) group
- In October 2019: a Weibo account
- In February 2020: a new newsletter address to ECRs

This has allowed GPC to go from the initial 7.655 in May 2018 to **20.719 followers by May 2020**, quintuple its overall impressions, going on from 108.500 in May 2018 to **571.614** monthly impressions in social media by May 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1. Monthly indicators comparison May 2018-2019-2020

Platform	May 2018		May 2019		May 2020	
	Followers	Impressions	Followers	Impressions	Followers	Impressions
Twitter	6.456	108.000	8.022	196.000	10.210	478.700
Facebook	1.164	500	3.221	47.326	6.335	68.714
LinkedIn	-	-	1.225	7.500	2.259	8.800
Newsletter/s	1.238	34.3%	1.303	20.0%	1.504	20.0%
Others	35	-	157	4.650	411	15.400
Total	**8.893**	**108.500**	**13.928**	**255.476**	**20.719**	**571.614**
Annual variation	**+33%**	**-37%**	**+57%**	**+135%**	**+49%**	**+124%**

Besides the followers and views, the most prominent indicator of the performance of social media is the engagement. However, engagement is measured differently for every social media platform. The engagement indicators for 3 platforms (Twitter, FB and Instagram) are displayed in Table 2. In all 3 cases, the current engagement per platform is higher than the average in each platform.

- Twitter engagement rate = interactions (Likes, Answers, Retweet and Clicks)/impressions *100
- Facebook Engagement Rate=Nº Total Interactions (Likes, Comments, Shares and Clicks and Views) / impressions x 100
- Instagram Engagement Rate=Nº Total Interactions (Likes, Comments) / impressions x 100

Table 2. Monthly engagement comparison May 2018- 2019-2020

Platform	May 2018	May 2019	May 2020	Average per platform
Twitter	1.40%	2.00%	2.50 %	0.70-1.00%
FB page	0.65%	3.46%	5.60%	4.00%
Instagram	-	-	9.30%	5.00%

Early Career Researcher International Network (ECRi)

The early-career period is one of the most pressured stages for a researcher. Following the 2018 survey's results, GPC put in motion the **Early Career Researcher International Network (ECRi).** The idea behind the network is based on helping ECRs with 4 essential pillars:

1. job hunting
2. grant funding
3. dissemination of research results
4. and networking

The network has a "physical" anchor in our website in its specific focused section (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/). It comprises a set of activities specifically focused on ECRs. **The following activities have been launched until now**:

1. The already traditional monthly #plantscijobs "storm" on Twitter. During one-hour, we tweet multiple job offers from the Global Plant Council principal Twitter account with the hashtag #plantscijobs. **The storms are scheduled every last Friday of the month, between 3-4 pm CEST.**
2. A Facebook and a LinkedIn group where we post daily opportunities related to plant science. Those posts are posted regularly, with the hashtags #plantscijobs, #plantscigrants, #plantsciprizes, #plantscinternships…

3. We have prepared a curated list of plant science jobs and grants resources provided by our members and other organizations.
4. We are gathering a collection of resources to help plant scientists disseminate their research more efficiently. Both towards the general public and the scientific community.
5. We host a workshop on science communication in parallel with our annual meeting.
6. The last workshop was held in June 2019 and focused upon the issue of how to promote "your" science to the media and general public. This training was part of the Arabidopsis Conference in Wuhan, China (ICAR19).
7. The next workshop **will be held (hopefully) in June/July 2021 in Torino (Italy) as part of the** Plant Biology Europe 2021 conference.
8. An online video contest for ECRs in collaboration with the Journal "Plants, People, Planet" was launched on the 16th April 2020. Deadline for submission of videos was the 15th June 2020.
9. Additionally, we have set up a mailing list where ECRs can sign-in here. As for today 113 people have subscribed to this newsletter.

Any offers of help in rolling out this network will be greatly appreciated. Please, contact Isabel Mendoza (isabel@globalplantcouncil.org), our Communications Officer with suggestions.

Events, Conferences, Meetings and Workshops since June 2019

Since our last Annual Meeting in June 2019, the Global Plant Council has participated in a number of conferences, workshops, meetings and bilateral meetings.

The last annual meeting of GPC members took place in the now world-famous city of Wuhan in China, in the frame of the ICAR2019 conference. Two workshops were organized by GPC at as part of the conference:

- On the 18th June, was held the workshop "Role of the microbiome in sustainable agriculture" led by Prof. Yusuke Saijo and Prof. Deena Errampalli with the participation from Dr. Ruben Garrido-Oter and Dr. Kei Hiruma among others. This workshop provided the participants with up-to-date knowledge on the role of the microbiome in sustainable agriculture, enabling them to learn and adopt different microbiome-based approaches to crops in their respective countries.
- On the 19th June, the workshop "**Communicating your science to the broader community**" led by Dr. Isabel Mendoza and with the participation from Dr. Mary Williams and Dr Geraint Parry. This workshop provided participants with necessary skills to increase the impact of

their own research by understanding the rules of science communication and how to profit from the more commonly used online channels.



In July 2019 the GPC took part at the SEB Annual Conference in Seville (Spain). Both the communication officer (Isabel Mendoza) and GPCs president (Ros Gleadow) were there and hosted a booth, where they interacted with attendees to let them know about GPC activities and contributed to the dissemination of the event online.

In September 2019, GPC was invited to the first *Plants, People, Planet* Symposium by its organizers. There, GPC contributed to the dissemination of the event online and established contact with other attendees and organizations in order to develop future joint activities.

In September 2019, our communication officer attended the European Research and Innovation Days on 24-26 September 2019 in Brussels, to learn about the new funding scheme of the EU. There she took the opportunity to have a bilateral meeting with the GPC member EPSO.

Due to the COVID_19 pandemic many events being organized during 2020 couldn't be held and were postponed to 2021. The following participation in event was therefore postponed:

- The annual meeting was being planned as part of the Plant Biology Europe 2020 meeting in Torino. This meeting is now scheduled for June/July 2021 and organized by EPSO and FESPB both members of The Global Plant Council. In parallel, a workshop on science communication run by the award-winning Italian science journalist Michele Catanzaro was being organized as part of the conference. Besides, R. Gleadow submitted an abstract highlighting the GPC activities and the importance of global collaborations and involvement of professional societies.
- GPC was going to participate at the science communication Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST) conference in Aberdeen in May 2020, with a poster on our social media strategy and how social media is helping us reach our goals.

Online contests

Fascination of Plants Day 2019 #PlantSciART

For FoP Day 2019, GPC launched the #PlantSciART competition, an online photo contest in partnership with "Plants, People and Planet" addressing to plant enthusiasts. A total number of 22 participants took part in this contest, with 28 contributions, either in Twitter or Instagram. Kindly provided by PPP, a total of three $150 USD prizes were granted to 3 outstanding contributions (Figure 1) coming from the US, Mexico and the UK. Winners were chosen by the GPC board.



Figure 1. Winner entries. Twitter users @BigGirlPlants, @AnaPValladares and @Charly_Pain

IYPH2020 #PlantSciVid

Given the good results of the 2019 contest, in 2020, GPC and PPP partnered again on another online competition branded #PlantSciVid. This time we decided on an online video contest especially addressing to plant science and science communication. A special category for scientists involved in plant health-related projects was included. A total number of 15 contributions were submitted, either in Twitter or Instagram. Two $250 USD prizes provided by PPP will be granted to the two outstanding contributions. Winners will be chosen by the GPC board by June 30.



IYPH2020

In September 2019, the board decided that GPC should support United Nations in the International Year of Plant Health. This is a lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development. It was decided to include a banner in the home page and a devoted section in the website.



Figure 2. IYPH social posts in Facebook (left) and Twitter (right)

In this section (https://globalplantcouncil.org/international-year-of-plant-health/) news on plant health are presented, along with web suggestions and key facts on plant health at a global scale.

Based upon the press kit provided by the FAO, we designed 3 social media posts to be shared regularly to raise awareness and increase the impact of IYPH2020. In addition, the #plantscivid competition, previously mentioned, included a devoted plant health category.

Between the 1st of January and the 1st of June of 2020, the IYPH2020 social media posts have gathered 55,431views and the IYPH2020 devoted page has had >650 visits. Besides, GPC has published 29 plant health related news items during this time, accounting for 12% of our total news publications.

Public Funded Projects Collaboration

As mentioned in our last annual report, in the period 2018-2019, the Global Plant Council became a collaborator of the EU funded project CONCISE, devoted to science communication.

Since then, the Global Plant Council was started to collaborate the following project initiatives:

- **Project Sphere**: The Sphere proposal, was submitted to a two-stage call by the EU commission for projects on plant health. The GPC was a full member of the consortium, although not eligible for funding. The GPC would have had a role in the dissemination and communication team. The project was coordinated by Universita degli Studi di Torino. Sadly, if was not recommended for funding.
- **PlantEd**: In January 2020 the Global Plant Council was contacted by Dennis Eriksson, Chair of the EU-funded COST Action PlantEd (CA18111), focused on plant genome editing, interested in including a note about our ECRi network in their newsletter. An exchange of emails followed and after a discussion among the operational board, GPC decided to join the action. There are no strict obligations or commitments as the PlantEd is mostly about networking opportunities. GPC will be involved in WP4 and WP5 activities. For the time being, PlantEd has included news on GPC in 3 of its newsletters.
- **Project AccelNet (International Alliance for Biological Data and Cyberinfrastructure)**: In January 2020 the Global Plant Council was contacted by Jason Williams from the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to invite GPC into the project as a strategic partner. The proposal was submitted by 29th January and we are waiting for the resolution.
- **CONNECTED Virus**: During this year we have been collaborating with CONNECTED, a UK funded community Network for African Vector-Borne Plant Viruses which supports research on global issues affecting developing countries. For the time being, CONNECTED has included news on GPC on the last of their newsletter (June 2020) and we have re-published two of their videos in our blog. In June our communications officer joined the network officially.
- **Project on Soil Science:** In May 2020 an EU consortium applying for an upcoming call for funding contacted GPC. We are currently in talks to define our involvement.

GPC Social Media and online presence

GPC website and blog

In September 2019, the GPC website and blog were merged by our communications officer into one single dominion (http://www.globalplantcouncil.org) as part of the website remodeling (Figure 3). This way, we ensure that the GPC website continues to be up to date as the central stone of the GPC online communication strategy. The website is updated daily with:

- relevant news to keep the community up to date with recent research progress
- a comprehensive events calendar for researchers to find meetings, conferences, workshops and symposia they can attend

- a resources area that provides a range of useful information about awards and funding opportunities, along with other relevant links for plant scientists.

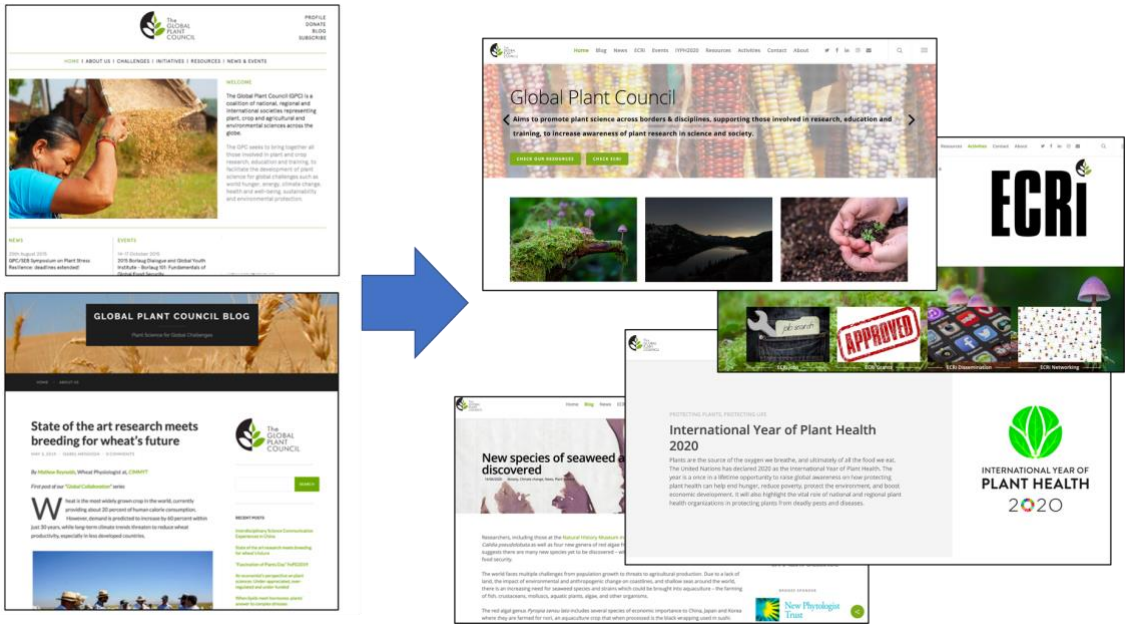


Figure 3. Website and blog remodeling (https://globalplantcouncil.org/)

As we are typing these words, since the last GPC AMOM, (June 2019) the GPC website has collected over 213 news items, 23 blog posts and 62 events (June 1st, 2020). The GPC website has been maintained by Isabel Mendoza.

This new situation of full control of the website allows us a lot of freedom in regards of adding new segments, such as:

- the individual member devoted divisions [https://globalplantcouncil.org/about/members/]
- the ECRi [https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/]
- and the IYPH2020 section [https://globalplantcouncil.org/international-year-of-plant-health/]

Moreover, we have implemented two Google services to improve the SEO ("findability" in search engines) of the webpage and allow us the access a several statistics.

First, **Google Search Console** and its specular service for Bing. Both services allow the search engines Google and Bing to find our website more easily. Besides, it gives us

information about which keywords are used to find us and which other site have links to our website. Since the new website was launched, we have gathered 278.000 impressions in Google searches (by 10th June 2020). Besides:

- 233 sites are linked to our website, accounting for a total of 2,834 links. Among these sites we found Plantae, the Chilean Society of Plant Biology Website, Plant Canada, other members, and several blogs, reddit posts, ….
- At least 1,000 keyword combinations have given back results from our site in Google. From these, there are 207 where someone has actually clicked and entered our site. That is over 4.370 times. Most important keywords are:
    - global plant council (position 1; 456 impressions; 360 clicks)
    - plant council (position 5; 312 impressions; 22 clicks)
    - global plant (position 5; 1575 impressions; 27 clicks)
    - council plants (position 6; 40 impressions; 1 clicks)

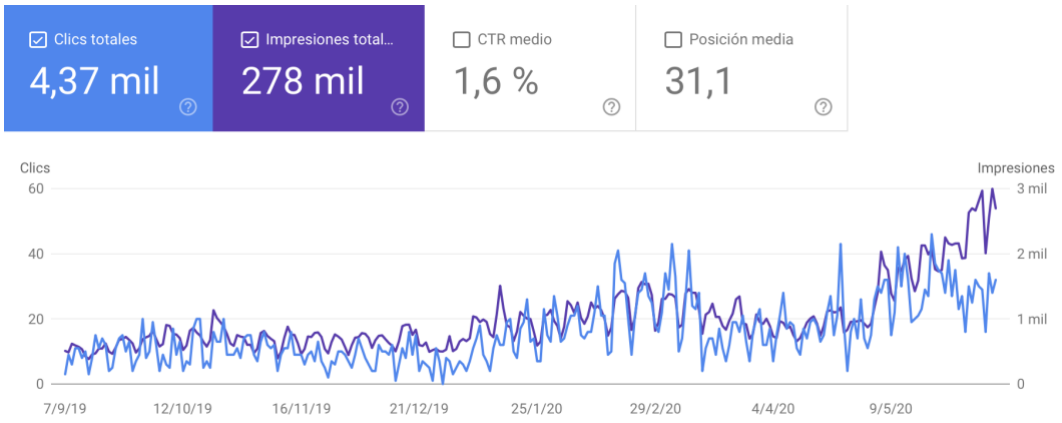


Figure 4. GPC clicks and impressions via Google search engine

Another Google service we are implementing is **Google Analytics**, to get information on our page views (Figure 5), and number of visitors and their characteristics such as their preferred language [English >71.1%, Chinese >2.4%, Spanish >7.9%], how they access the website (Figure 6) or where they come from (Figure 5).

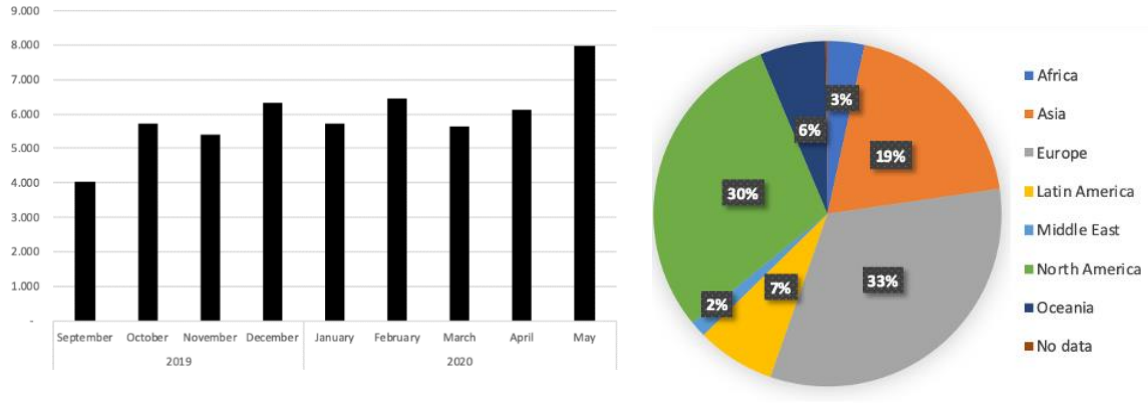


Figure 5. Monthly Pageviews (left) and region of origin from website visitors (right)

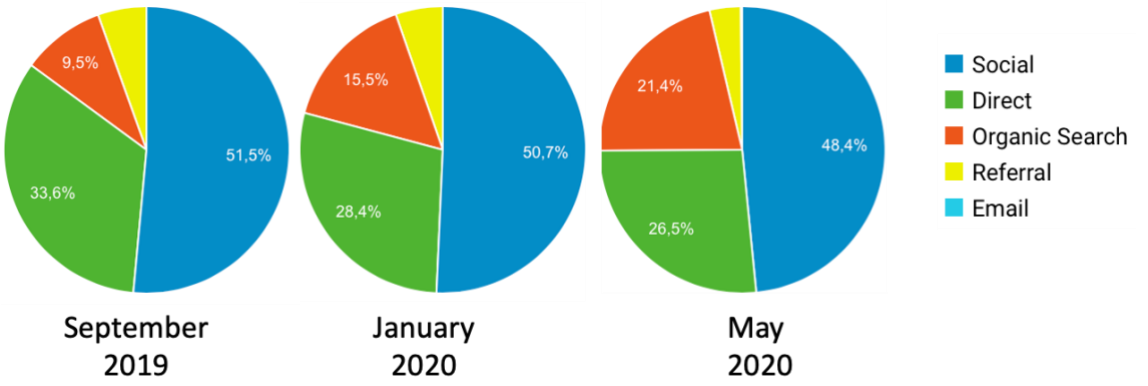


Figure 6. Access channels to the website. Figure illustrates how we have been improving our findability in search engines (=organic search) since the website was relaunched.

GPC Twitter accounts

Twitter is a useful form of social media that allows us to quickly and easily send out short updates to the wider community. The GPC's main English- language Twitter account @GlobalPlantGPC continues to grow in popularity: as of **1st June 2020 has 9.026 followers**.

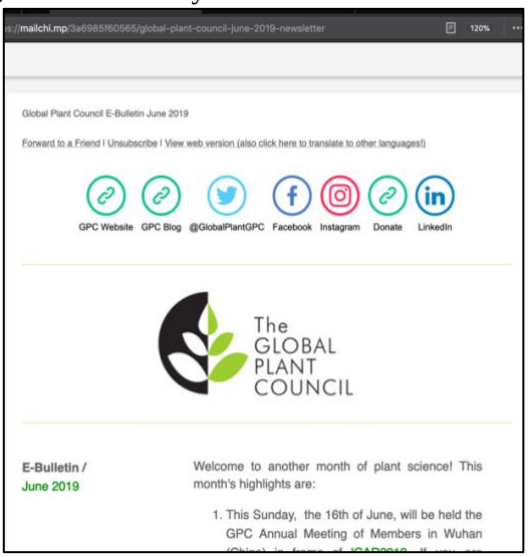
The GPC also has a Spanish-language Twitter account, @GPC_EnEspanol, which was initiated in April 2015. As of **1st June 2020, this account had 1,184 followers**.





GPC e-Bulletin/Newsletter

The GPC Newsletter (http://tinyurl.com/GPCsignup) is sent out every month to individuals from the plant science community who can subscribe via the GPC website. As of **1st June 2020**, the e-Bulletin had **1,397 subscribers**, and it is also circulated by some of our Member Organizations, either by forwarding the email directly to individual members, or by providing a link on the Member's website and/or social media pages. The Newsletter provides a monthly summary of the vast amount of information published on the GPC website and its social networks.



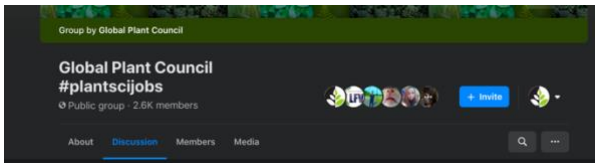
A new ECRi Newsletter has been recently established, addressed specifically to ECRs. For the time being, the newsletter has **113 subscribers**.

Outreach to Member Organizations

As well as the GPC Newsletter, which is sent monthly, to anyone who wants to subscribe to it, we have also established a separate mailing list specifically for Member Organization representatives, presidents, and other key MO contacts **(over 100 contacts)**. This mailing list is used to disseminate specific information from the GPC and on behalf of Member Organizations. For example, different kind of reminders, the agenda of AMOM meetings, or introducing new members of the GPC staff. Additionally, this year we have shared two policy related calls-to-action from EPSO and CSPB.

GPC Facebook





Launched in August 2015, the GPC Facebook page has **3,866 'followers (1st June 2020).** Isabel Mendoza has been maintaining the GPC Facebook page.

In addition to the page, a group attached was started in November 2018, as part of the ECRi network. At the end of **1st June 2020**, **2,469 people** have joined the group.

GPC LinkedIn



LinkedIn is a social network launched in May 2003. As for today, LinkedIn is the world largest professional non-sectorial network with more than 150 million users in over 200 countries and territories. Many plant scientists are present in LinkedIn as well. Therefore, GPC opened in October 2018 two different profiles to increase our social reach: a standard profile (www.linkedin.com/in/globalplantcouncil) and a company profile (https://www.linkedin.com/company/global-plant-council/). In addition, a group was started in July 2019, as part of the ECRi network.

By **1st June 2020**, **2,032 people** are following either of the two accounts or the ECRi devoted group (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12274424/).

GPC SlideShare

SlideShare is a hosting service for professional content including presentations, infographics, documents, and videos linked with LinkedIn. After the last meeting in November 2018, the board decided to open a SlideShare account to make available and easily findable the presentations of meetings. Until now, 10 presentations are available. Link Here: https://www.slideshare.net/GlobalPlantCouncil

GPC Instagram

Instagram is a photo and video sharing social network launched in 2010. As for June 2018 Instagram is reported to have 1 billion users and is considered the fastest growing social network. Regarding the users, 71% of them are below 34 years old. Therefore, GPC decided in March 2019, in time for the #plantsciART competition, to join Instagram, to be able to access more easily the younger generations of plant scientists. As for end of **1st June 2020**, **344 people** are following the GPC account in Instagram.

Link Here: https://www.instagram.com/globalplantcouncil/

GPC Weibo

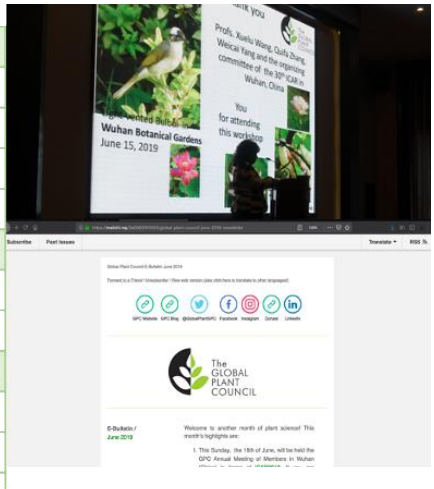
A Weibo account was started on December 2019 to reach the Chinese community. Until now the account has gathered only **5 followers**. However, every posting in Weibo gets 100 views in a couple of days. Some even reached the thousands of views. We are trying to find the way to optimize the use of this platform. Link: https://www.weibo.com/GlobalPlantGPC/

The Global Plant Council impact summary

It is challenging to assess the overall actual impact of the work done by an organization. We have used the best indicators available, explained in this report, to infer from them the actual impact on the plant science community. These are very good numbers and show a clear growth in reach and therefore in potential impact on the community. The following tables try to illustrate the estimated impact on the general plant science community and its ECRs of the work done in the period.

Impact summary for the period July 2019-June 2020

Events	9
Conferences attended	4
Conferences (2021)	2
Workshops organized	2
Workshops (2021)	1
Newsletters send	14
General Newsletter	11
ECRi Newsletter	3
Social media (views, July 2019-May 2020)	3.793.170
Twitter	3.227.071
Facebook	355.899
Others	210.200
Website (pageviews, September 2019-May 2020)	53.303
News published	213
Blog posts	23
Events	62
Collective messages to representatives	10
On other media/newsletters	>10
New Members	1
Collaborations with projects	5



On ECRs

As reported, a number of activities are especially addressed to ECRs to help them advance in their careers and hone their communication skills. In the table and images below (Figure 7), we have tried to put together a summary of this impact.

Impact summary on ECRs for the period July 2019-June 2020

Workshops held /attendees	2 / 85
Members of the #plantscijob groups (Facebook)	2.469
Members of the #plantscijob groups (LinkedIn)	227
ECRi Newsletter signers	113
Submissions to the ECRs dissemination and communication activity	2
Submissions to the #PlantSciVid competition	15
Potential ***account reach*** *per #plantscijobs Twitter storm*	100.000

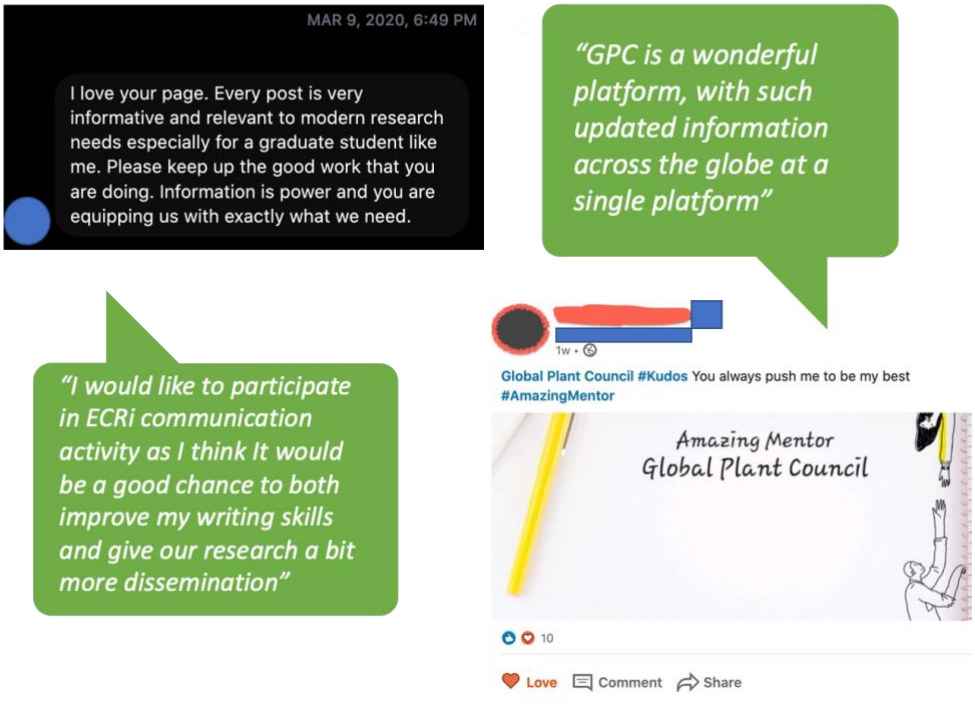


Figure 7. Messages of encouragement from ECRs via email, Facebook, and LinkedIn.

People talking about us

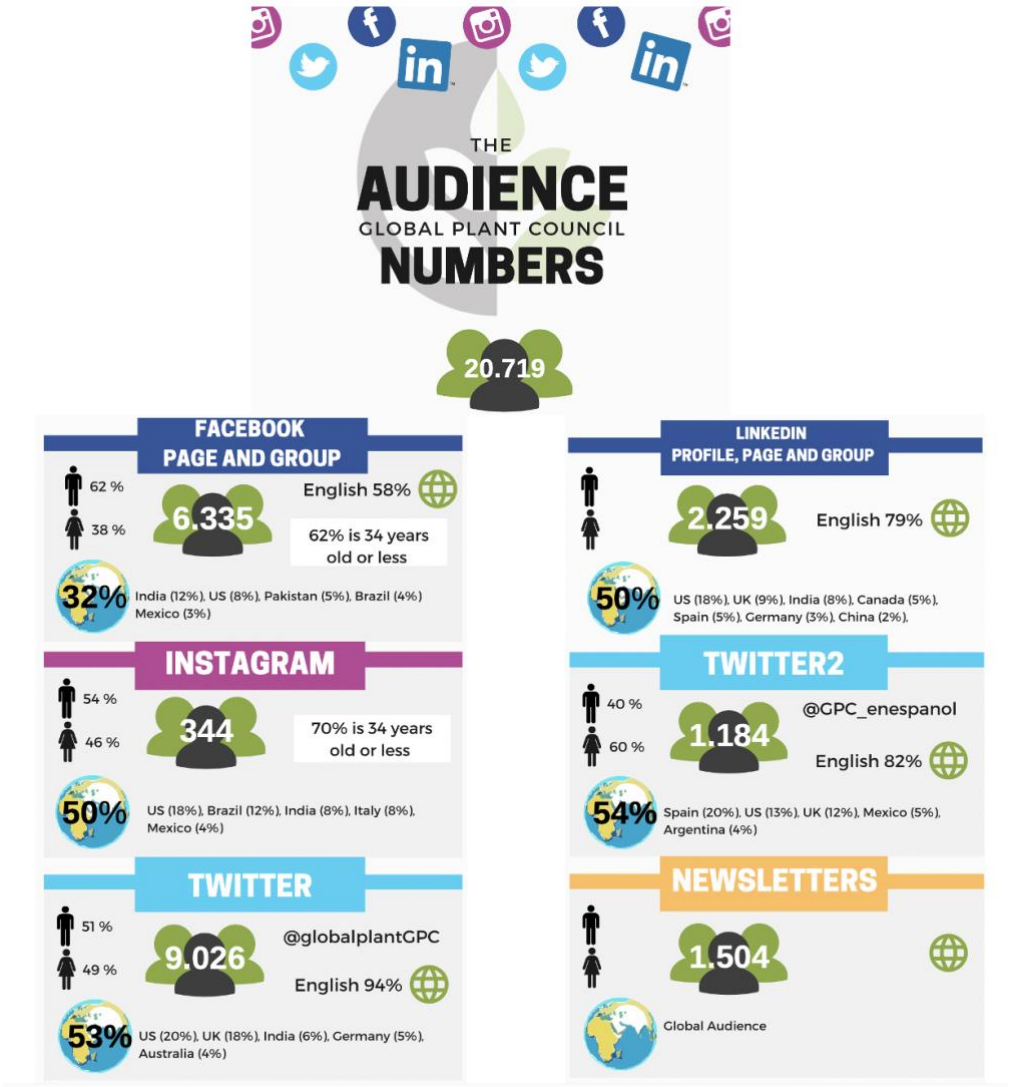
GPC has been featured multiple times by other organizations in their newsletters, websites and social media channels during the present period. Some of these mentions are the following:

- The FAO website devoted to the International Year of Plant Health
- Three PlantEd newsletters from February 2020, April 2020 and June 2020.
- The Garnet newsletters from June 2019 and December 2019.
- Phytogen, the Australian Society of Plant Scientists newsletter May 2020, with a reflection written by Ros Gleadow.
- The Tribune in India newspaper on the announcement of KC Bansal as new board member
- Soil Science Society of America Newsletter (https://www.soils.org/science-policy/sspr/2020-05-27/)
- CONNECTED Network Newsletter 1st of June 2020 (https://mailchi.mp/1c17db6b1af5/connected-monthly-e-news-june-2020)

Besides this, the number of contacts by members of the community (emails, direct messages) has increase notably.

GPC Social Media visual summary

Breakdown of GPC's social media audience as a function of gender, age, language and top 5 countries by end of May 2020.



Annex 1. GPC Individual Organizations Reports

Argentinian Society of Plant Physiology

fisiologiavegetal.org

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Raquel L. Chan - rchan@fbcb.unl.edu.ar

Name of the current president

Raquel L. Chan

Term of the current president

2019-2022

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Pablo A. Manavella - Vice President - pablomanavella@ial.santafe-conicet.gov.ar

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

SAFV organize a biannual meeting between associated, local, and international plant physiology community. The reported meeting corresponds to an intermediate year without event. In consequence, the activity of the society during this period of time was minimal, especially considering that the COVID pandemic and the strict quarantine of Argentina discouraged the organization of any intermediate activity. The society committee advocated all its energy to organize the 2020 meeting, which unfortunately was canceled and re-schedule for 2021 due to the pandemic situation. Concerning the meeting organization, we have recruited an outstanding speaker lineup that includes prestigious national and international speakers lineup (https://rafv2020.wixsite.com/santa-fe/speakers). All these speakers communicated their agreement to re-schedule the meeting to 2021. We have also applied and succeed in numerous grants to support the meeting and also obtaining significant funds from other sponsors (https://rafv2020.wixsite.com/santa-fe). We have also arranged all the details about the venue and program for the meeting.

Canadian Society of Plant Biologists/ La Société Canadienne de Biologie Végétale

http://cspb-scbv.ca/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Owen Rowland, Science Policy Director owen.rowland@carleton.ca

Name of the current president

Daphne Goring

Term of the current president

July 2019 - 2021

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Robin Cameron, Vice-President rcamero@mcmaster.ca

David Bird, Secretary dbird@mtroyal.ca

Sheila Macfie, Treasurer smacfie@uwo.ca

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

In 2019, the CSPB/SCBV annual meeting took place as part of *Plant Canada 2019*, a joint meeting of seven Canadian Plant Science Societies, with over 600 attendees (July 7-11, University of Guelph). Our society had a large number of members attending this meeting, and the CSPB/SCBV student presentation competition included 49 student oral presentations across 21 concurrent sessions and 47 student poster presentations in 2 poster sessions. Our CSPB student/postdoc rep, Ryan Eng, also organized two very successful careers workshops, *Careers Outside of Academia* and *Beyond Grad School: A guide for PDF and PI positions*, which were well attended and garnered considerable discussion. Please also see the member report from the current Plant Canada President, Geoffrey Wasteneys, for more details on the *Plant Canada 2019* meeting.

During this reporting period, two CSPB/SCBV regional meetings were held. The Eastern Regional Meeting was held on November 23, 2019 at Brock University, St. Catharines. This meeting was organized by Vincenzo De Luca (Chair), Mehran Dastmalchi, Charles Després and David Liscombe, and comprised of two plenary speakers followed by two sets of concurrent

sessions and a poster session. There were 105 attendees, and 52 students participated in the oral and poster presentation competitions. The Western Regional Meeting was held on February 18-19, 2020 in Canmore, Alberta. This meeting was organized by David Bird (Chair), Janice Cooke, Michael Deyholos, Peter Constabel and Doug Muench, and included one plenary speaker and one keynote speaker. There were 38 attendees (19 students) with 16 students participating in the oral and poster presentation competitions.

With the current pandemic prohibiting large gatherings, two upcoming CSPB/SCBV meetings were postponed. The annual general meeting at the University of Saskatoon (scheduled for June 15-19, 2020) was moved to June 2021, and the Eastern Regional Meeting at Concordia University (scheduled for November 2020) was moved to November 2021. As a replacement for these meetings, we are starting to plan a CSBP/SCBV 2020 virtual meeting to be held in early November with plenary speakers and several concurrent sessions, where members, including students and post-docs, will have the opportunity to give oral presentations. The CSPB/SCBV annual business meeting (annual meeting of members) will be held as a virtual meeting on Wednesday August 26, 2020 @ 2:00 pm EST.

Chinese Society for Plant Biology (CSPB)

http://www.cspb.org.cn

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Weihua Tang whtang@cemps.ac.cn

General Secretary of CSPB, CAS Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Science / Institute of Plant Physiology and Ecology, Chinese Academy of Sciences;

Name of the current president

Xiaoya Chen xychen@cemps.ac.cn

CAS Center for Excellence in Molecular Plant Science / Institute of Plant Physiology and Ecology

Term of the current president

The Twelfth Council (2019-2024)

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Chief Supervisor of CSPB

Zuhua He zhhe@cemps.ac.cn

Deputy General Secretary of CSPB

Bing Leng bleng@cemps.ac.cn

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

The Chinese Society for Plant Biology and its members have been organized and/or participated a number of successful congresses and meetings last year, including:

- The 11th Congress and National Academic Annual Conference of CSPB, Nanchang, China, 5–8 July 2019
- The 4th China-Korea Joint Symposium on Plant Biotechnology, Nanchang, China, 5–8 July 2019
- The 2nd Symposium on Phytoremediation Biology, Xiangtan, China,1-3 June 2019
- The 9th Asia and Oceania Conference on Photobiology, Qingdao, China,21-24 September 2019
- National Congress of Plant Biology (NCPB-2019), Chengdu, China,12-14 October 2019
- The 4th Young Plant Scientists Forum, Chengdu, China,21-24 November,2019

In addition, the CSPB initiated a series of activities in May 2019 to celebrate the Fascination of Plants Day. Numerous activities across the country aim to spread plant scientific knowledge to

the public, more than ten units including Institute of Plant Physiology and Ecology, CAS, Shanghai Center for Plant Stress Biology, CAS, Nanjing Agricultural University and Nankai University, etc. held characteristic science popularization activities. The event of Plant Biology Women Scientist's Campus Presentation Tours for Popular Science hosted by the Women Scientists Branch of CSPB were held at Henan University, Hunan Agricultural University, Huanan Agricultural University and South China Botanical Garden, CAS to present many wonderful feasts of popular science to numerous students. More than 100,000 people participated the Fascination of Plants Day 2019.

Chilean Society of Plant Biologists

www.biologiavegetal.cl

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Francisca Blanco-Herrera;

Term of the current president

Claudia Stange; stange.claudia@gmail.com

Name and email of other member organization contacts,

Vice President- Claudio Antonio Meneses Araya <claudio.meneses@unab.cl>,

General Secretary - Herman Silva <hesilva@uchile.cl>

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

List of relevant conferences, workshops and outreach events held in Chile hosted in 2019.

January 9th, 2019. **Seminar: Orange on top: Is there a mutual exclusion between anthocyanin and carotenoids biosynthesis in petunia flowers?**

This seminar was held at Universidad de Chile. Santiago Chile.

It was presented by Dr. Julian Verdonk, Wageningen University. Netherlands.

March, 27th – 29th, 2019. **Symposium: First International Symposium of Food, Nutrition, Physical Fitness and Health**

The symposium was held at Universidad de Chile. Santiago – Chile.

The meeting committee included several fields associated to nutrition and health: Healthy and sustainable food, nutritional genomics, Nutrition and physical activity, influence of socio-economic factors on nutrition, and urban planification, physical activity and nutrition.

The key note speakers were Dr. Alejandra Chavez-Santoscoy (Mexico), Eduardo Guerra Hernandez (Spain), Jesús Rodríguez Huertas (Spain), Dr. Bruno Gualaro (Brazil), Dr. Leandro Pereira (Brazil), Dra. Diana Parra (USA), Stefan Martens (Italy).

April 22th – 25th, 2019. **EMBO Workshop: Integrative biology: From molecules to ecosystems in extreme environments (w19-107)**

EMBO Workshops are meetings that cover different and evolving aspects of life-science-related subject areas and bring scientists together to present and discuss their latest findings.

Speakers:

Louise Horsfall, University of Edinburg, UK.
Beatriz Diez, Universidad Católica de Chile, CL.
Christina Dorador, Universidad de Antofagasta, CL
Ove Nilsson, Umea Plant Science Center, SE.
Rodrigo Gutierrez, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, CL
Enrizo Rezende, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, CL
José O'Brien, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, CL
Laurence Lejay, INRA, Montpelier, FR
Francisca Blanco, Universidad Andres Bello, CL
Stephan Pollman, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, ES
Yves Gibon, Universite Bordeaux/INRA, FR
Aurora Gaxiola, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, CL
Jesús Vicente Carbajosa, CBGP, Madrid, ES.
Andrew Millar, University of Edinburg, OK
Naomi Nakayama, University of Edinburg, UK
Eric Schimer, University of Edinburg, UK.

July 22th – 23th, 2019. **3rd SCIENTIFIC MEETING ON VEGETAL BIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY DIGV-UTAL**

The meeting was held at U. de Talca, Chile.

The meeting included four thematical areas: Biotic and abiotic stress, phytogenetics resources, plant development, and Ecology and molecular evolution.

October 16-18th, 2019. **Conference: 2nd Energy, Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability 2019**

This coneference was held at Universidad de La Serena. La Serena – Chile.

Keynote Speakers:

Gianluca Li Puma, PhD.Loughborough University, UK

Mohamed El-Roz, PhD. Caen University, France
María Bernechea, PhD. University of Zaragoza, Spain.

September 13th, 2019. **Seminar: Domestication of a Y chromosome in papaya**

The seminar was held at Facultad de Ciencias Agronómicas of Universidad de Chile. Santiago – Chile.

The seminar was presented by Ray Ming, PhD. Its research is based on the genomic analysis of Papaya and the determination of sex. Dr Ming participated in the sequencing of the papaya genome.

December 4th, 2019. **Seminar: "Vegetable improvement of the cherry tree: current status and perspectives"**

This seminar was held at the research building of Universidad Andres Bello. Santiago – Chile.

Seminar presented by José Quero-García PhD., from INRA (Bordeaux, France) an international expert on genetic improvement of cherry trees. The presentation was based on their findings on the generation of QTLs linked to agronomical characteristics and their usage in programs of assisted selection.

Indian Society for Plant Physiology

http://www.ispponline.org/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Email id: viswa.chinnusamy@gmail.com

Name of the current president

Dr. M.B. Chetti

Term of the current president

(till December, 2020)

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

President: Dr. M.B. Chetti, Email id: mbchetti_uas@rediffmail.com

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Email id: viswa.chinnusamy@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dr. Madan Pal Singh, Email id: madanpal@yahoo.com

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. M. Maheswari, Email id: mmandapaka59@gmail.com

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

Following activities were undertaken by the Indian Society for Plant Physiology, during the period of past 12 months (June 2019 – June 2020)

(A) Seminars/conference were organized

National Conference of Plant Physiology Congress-2019 during December 19-21, 2019 at Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala, India

(B) Three memorial Award lectures by eminent researchers as mentioned below, were organised by the Society:

1. G.V. Joshi Memorial Lecture Award: Dr. R. Chandra Babu, Hon' Vice Chancellor, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala, India
2. K.K. Nanda Memorial Lecture Award: Dr. M. Maheswari, Head, Division of Crop Sciences, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Santoshnagar, Saidabad PO, Hyderabad, India

3. S.K. Sinha Memorial Lecture Award: Dr. Ramesh V. Sonti, Director, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, India

(C) Special session for Young scientist organized by the Society:

Fifteenth young scientists presented their excellent research work during a special session during National Conference of Plant Physiology Congress-2019 at Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala, India. Among them **Dr. Raju Bheemanahalli Rangappa,** Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506, USA and **Dr. Bipin Kumar Pandey**, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi, were awarded young scientist award for the year-2019.

(D) Fellows of the Society:

Two eminent researchers were nominated fellows of the Society for the year-2019

- Dr. Deepu Mathew, Assistant Professor, Centre for Plant Biotechnology and Molecular Biology, IT-BT Complex, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur-680656, Kerala, India
- Dr. R. Gomathi, Principal Scientist (Plant Physiology), ICAR-Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore-641007, Tamil Nadu, India

(E) Gold Medal Awards:

Following scientists were selected for various gold medal awards of the Society for the year-2019:

I. J.J. Chinoy Gold Medal Award: Dr. Narendra Kumar Gupta, Professor (Plant Physiology) & Dean, College of Agriculture, Navgaon, Alwar Rajasthan, India

II. J.C. Bose Gold Medal Award: Dr. Sneh Lata Singla-Pareek, Group Leader, Plant Stress Biology, International Center for Genetic, Engineering and Biotechnology, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi-110067, India

III. R.D. Asana Gold Medal Award: Dr. Sharad Kumar Dwivedi, Scientist (Senior Scale), Division of Crop Research, ICAR Research Complex for Eastern Region, ICAR Parisar, PO Bihar Veterinary College Campus, Patna-800014, Bihar, India

(F) Science Quiz for the PG Student:

One science quiz was organized on 20th of December 2019, at Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala, India, in which 26 students participated and among them three students were awarded the best prize.

Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee

arabidopsisresearch.org/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Geraint Parry, Geraint@garnetcommunity.org.uk

Name of the current president

Nicolas Provart, University of Toronto, nicholas.provart@utoronto.ca

Term of the current president

Open-ended Term

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Siobhan Brady, University of California Davis. MASC Treasurer, siobhan.brady@gmail.com

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

The Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee (MASC Inc) has now been incorporated as a not-for-profit in Canada for the past two years. This requires non-paid positions for the President, Treasurer and Secretary, the current incumbents are Nicholas Provart, Siobhan Brady and Geraint Parry respectively.

The three main MASC activities are:

- Preparation of the MASC Annual Report

- Hosting the MASC annual meeting

- Overseeing the organisation of the International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)

The 2019-2020 MASC Annual Report can be downloaded from the MASC website:

http://arabidopsisresearch.org/images/publications/mascreports/MASC_Report_2020_Online.pdf

MASC operates via three groups who receive continuous input from the whole Arabidopsis and plant community: MASC subcommittees, Arabidopsis community projects and resources and MASC country representatives.

The MASC subcommittees, proposed in 2002, were established to help tracking the progress and advances made by the international Arabidopsis community. The 2019-2020 report includes contributions from seven subcommittees: Bioinformatics, 'Epigenetics and Epigenomes', ORFeomics, Metabolomics, 'Natural Variation and Comparative Genomics', Proteomics, Plant Immunity and 'Systems and Synthetic Biology'. We are delighted to include the inaugural submission from the Plant Immunity Subcommittee and are very grateful to Dr Shadid Muktar for leading this activity.

One strength of the global Arabidopsis research community comes in the form of the genomic resources and seed stocks that are available for use. Each of the major international stock centres (ABRC, NASC, RIKEN) report that the distribution of Arabidopsis seed stocks remain strong. In addition this document includes reports from the major international phenotyping projects, the International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium, Gramene and the Global Plant Council. Finally the report includes submissions from TAIR and the BAR project, which now include extra activities that had previously been run through Araport.

Country reports provide the bulk of the MASC report and highlight the new resources and publications that have been generated from different parts of the world. We are grateful to the 30 country representatives that submitted for this report. We are delighted to include an inaugural report from Turkey.

International Conference of Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)

Over the past decade the flagship ICAR meeting has rotated though locations in Asia, North America and Europe. However, the MASC board of directors are more than happy to consider other locations if there is a need to take the ICAR meeting to previously under-represented places. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the ICAR2020 meeting in Seattle was postponed until 2021. However, the community came together to make the best of this situation. A full description of this process is explained within the country report from the USA.

Therefore, these are the locations for upcoming ICAR meetings:

- 31st ICAR, Seattle, USA June 21st-25th 2021:
http://icar2020.*Arabidopsis*research.org/
- 32nd ICAR, Belfast, UK, : June 20th-24th 2022
http://icar2022.*Arabidopsis*research.org/
- 33rd ICAR, Organised by RIKEN in Toyko, Japan 2023

The 30th International Conference on *Arabidopsis* Research (ICAR) was held in Wuhan, China between June 16th-21th 2019 where the organising committee was led by MASC director Xuelu

Wang. The total number of attendees was 1110, which was the highest number since ICAR2010 in Japan. 208 delegates submitted abstracts, which was significantly below the previous ICAR average of a 63% submission rate. The reasons for this is not clear but perhaps is linked to the requirement for submission of English-language abstracts, which might have been more challenging for the majority local Chinese delegation.

ICAR2019 highlighted the global strength of Chinese plant science research as there were many outstanding talks both by Chinese scientists who have remained in China and those who are now working internationally. There were 20 concurrent sessions but only six workshops, one of which was a Science Communication session organised by MASC contributor The Global Plant Council.

The MASC website

http://Arabidopsisresearch.org/

The MASC website is hosted in Canada by Hostpapa, maintained by Geraint Parry and Nick Provart and has two main functions. Firstly, it is an Information resource for previous MASC related activities. These include:

- Abstract books from ICAR meetings going back to the 10th ICAR in 1999.

http://Arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/icar

- Agenda and Minutes from MASC Annual meetings since 2001.

http://Arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/archive

- MASC Annual Reports since 1990

http://Arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/publications

- Documents and Articles related to Roadmap activities and related surveys

http://Arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/publications

Secondly the website contains the most up-to-date information from each of the MASC subcommittees, Project and Country reports that are published in each MASC annual report. This provides a quick reference for the latest tools and publications from each of those subcommittees, resources or countries.

Finally, all MASC contributors are invited to attend the remote MASC annual meeting that will take place on July 22nd, 2020 9pm BST. This is in place of the usual meeting that occurs during ICAR meetings but of course has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are happy to invite interested observers to this virtual meeting so if you would like further details please contact Geraint Parry (geraint@garnetcommunity.org.uk).

New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists

https://plantbiology.science.org.nz/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Lynette Brownfield: lynette.brownfield@otago.ac.nz

Richard Macknight: richard.macknight@otago.ac.nz

Name of the current president

Richard Macknight

Term of the current president

2 years

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

The New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists (NZSPB) promotes teaching and research in plant biology across NZ with membership comprised of professional scientists, academics and research students with interests in Plant Biology. Members can be found at Crown Research Institutes, Universities and other public and private institutions throughout New Zealand.

For our 2019 annual meeting we paired with the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science at Plant Science Central 2019, held in July at Massey University, Palmerston North. The oral presentations provided an opportunity for postgraduate students and early-career researchers to present their work alongside senior scientists and some of our colleges from "across the ditch". This included a presentation from Yongyan (Angel) Peng, winner of the 2019 Michael McManus award for Best Student Paper on the differential regulation of the anthocyanin profile in purple kiwifruit (Actinidia species).

The conference also provided the opportunity for the New Zealand plant science community to say a big thank you and recognise the work of Prof Paula Jameson, now an Emerita Professor, at the University of Canterbury. Paula is internationally recognised for her research into cytokinins and plant development. As a dedicated supervised of over 80 postgraduate students, and as past President and Life Member of the NZSPB, she has had a vast and lasting impact on the New Zealand plant sciences. In honour of her extraordinary scientific career, she was awarded the 2019 Marsden Medal for a lifetime of outstanding service to the cause or profession of science.

Portuguese Society of Plant Biology

http://www.spfv.pt/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Maria Margarida Oliveira; mmolive@itqb.unl.pt

Name of the current president

Jorge Marques da Silva

Term of the current president

2020-2023

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Nelson Saibo, Treasurer, saibo@itqb.unl.pt

Anabela Bernardes da Silva, Secretary, arsilva@fc.ul.pt

Rui Tavares, President of the Financial Council, tavares@bio.uminho.pt
Maria Margarida Oliveira, President of the General Assembly, mmolive@itqb.unl.pt

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

1. Dissemination of Plant Physiology in the Community

a) Ongoing work on the remodeling of the website, to make it more attractive and easier to update, fostering better contact with members. The graphic style to be adopted was implemented. The dynamization of the web presence went mostly through the activity on the Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/SPFisiolVeg), which has recorded a growing number of visits and subscriptions.

2. Representation of SPBP in Scientific Meetings

a) SPBP was represented at the XVI Hispano-Portuguese Congress of Plant Physiology, which took place in Pamplona, Spain, between 26 and 28 June 2019, by the President of the Board. The balance of Portuguese participation was very positive, since the scientific program included several Portuguese scientists as plenary and key-note speakers, who had very appreciated interventions by the participants. The national representation was also very significant regarding the chairs of the sessions. SPBP also supported the participation of three postgraduate students who carry out research in the area.

3. Organization and Co-organization of Scientific Meetings

a) SPBP supported the first bilateral Portuguese-Spanish meeting "Agriculture, Soil and Sustainability" promoted by the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (FCUL) and the Fertinagro Chair, which took place on July 25, 2019, at FCUL, Lisbon.

b) SPBP began the application to organize the XVII Portuguese-Spanish Congress of Plant Physiology, which will take place in 2021, for which there was already an agreement in principle with SPBP members at the University of Minho to be held in Braga, Portugal. However, the Board of the Spanish Society of Plant Physiology presented a request for the XVII Congress to be held in Spain, to which SPBP's Board of Directors decided to accede. Thus, the XVIII edition of the congress is to be held in Portugal in 2023.

c) SPBP began the organization of the XV Portuguese-Spanish Symposium on Plant Water Relations, which should take place between September 30 and October 3, 2020, at the ITQB, Oeiras, Portugal. However, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Symposium was postponed to September 29 – October 1, 2021.

d) SPBP is engaged on the organization of the scientific program of the XVIII Brazilian Congress of Plant Physiology and I Iberolatinoamerican Congress of Plant Biology, which will be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, from September 19 to 23, 2021.
e) SPBP is organizing the Session “Plant Biology and Biotechnology”, included in the XXI National Congress of Biochemistry, to be held in Évora, Portugal, 3-5th December 2020.

4. Participation in International Scientific Platforms

a) With the coordination of its Plant Nutrition Group, SPBP continues the process of integration into the European Phosphorus Platform, in collaboration with the Spanish Society of Plant Biology.
b) SPPB's participation in the Global Plant Council was maintained and deepened, and the activities of the European Plant Science Organization were monitored. Several surveys were answered, opinions were given, and the political position of these organisations was supported.
c) SPPB continues to participate in the development of the Iberolatinamerican Federation of Societies of Plant Biology (IFSPB).

Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society

www.spps.se

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC

Thorsten Hamann, thorsten.hamann@ntnu.no

Name of the current president

Christiane Funk

Term of the current president

August 2019- August 2021

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Vice President: Mats Hansson, mats.hansson@biol.lu.se

Secretary General: Thorsten Hamann, thorsten.hamann@ntnu.no

Society Secretary: Anke Carius, anke.carius@umu.se

Member Report June 2019–June 2020

August 28th-30th 2019 in Umeå, Sweden SPPS held their own congress with 130 participants. The next SPPS conference will be held in August 2021, in Northern Norway (tba.) SPPS awarded 7 researchers with awards:

- SPPS Award: Karin Ljung (SLU, Umeå, Sweden)
- PPL-Award: Åsa Strand (USPC, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden)
- SPPS Popularization Prize: Jens Sundström (SLU, Uppsala, Sweden)
- SPPS Early Carreer Award: Charles Melnyk (SLU, Uppsala, Sweden)
- SPPS PhD Prize: Moona Rahikainen (UTU, Turku, Finland)
- SPPS Innovation Prize is shared between Torgny Näsholm (SLU Umeå, Sweden) and Barbara Halkier (DynaMo Center, University of Copenhagen, Denmark).

At the SPPS2019 conference, the SPPS general assembly exchanged 6 members of its council. The new council started out their term with getting to know both society business and each other and making plans for their term. Some new grants were implemented: SPPS Childcare Conferencing Grant and the SPPS Open Grant. The council developed ideas about promoting SPPS more in the Nordic countries, so instead of arranging the council meeting in the same place

(Stockholm) all the time, the council will travel to plant science institutes and will promote both SPPS and plant science on these occasions. The number of physical meetings is reduced to two per year, all other meetings are held online to reduce CO_2 emissions. Now, SPPS travel plans and planned PhD student conference have been severely hampered by the Covid-19 pandemic. SPPS reacted quickly; the PhD student conference will be held online in September 2020 and SPPS launched a new grant to generate “Online Tools for Plant Science”.

Taiwan Society of Plant Biologist

http://tspb.org.tw/TSPB_en/about-1.php

Name and email of current representative to the GPC

General Secretary: Shih-Shun Lin, linss01@ntu.edu.tw

Name of current president

Hsu-Liang Hsieh

Term of current president

2020-2022

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Acting President & Chair: Hsu-Liang Hsieh (hlhsieh@ntu.edu.tw)

Member Report September 2019 July–June 2020 (Max 500 words)

2019 November 23 – November 24

2019 Annual Meeting & Symposium - New Vision in Plant Science: Sustainable development

Taipei, Taiwan

http://tspb.org.tw/TSPB_website/Meeting2019-2.php

TSPB (Taiwan Society of Plant Biologists) held the Annual meeting and a Symposium on Nov 23-24, 2019, in Taipei, Taiwan. The main topic of the symposium is New Vision in Plant Science: Sustainable development. The TSPB community focused on several specific issues, including omics for solution, plant-microbe interaction, crop science, young scientist forum, evolutionary and sustainable ecology, and plant science education.

The Society for Experimental Biology

www.sebiology.org

Name and email of current representative to the GPC: Katherine Denby, katherine.denby@york.ac.uk

Name and email of representative to the GPC in 2020 if different from above: Stefan Kepinski, S.Kepinski@leeds.ac.uk

Name of current president: Craig Franklin , c.franklin@uq.edu.au

Term of current president: 2019-2021

Name and email of other member organisation contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.

Pamela Mortimer (CEO) - p.mortimer@sebiology.org

Jim Murray (Vice President) - murrayja1@cardiff.ac.uk

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP REPORT 2019

As of December - 2019 the SEB had 1860 members of which 939 are members of the SEB Plant Section. The membership for each interest group within the Plant Section as at 31 December 2019 was as follows:

- Plant Transport 336
- Photosynthesis & Metabolism 473
- Plant Environmental Physiology 554
- Plant Development 549
- Integrative Plant Biology 563
- Interactions of Plants with Other
- Organisms 412
- Crop Molecular Genetics 439
- Abiotic Stress and Climate Change 243
- Plant Biotechnology and Synthetic
- Biology 167

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

In 2019 the SEB organised the following events:

SEB ANNUAL MEETING 2019 (JULY 2019, SEVILLE, SPAIN)

Total attendance at meeting: There were a total of 900 attendees in Seville this year and 587 of the attendees were paying delegates. 35% Percent of delegates who attended where from the plant section.

PLANT SESSIONS

The Plant section organised the following session independently but also in collaboration with the SEB Animal and Cell Sections:

Section	Session title
Animal/Plant/Cell	Functional micro- and nano-structures in Biology
Animal/Plant/Cell	Host-microbiota interactions across animal and plant kingdoms
Animal/Plant	Threatened plants and animals - can understanding physiology inform conservation strategies?
Cell/Plant	Tip growth in plant biology
Cell/Plant	Plant epigenetics
Cell/Plant	General cell and plant biology
Plant	Redox regulation in chloroplasts
Plant	An extended plant phenotype: characterising plant-soil microbiome interactions
Plant	Impact and functions of alternative splicing in plants
Plant	Stomatal and photosynthetic regulation of water use efficiency
Plant	Mechanisms and mitigation of plant water deficit: from the bottom up
Plant	Abiotic stress tolerance – from the lab to impact in the field
Plant	Gene networks for crop improvement
Plant	in silico Plants
Plant	Time, Temperature, and a Transforming World

PLANT SECTION AWARDS

- Woolhouse Lecturer – Liam Dolan (University of Oxford, UK)
- President's Medallist: Daniel Gibbs, University of Birmingham
- Young scientist award (YSAS) – Thomas Chaloner, University of Exeter
- Irene Manton poster prize winner - Miss Emily L Harrison, University of Sheffield

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The Society (co) owns four primary research journals (Journal of Experimental Botany, The Plant journal, Plant Biotechnology Journal and Conservation Physiology) and one cascade journal (Plant Direct). These journals continue to be ranked highly among other journals publishing similar scientific papers and to be well regarded by the communities they support and we encourage GPC members to publish in our journals. Detail on the journals and recent activity is set out below.

JOURNAL IMPACT FACTORS AND RECENT ACTIVITY

Journal of Experimental Botany-impact factor 5.36 https://academic.oup.com/jxb

The Journal of Experimental Botany (JXB) publishes papers that describe novel and rigorous research addressing broad principles in plant science. As a society-owned journal, JXB's primary focus is supporting the global plant science community to foster constructive scientific discussion and to disseminate its findings.

JXB continues to support the highest quality SEB science by publishing Special Issues from SEB meetings, as well as sessions at the Annual Conference. SEB Plant Section President's Medallists will also write a prestigious Darwin Review for JXB, further strengthening the link between the Journal and the Society. The Journal has recently announced they will consider Technical Innovations and Community Resource papers.

The Plant Journal - impact factor 5.726 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/1365313x

The Plant Journal provides a dynamic forum for the ever-growing international plant sciences research community and publishes in all key areas of plant biology

In 2019 the Society in collaboration with Wiley introduced the SEB –Wiley-TPJ Outstanding Paper Awards which celebrate some of the most significant research published by *The Plant Journal* each year. Awards were given in the following categories:

- Outstanding Original Research Article
- Outstanding Technical Advance Article
- Outstanding Resource Article

Details of the winners of the SEB-Wiley-TPJ outstanding papers published in 2019 can be found here https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tpj.14730. The first author of all winning

papers will receive a year's membership of the SEB. The student first authors will also receive free registration for next year's SEB annual meeting in Antwerp.

Plant Biotechnology Journal- impact factor 6.840 https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14677652

Plant Biotechnology Journal,an Open Access journal, publishes high-impact original research and incisive reviews with an emphasis on molecular plant sciences and their applications through plant biotechnology.

Conservation Physiology – impact factor (third impact factor for the journal) 3.634

http://academic.oup.com/conphys

Conservation Physiology is an online-only, open access journal published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the SEB. Now in its third volume, it is edited by a prestigious team of experts who helped to define the discipline

Plant Direct https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/24754455

Plant Direct is an open access, sound science journal for the plant sciences that gives prompt and equal consideration to papers reporting work dealing with a variety of subjects. It is a collaborative journal launched by the American Society of Plant Biologists, the Society for Experimental Biology, and Wiley and it supports the ASPB and SEB communities.

Annex 2. GPC Member Organizations Websites

African Crop Science Society (ACSS)

http://www.acss.ws

American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)

http://www.aspb.org

ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, Australia (PEB)

http://www.plantenergy.uwa.edu.au

Argentine Society of Plant Physiology (SAFV)

http://www.fisiologiavegetal.org

Australian National University (ANU)

http://www.anu.edu.au/

Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS)

http://www.asps.org.au

Botanical Society of China (BSC)

http://www.botany.org.cn

Canadian Society of Plant Biologists (CSPB)

http://www.cspp-scpv.ca

Chilean Society of Plant Biologists (ChilSPB)

http://www.biologiavegetal.cl

Chinese Society of Plant Biology (ChSPB)

http://www.cspb.org.cn

Crop Science Society of China (CSSC)

http://www.chinacrops.com

European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)

http://www.epsoweb.org

Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology (FESPB)

http://www.fespb.org

The Heat and Drought Wheat Improvement Consortium (HeDWIC)

https://www.hedwic.org

Indian Society for Plant Physiology (ISPP)

http://www.ispponline.org

Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP)

http://www2.jspp.org

Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology

http://www.mpimp-golm.mpg.de

Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee

http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/

New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists (NZSPB)

http://plantbiology.science.org.nz

Plant Canada (PC)

http://www.plantcanada.ca

Portuguese Society of Plant Physiology (SPFV)

http://www.spfv.pt

Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society (SPPS)

http://www.spps.fi

Spanish Society of Plant Physiology (SEFV)

http://www.sefv.net

Society for Experimental Biology (SEB)

http://www.sebiology.org/

Taiwan Society of Plant Biologists (TSPB)

http://tspb.org.tw/TSPB_en/

UK Plant Sciences Federation (UKPSF)

http://www.plantsci.org.uk/