

Global Plant Council Annual Report 2021–2022

15th September 2022

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The Global Plant Council

The Global Plant Council (GPC) is a coalition of 27 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

When I was nominated for President of the Global Plant Council in 2018, I was pleased to accept. The aims are closely aligned with my own values: to promote plant sciences, support the international plant science community (especially early career researchers) and increase awareness of the importance of plants both for themselves and for their usefulness to humans. I believe we have made significant advances on all fronts over my four years in the position.

The GPC is increasingly being recognised as an organisation that can sit apart from societies that are based on region or discipline giving us a unique perspective. A positive outcome of this was the development of our own statement on DEI (in consultation with members), steps to make our website more accessible to people in regions with slow internet and to increase the number of plant science stories from the 'global south' in our news posts.

Ongoing activities and new initiatives are outlined in Isabel Mendoza's report (the Chief Communications Officer). It has been an incredibly productive year, despite COVID and other challenges. Highlights include releasing a position statement on climate change to coincide with the UN's COP26 in Glasgow, applying for observer status for COP28 for 2024, organising symposia and the wide-ranging topics in the Webinar series.

For me, in my role as President, I have given plenaries/opening speeches/chaired symposia, in India, Ireland, Italy, France and the UK (the latter two in person), written reports, interviewed for *Science Friction*, an Australian ABC radio program and done a lot of Tweeting.

The GPC is now more than a decade old, and it is time to revisit some of the rules. Therefore, I am proposing that we formalize the terms of office for the Board and Office Bearers. In part, this is because we don't want people to burn out. Our board is very dedicated, and I cannot speak highly enough of them. Every member comes with their unique perspectives based on their discipline, region, and linguistic background. This is both important and enriching, giving the GPC a truly global perspective – although more could be done

After four years I am stepping down as President. I will continue on the Board as Past President for another year. I have enjoyed doing this, and I really think it is important. However, it is time for new ideas, and I am a bit over very late-night Board meetings.

I want to particularly thank our Chief Communications Officer, Isabel Mendoza, Chair Elizabeth Neilson, Treasurer Deena Errampalli and other board members who ensure that this is a remarkable organisation. I wish you all the best for the coming year.

Signed: Ros Gleadow

Executive Summary

Period between 1st June2021-1st September2022.

Summary of social media and online impacts

Social media (views, 1st June2021-1st Sep2022)	**Followers**	**Views**
Twitter	16.117	3.020.034
Facebook (page + group)	10.710	662.934
Others: Instagram, LinkedIn… (not including newsletters)	5.078	+200.000
Total	31.190	+3.800.000
Youtube channel (1st June2021-1st Sep2022)		
Followers		136
New videos		22
Total videos		42
Total views (1st June2021-1st Sep2022)		2.400
Newsletters (1st June2021-1st Sep2022)	**Subscribers**	**Send (times)**
General newsletter	1.611	13
ECRi newsletter	456	7
Collective Messages to representatives	105	23
Eventbrite	715	9
Website (1st June2021-1st Sep2022)		
Views	95.737	
News published	282	
Blog posts published	27	
Events published	126	

ECRi activities, especially addressed to ECRs.

Impact summary on ECRs for the period 1st June 2021-1st Sep 2022	
Webinars held /people registered/attendees	12 / 985 / 427
Members of the #plantscijob group (Facebook)	4.589
Members of the #plantscijob group (LinkedIn)	571
ECRi Newsletter signers	456
Submissions accepted for “Guest post wanted”	16
Submissions to the ICAR2022 free online registration call	53
Submissions to the “Frontiers Topics” call (March 2021-Feb2022)	36
Submissions to the “Frontiers Topics” call (March 2022-Sep2022)	27
Number of #plantscijobs Twitterstorms / job adds shared	14 / +420

Other

Other (1st June2021-1st Sep2022)	
Webinars (1st June2021-1st September2022)	
Hosted	1
Organized (via ECRi)	12
Total	13
Downloads of 2021 Annual report	613
Download of March 2021 Snapshot	417
Community calls	5
New members	2
Active Working Groups	1

Official attendance at conferences

Conference and sessions (1st June2021-1st Sep2022)	**Role**	**Type**	**When?**
Plant Biology Europe 2021 - Scicomm workshop - DSI policy panel	Organizer and host	Online	June 2021
Biología de Plantas 2021 After-congress session on the 9th of July2022	Organizer and host	Online	July 2021
RAFV CONFERENCE 2021 Panel: "Will the Nagoya protocol change how we deal with digital sequence information in plant research? Research and Law perspectives.	Organizer and host	Online	Sept 2021
ICAR2022 Workshop "Navigating the Nagoya protocol. Access and benefit sharing rights and digital sequence information"	Organizer and host	Hybrid	June 2022
SEB2022 Session: "Access and benefit sharing rights and digital sequence information: building awareness for plant scientists"	Organizer and host	Hybrid	July 2022
ISCRAES2022	Speaker	Hybrid	Aug 2022
Online workshop on CRISPR-MEDIATED PLANT GENOME EDITING	Organizer and host	Online	Sept-Oct 2021

In addition, since our last meeting we have:

- joined the *Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation* (SPG Coalition).
- been invited to give a lecture on science communication on social media by the iGem community for their new training program.
- submitted a proposal to be awarded observer status for the COP28 meeting in 2024.
- Published two new position statements, on climate change and on diversity, equality and inclusion.

GPC Report 2021-2022

The Global Plant Council Day-by-Day

The GPC has one staff member (Isabel Mendoza, our Chief 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.
- **Chair**: Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson, Assistant professor at University of Copenhagen
- **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)
    - Pablo Manavellla, researcher of CONICET and associated professor of Universidad Nacional del Litoral
- **Observer**:
    - Geraint Parry, Executive Officer, Association of Applied Biologists
    - Makoto Hayashi, Department of Bioscience, Nagahama Institute of Bioscience and Technology, Nagahama, Japan

Our communications officer is in frequent communication with the members of the board via email. She holds weekly or bi- weekly online meetings with at least one board member. The board continues to meet online every 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 before 9:00 CET. These stories are shared on all GPC social media channels, at 9:00 or 10:00 CET.
- 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 updates, Server…).
- Check on analytics for suspicious or unusual activity.
- Communication with members regarding preparation and collections of fees, reports, and dissemination of news, webinars, and other issues.

Weekly tasks

- Small council meetings between Isabel Mendoza, Ros Gleadow, and Elizabeth Jakobsen Neilson to discuss course of action and activities.

Monthly and Bi-monthly tasks

- Monthly general newsletter to subscribers.
- Organizing and hosting the GPC's monthly webinar.
- Organizing and hosting the GPC's bi-monthly community calls.
- Bi-monthly newsletter to ECRs.
- Meeting with members of the board (every 6 weeks) to discuss course of action and activities.
- Organization of working group meetings (doodle, calendar invites, join files and folders…).
- Organization of webinars (speakers, topics, technical management behind the scenes…).

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 workshops.
- Curation of website sections when appropriate.
- Curation of reports and applications when appropriate.
- 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

Currently, The Global Plant Council groups 27 members. Since our last meeting, two new members have to joined The Global Plant Council: the **Copenhagen Plant Science Centre** and the **Association of Applied Biologists**. Meanwhile, during the period, ASPB and FESPB have withdrawn as members.





The Global Plant Council sponsors: *New Phytologist, Plant People Planet, Frontiers in Plant Science,* Wikifarmer

We are grateful to '*The New Phytologist Trust (NPT)*' for continued sponsorship of the Global Plant Council with their two journals, ***New Phytologist*** and ***Plants People Planet***.

We continue as well our relationship with ***Frontiers in Plant Science*** and the call of Frontiers Research Topics with prizes equivalent to three full APCs (Article Processing Charges) applicable for Frontiers in Plant Science journal (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/frontiers-topics/). In 2021 the awarded Research Topic on "Systemic Resistance and Defense Priming Against Pathogens" by Nico Cecchini are Ho Won Jung.

Besides, in 2022 we expanded this collaboration when ***Frontiers in Plant Science*** agreed to sponsor our DSI workshop held at the ICAR2022 in Belfast (UK) in June 2022. Through this sponsorship, the organizers of ICAR2022 allowed us to offer free registration to 10 online attendees from Argentina, Australia, India, Italy, Nigeria, Tunisia, and Ukraine. A total of 53 people applied. The call is available here: https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-grants/icar2022/.



In early 2022 we have started a relationship **Wikifarmer**, a global platform that provides of farmers with education and offers them access to the open market to sell their products at fair prices. We are planning to organize bilateral webinars connecting Farmers and Researchers.

Early Career Researcher International Network (ECRi)

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

The Early-Career Researcher (ECR) International Network, **the ECRi**, is a collection of activities addressed to help the ECRs with 4 essential pillars:

- job hunting (ECRi Jobs)
- grant writing (ECRi Grants)
- communication (ECRi communication)
- and networking (ECRi 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 are active**:

I. The 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 schedule every Friday of the month, between 3-4 pm CEST.**

II. A Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/groups/plantscijobs) and a LinkedIn (https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12274424/) group where we post almost daily opportunities related to plant science. Those posts are posted regularly, with the hashtags #plantscijobs.

III. We have a curated list of plant science jobs (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-jobs/) and grants (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-grants/) resources provided by our members.

IV. We are gathering a collection of resources to help plant scientists communicate their research more efficiently (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/).

V. We welcome guest posts from ECRs and students (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/ecri-communication-and-dissemination-activity/).

Published blog post by ECRs per year			
	2020 (Mar-Dec)	2021	2022 (Jan-Sep)
Number of posts	3	10	10

In 2022 (until 1st September) we have published the following articles by ECRs:

- Seed germination: A physio-molecular journey through germinating seed https://globalplantcouncil.org/seed-germination-a-physio-molecular-journey-through-germinating-seed/
- Good agronomy: the first step to improving rice productivity when water supply is sufficient https://globalplantcouncil.org/good-agronomy-the-first-step-to-improving-rice-productivity-when-water-supply-is-sufficient/

- Silicon nanoparticles: New-age fertilisers? https://globalplantcouncil.org/silicon-nanoparticles-new-age-fertilisers/
- Wild potato crop relatives: a key asset for sustainable agriculture https://globalplantcouncil.org/wild-potato-crop-relatives-a-key-asset-for-sustainable-agriculture/
- Grease manages fall armyworm Spodoptera frugiperda (J.E. Smith) larvae on maize crop https://globalplantcouncil.org/grease-manages-fall-armyworm-spodoptera-frugiperda-j-e-smith-larvae-on-maize-crop/
- A new technique to quantify leaf day respiration https://globalplantcouncil.org/a-new-technique-to-quantify-leaf-day-respiration/
- Treatment of COVID-19 pandemic with indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants: A Folklore https://globalplantcouncil.org/treatment-of-covid-19-pandemic-with-indigenous-knowledge-of-medicinal-plants-a-folklore/
- Does pruning increase cocoa yield? It depends on cocoa tree size and neighbouring trees https://globalplantcouncil.org/does-pruning-increase-cocoa-yield-it-depends-on-cocoa-tree-size-and-neighbouring-trees/
- Are "Plastic" Plants Our Future? Understanding and studying phenotypic plasticity https://globalplantcouncil.org/are-plastic-plants-our-future-understanding-and-studying-phenotypic-plasticity/
- Multipotent stem cells in Arabidopsis shape the leaf epidermis patterning https://globalplantcouncil.org/multipotent-stem-cells-in-arabidopsis-shape-the-leaf-epidermis-patterning/

VI. The Global Plant Council has team up again with *Frontiers in Plant Science* for a special Frontiers Research Topic call (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-outreach/frontiers-topics/).

VII. The Global Plant Council, *Frontiers in Plant Science* and ICAR2022 united to sponsor 10 online registrations to the ICAR2022 meeting in June 2022 (https://globalplantcouncil.org/ecri/ecri-grants/icar2022/)

VIII. Since April 2021, we have hosted monthly webinars on different topics of interest.

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.

Digital Sequence Information (DSI) Working group

By the end of 2020, GPC decided to put together a working group (WG) to work on increasing awareness about among plant scientists on obligations to respect access and benefit-sharing rights under the Convention on Biodiversity, the FAO Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, and the Nagoya Protocols on Access and Benefit Sharing.

Since our last AMOM in May the WG has continued its work and was be involved/organized 5 DSI-related events during the last period:

- In June 2021, The Global Plant Council co-led a DSI policy panel jointly organized with EPSO on the 29th of June 2021 at the Plant Biology Europe 2021, the biannual congress jointly organized by EPSO and FESPB. Recordings are available in the GPC YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/c/TheGlobalPlantCouncil).

- In September 2021, The Global Plant Council led a policy panel on the 13th of September 2021 at RAFV CONFERENCE 2021 –XXXIII Argentinian meeting of Plant Physiology, organized by the Argentinian Society of Plant Biology. Recording available here: https://youtu.be/BwZzyY129H0.

- In October 2021 we took part in the webinar "*The Role of International Collaborations in Resolving Viral Diseases of Cassava in Africa*" part of the "*International Workshop Series: How does sharing genetic sequence data impact biodiversity science and conservation?*" organize by the AIBS, NSF and the USA Nagoya Protocol Action Group as hosts, together with ASPB. Watch the recording here: https://youtu.be/BB58bZjXRKA

- In June 2022 we organized at ICAR2022 the workshop "*Navigating the Nagoya protocol. Access and benefit sharing rights and digital sequence information*". This session was made possible thanks to the sponsorship by *Frontiers in Plant Science*. Watch the recording here: https://youtu.be/9lz3ExTj2Yk.



- In July 2022 we hosted the session "*Access and benefit sharing rights and digital sequence information: building awareness for plant scientists*" at SEB2022 in Montpellier (France). This session was partially funded with help of SEB.

In February 2022 we were contacted by the *DSI Scientific Network* to sign their open letter released in March (here: https://www.dsiscientificnetwork.org/open-letter/) together with other 32 organizations and over 1.000 scientists.

The results of the work of the DSI WG have been organized and made public in its own section of the GPC This section includes introduction to the topics, videos from the talks delivered, a playlist, related papers and more. (Link: https://globalplantcouncil.org/activities/challenges/dsi-wg/).

Eventually, after all these discussions, we hope to be able to write a policy paper on the matter, hopefully by the end of this year.

Webinars

GPC launched in April 2021 a series of monthly plant sci webinars with focus on transversal and high-level topics of interest for plant scientists, both in English and Spanish. All our recording is available on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/c/TheGlobalPlantCouncil.



In 2021, eight webinars were hosted, 3 of them in Spanish and 5 in English:

- 7th, April 2021. **Principios de comunicación científica online** (Spanish). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 162
    - Attendees: 73
- 5th, May 2021. **Comunicación científica por redes sociales** (Spanish). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 127
    - Attendees: 72
- 9th, June 2021. **Heat and Drought Wheat Improvement Consortium (HeDWIC)** by Matthew Reynolds (HeDWIC leader). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 181
    - Attendees: 88
- 6th, July 2021. **Rice breeding for Africa by using useful agricultural genes** by Prof Motoyuki Ashikari (University of Nagoya). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 111
    - Attendees: 30

- 8th, September 2021. **Where should I send my paper? How to choose where to publish your results.** By Oula Ghannoum (Western Sydney University). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 107
    - Attendees: 48
- 6th, October 2021. **International Plant Phenotyping Network (IPPN)** by Philipp von Gillhaussen (IPPN). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 107
    - Attendees: 74
- 10th, November 2021. **Un dulce final: aplicación de la biotecnología en la mejora del almendro** by Raquel Sánchez Pérez (CEBAS-CSIC). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 58
    - Attendees: 23
- 15th, December 2021. **The Academic Odyssey Series: Prof Ros Gleadow** (Monash University). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 103
    - Attendees: 30

In 2022, six webinars have been hosted until now, 1 of them in Spanish and 5 in English:

- 9th, March 2022. **Ethics in Plant Science** by Prof John Bryant (University of Exeter). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 82
    - Attendees: 24
- 5th, April 2022. **The Academic Odyssey Series: Prof Francisca Blanco Herrera**. Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 26
    - Attendees: 14
- 5th, May 2022. **Webinar presenting the WAVE Regional Center of Excellence** by Prof Justin Pita. Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 13
    - Attendees: 13
- 8th, June 2022. **CONNECTED: Community Network for African Vector-Borne Plant Viruses**. Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 43
    - Attendees: 15
- 14th, July 2022. **Changing Landscape of Peer Review in Plant Science** by Prof Wataru Sakamoto (Okayama University). Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 71
    - Attendees: 35
- 23rd, August 2022. **The SHui project: an example of EU-China cooperation**. Watch the recording here.
    - Registered: 47
    - Attendees: 33

Meetings and Workshops since June 2021

Since 2021, The Global Plant Council has been involved in attending or to some degree in the organization of several online meetings. Namely:

- In June 2021, The Global Plant Council attended **Plant Biology Europe 2021**, the biannual congress jointly organized by EPSO and FESPB. GPC led on the 29th of June 2021 the:

    - **Science Communication workshop** hosted by Michele Catanzaro. Watch the recording here.
    - **DSI policy panel** jointly organized by the DSI Working group from GPC and the Nagoya Working group from EPSO. This included the following talks:

        - **The Nagoya Protocol: What can we do?** by Amber Hartman Scholz, Leibniz Institute DSMZ German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures. Watch the recording.
        - **The Nagoya Protocol: Potential conflicts related to DSI** by KC Bansal, The Global Plant Council. Watch the recording.
        - **The Nagoya Protocol: A researcher's perspective** by Nils Stein, Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK). Watch the recording.
        - **The Nagoya Protocol. What are we talking about?** by Jane Anderson, New York University and Brad Sherman, The University of Queensland. Watch the recording.

- In July 2021, The Global Plant Council attended online **Biología de Plantas 2021** (PB2021), a biannual congress jointly organized by the Spanish Society of Plant Biology and the Portuguese Society of Plant Physiology. GPC was in charge of the after-congress on the 9th of July with:

    - 9th, July 2021. **The FAIR Data Principles**. By 4TU.ResearchData. Watch the recording here.
    - 9th, July 2021. **Science communication on social media**. Open discussion with Mary Williams and Geraint Parry. Watch the recording here.
    - 9th, July 2021. **The what, who, why and how of preprints**. By Iratxe Puebla, ASAPBio. Watch the recording here.

- In September 2021, The Global Plant Council attended online the RAFV CONFERENCE 2021 –XXXIII Argentinian meeting of Plant Physiology, organized by the Argentinian Society of Plant Biology.

    - GPC led the panel "**Will the Nagoya protocol change how we deal with digital sequence information in plant research? Research and Law perspectives**" on the 13th of September 2021. Watch the recording here.

- In September-October 2021, The Global Plant Council help organized an online workshop on **CRISPR-MEDIATED PLANT GENOME EDITING** together with DBT Star College Scheme, the Department of Botany, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, New Delhi in collaboration with ICAR-National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack *and* Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary (SGT) University, Gurgaon.



- In June 2022, The Global Plant Council attended ICAR2022 in Belfast (UK), organized by MASC and AAB.
    - GPC hosted the workshop "**Navigating the Nagoya protocol. Access and benefit sharing rights and digital sequence information**" led by Rodrigo Sara (Lawyer & Tech-Transfer Consultant at One Planet Solutions). Watch the recording here.

- In July 2022, The Global Plant Council attended SEB2022 in Montpellier (France), organized by SEB.
    - GPC hosted the session "**Access and benefit sharing rights and digital sequence information: building awareness for plant scientists** " chaired by Ros Gleadow. Watch the recording here. The session included the following talks and speakers:
        - *Introducing the Traditional Knowledge and Biocultural Labels & Notices: Supporting Access and Benefit Sharing Pathways within Data Infrastructures* by Jane Anderson, New York University and Brad Sherman, The University of Queensland.
        - *Plant and animal genomics research for and with indigenous communities: a European scientist's perspective* by David Chagne
        - *Examining global patterns of DSI sharing and use to inform policy* by Andrew Hufton
        - *Nagoya Protocol and access to genetic resources* by Brad Sherman

New position statements

Climate change

As discussed in the May 2021 AMOM, the GPC issued a climate change statement in on time for the COP26 meeting. The drafting of the statement started right away after AMOM. Representatives were consulted, and the final statement released on the 29th of September. https://globalplantcouncil.org/activities/challenges/adaptation-to-climate-change/climate-change-statement/



The **Global Plant Council (GPC)** acknowledges that the 6th Assessment Report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides irrefutable scientific evidence that the Earth's climate is changing due to human-related activities. We agree with the IPCC that global warming and climate change are real and measurable phenomena primarily driven by increases in the concentrations of CO2 and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The GPC is very concerned that current climate models forecast further temperature rises that will disrupt rainfall patterns and increase the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. In addition, the world population is expected to reach an estimated 9.7 billion people by 2050. If left unaddressed, these simultaneous phenomena will further threaten biodiversity and pose unprecedented challenges to global food security. The problem is confounded by the substantial contribution of farming systems and food distribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

Societal Challenges

Our societies face choices about how to respond to the consequences of climate change on agriculture and biodiversity. Available strategies are many and carry different levels of environmental and societal risks. We need stricter policies and action plans that can be developed, widely implemented and accounted for. Climate change and its immediate effects are claimed -especially by vested interest groups- to be hard to predict, which has thwarted the necessary political action. However, uncertainty in climate science is not greater than in other areas where policy decisions are routinely taken to minimize risk. Moreover, the predictions are very similar to the original predictions presented in the very first IPCC report 30 years ago.

We need tools to develop more efficient agricultural and economic systems that will increase food supply without further damage to the natural environment. Indeed, there is a need to revert land currently used for farming to nature to help rebalance the world's biomes. Plant scientists are well placed to make a major contribution to this complex task.

Addressing Policy-Makers

We ask policymakers to confer with plant scientists to tackle climate change and develop agricultural and ecological policies using the best available scientific evidence. Plant scientists are ready to help if given the chance. We await your call.

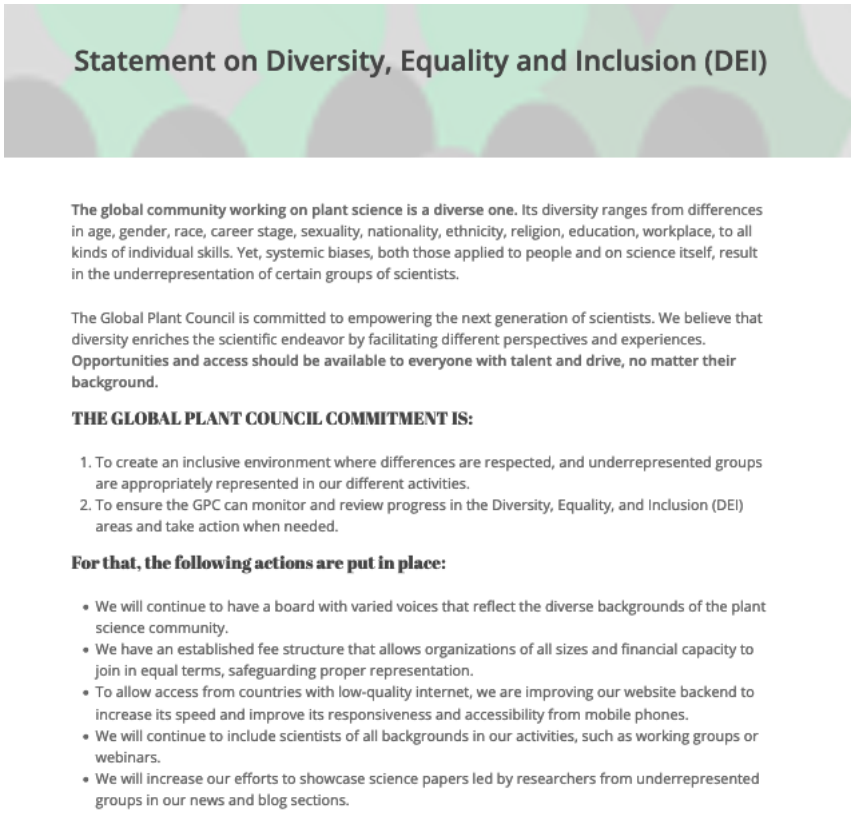
For further information contact The Global Plant Council (info@globalplantcouncil.org). We can connect you to the plant science organisations in your region and major plant science centres for further discussions and advice.

Signatories

The Global Plant Council, Australian Society of Plant Scientists, Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists, The Royal Society of Biology, Association of Applied Biologists, Portuguese Society of Plant Biology, Chinese Society for Plant Biology, American Society of Plant Biologists, Plant Canada, Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee, Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, Division of Plant Sciences of the Australian National University

Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI)

Following a public controversy involving the organization of IPMB2022 (news piece and podcast), it was made clear that GPC needed a statement on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) specific for the plant science community. Therefore, the GPC board started working on a DEI statement on its own, including specific actions. Link: https://globalplantcouncil.org/about/position-statements/diversity-equality-and-inclusion/



Statement on Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI)

The global community working on plant science is a diverse one. Its diversity ranges from differences in age, gender, race, career stage, sexuality, nationality, ethnicity, religion, education, workplace, to all kinds of individual skills. Yet, systemic biases, both those applied to people and on science itself, result in the underrepresentation of certain groups of scientists.

The Global Plant Council is committed to empowering the next generation of scientists. We believe that diversity enriches the scientific endeavor by facilitating different perspectives and experiences. **Opportunities and access should be available to everyone with talent and drive, no matter their background.**

THE GLOBAL PLANT COUNCIL COMMITMENT IS:

1. To create an inclusive environment where differences are respected, and underrepresented groups are appropriately represented in our different activities.
2. To ensure the GPC can monitor and review progress in the Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI) areas and take action when needed.

For that, the following actions are put in place:

- We will continue to have a board with varied voices that reflect the diverse backgrounds of the plant science community.
- We have an established fee structure that allows organizations of all sizes and financial capacity to join in equal terms, safeguarding proper representation.
- To allow access from countries with low-quality internet, we are improving our website backend to increase its speed and improve its responsiveness and accessibility from mobile phones.
- We will continue to include scientists of all backgrounds in our activities, such as working groups or webinars.
- We will increase our efforts to showcase science papers led by researchers from underrepresented groups in our news and blog sections.

All our position statements are available here: https://globalplantcouncil.org/about/position-statements/

Other

Ukraine War

Following the start of the war in Ukraine on the 24th of February and the refugee crisis that ensued in Europe, institutions and scientific societies put in motion initiatives to offer students and scientists opportunities to work and study, including GPC members such as EPSO and CEPLAS. On March 9th the GPC launched a new section were resources collected were made available. This section was updated regularly until the end of April. (https://globalplantcouncil.org/resources/resources-for-refugees-of-the-ukrainian-war/).



SPG coalition

In September 2021 we joined the **Coalition on Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation Coalition** (SPG Coalition) that was launched to the public also on September 2021 at the United Nation's Food Systems Summit. The coalition is led by USDA and other members include FAO, CIMMYT, International Potato Center, 2Blades Foundation, DivSeek International, Supporters of Agricultural Research Foundation, World Resources Institute, other regions and countries and organizations of the private sector. There are no obligations for members, financial or otherwise. It is expected to attend the meetings when possible and contribute to the events and annual report with the activities we see fit. This year we have submitted the works done the DSI working group, the ECRi platform and the webinar series on Global Collaborations.



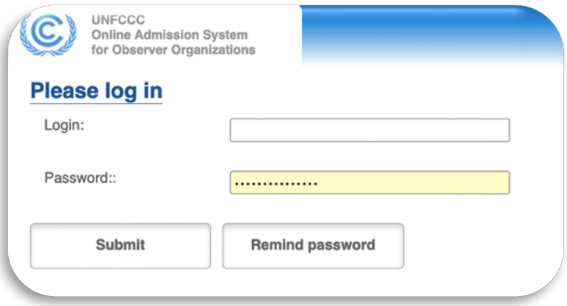
iGEM

The iGEM Foundation is an organization dedicated to the advancement of synthetic biology. They organize each year since 2003 a global competition on synthetic biology for university students. In March 2022 we were contacted by iGEM community to participate as speakers in a training addressed to the participants of future iGEM competitions. Isabel Mendoza recorded the training session in August 2022.



COP28

In parallel to issuing our climate change in time for the COP26, the board make the point to increase our potential impact by applying to observer status the upcoming COP meetings. This might allow us to attend the meetings and voice the opinion of the global plant science community in a more efficient manners. We submitted all paperwork in August 2022, and we hope to be able to attend COP28 in 2023.



ISCRAES

The International Symposium On Climate-Resilient Agri-Environmental Systems (ISCRAES) is a relatively new forum hosted by Prudence College, Dublin and the brainchild of Dr Ibrahim Khalil. This biennial conference brings together policymakers, scientists, and aid agencies to discuss challenges and solutions to global heating and food security, from a European perspective. President Ros Gleadow was asked to give represent The Global Plant Council. Her plenary raised the question of why it takes so long for scientific ideas to be translated into action. The panel-discussion starter focussed on the interconnections between preserving biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. She also pointed out the potential negative impact of bringing digital sequence information in line with the Nagoya protocol and the convention on biodiversity, design to promote the discussion primary objective of a sustainable Europe and planet by tackling the current major environmental, climate, and societal challenges faced by the world. It was good to see The Global Plant Council able to present from a plant perspective.

GPC social media and online presence

GPC website

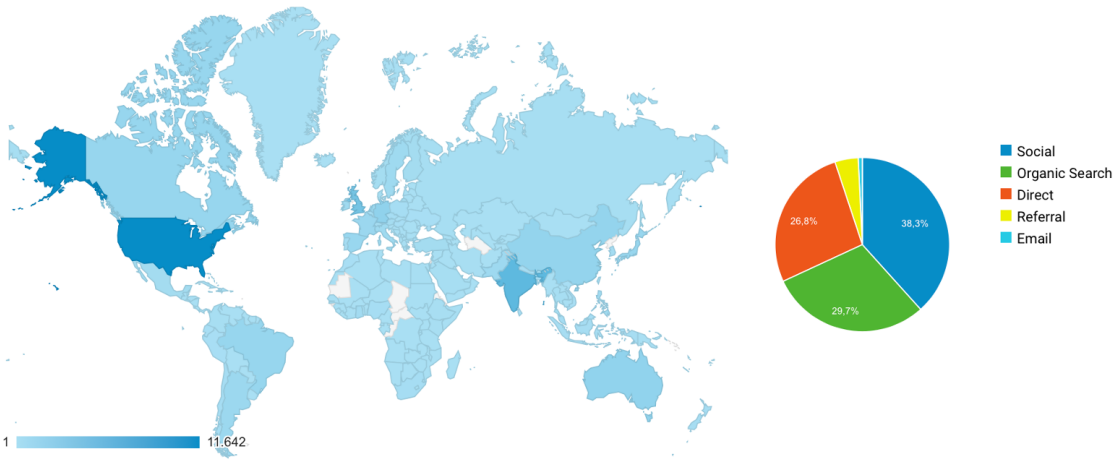
Since the last GPC AMOM (June 2021) until the 1st of September 2022, the GPC website has collected over 282 news items, 27 blog posts and 126 events. The website has been maintained by Isabel Mendoza.

Since we last met, we have gathered over **930.000 impressions and 15.500 clicks in Google** searches. Besides:

- 503 sites are linked to our website, accounting for a total of 7.030 links. Among these sites we found FAO, Wikifarmer, Wikipedia, 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 562** where someone has clicked and entered our site. That is over **15.500** times.

During the 2021-2022 period, Google Analytics has continued to provide us with information on our visitors' profiles. In total this working year we have welcomed 49.395 individual visitors from 189 countries which have *surfed* a total of 95.737 pages and posts on our site.



Left) Visitors map. Right) Preferred channels by website visitors

During the period, visitors have landed at our website mostly via social media, especially via Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn (38,3%) followed by organic searches in Google, Baidu, Bing or similar search engines (29,7%).

GPC Social Media

List of GPC social media accounts

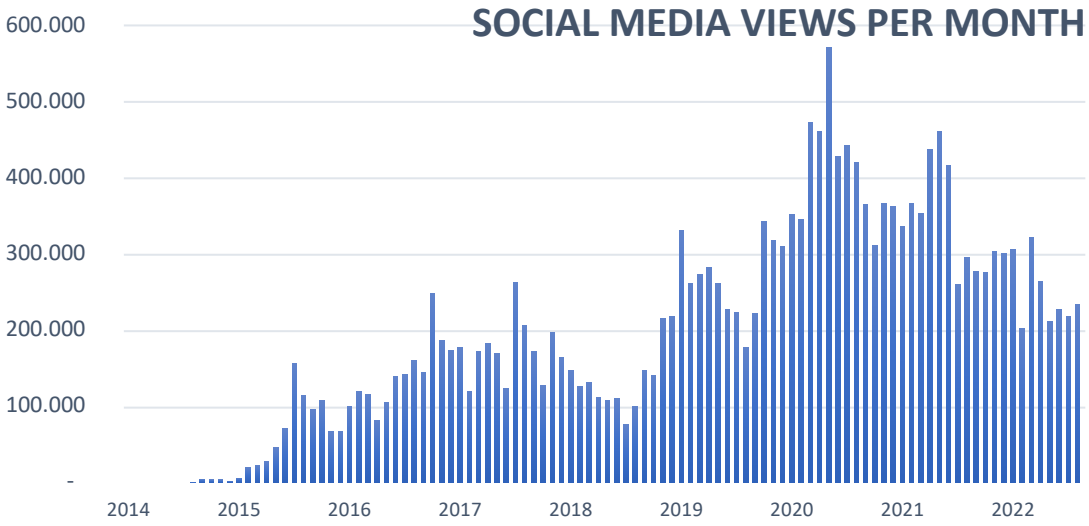
1. Twitter (English): https://twitter.com/GlobalPlantGPC
2. Twitter (Español): https://twitter.com/GPC_EnEspanol
3. Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/GlobalPlantGPC
4. Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/plantscijobs
5. Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/globalplantgpc/
6. LinkedIn account: https://www.linkedin.com/in/globalplantcouncil/
7. LinkedIn page: https://www.linkedin.com/company/globalplantcouncil/
8. LinkedIn group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12274424/
9. Slideshare: https://www.slideshare.net/GlobalPlantCouncil
10. Weibo: https://www.weibo.com/GlobalPlantGPC/
11. Newsletter general: http://eepurl.com/hJTRwr
12. Newsletter ECRi: http://eepurl.com/grmx7T

Summary of social media numbers

Follower's growth 2014-2022.

	Twitter	Facebook	Newsletters ***	LinkedIn	Instagram	Others	Total
2014*	750	-	-	-	-	-	750
2015*	2.300	275	900	-	-	-	3.475
2016*	4.000	640	975	-	-	-	5.615
2017*	5.640	1.000	1.100	-	-	-	7.740
2018	7.234	1.894	1.262	505	-	48	10.943
2019	9.074	5.362	1.337	1.994	254	59	18.080
2020	11.553	8.324	1.629	2.665	523	75	24.769
2021	14.023	9.493	2.252	3.483	753	124	30.128
2022**	16.192	10.773	2.792	3.831	865	146	33.880

** Estimated values **2022 includes figures from January until the 15th of September *** Newsletters include General, ECRi and Eventbrite*



Graph: Social Media views per month between January 2014 - August 2022.

Annex 1. GPC Individual Organizations Reports

Association of Applied Biologists

https://www.aab.org.uk/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC
Dr Geraint Parry

Name of the current president
Professor Christine Foyer

Term of the current president
2021-2022

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.
President-Elect: Professor Mike Gooding
Secretary: Dr Guy Barker
Treasurer: Professor Nigel Halford

Member Report June 2021–September 2022

Prepared by Christine Foyer and. Geraint Parry

Over the past year there has been a significant change in the fundamental model of our organisation, with the dissolution of the Association of Applied Biologists (AAB) and the formation of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation of The Association of Applied Biologists (the CIO).

The AAB transferred all its assets and activities to the new CIO (Registered Number: CE026725, Charity Number: 1195899) on the 31st of January 2022. by way of gift in accordance with the terms of the transfer deed. The final accounts were filed on the 30th April 2022, whereupon the notification of closure will be submitted to the Charity Commission. With the formation of the CIO, we welcomed three new Trustees into our organisation: Professor Iain Donnison, Dr Nicola Spence and Professor Robert Edwards, without whom the formation of the new CIO would not have been possible.

The new CIO will continue to promote the study and advancement of all branches of biology and, to foster the practice, growth and development of applied biology, with a focus on the
application of biological sciences in the production and preservation of food, fibre and other materials and for the maintenance and improvement of the earth's physical environment.

Despite the ongoing COVID restrictions, the AAB has organised a significant national and international conferences. Crucially, we have developed a functional and robust platform for hybrid meetings. Since June 2021 we have organised 8 hybrid events and look ahead of four more in 2022 including the AAB ‘Biennial Presidents Forward Look’ that will be held at. Rothamsted in November 2022. This meeting will see the delivery of

new set of AAB award, i.e. the Presidents Medals. These awards are designed to recognise outstanding achievement, contribution to the goals of the organisation and/or a lifelong dedication to advances in applied biology.

The highlights of the past year has been with the organisation of the high-profile 'Trees for the Future' event at the University of Birmingham and the 'International Conference on Arabidopsis Research, ICAR2022' that welcomed a global audience of 600 delegates to Belfast and online. This meeting was organised in collaboration with the Arabidopsis Events UK.

The intention is henceforward to organise at least one large international conference per year in addition to the smaller more focussed meetings that are the speciality of the AAB. We are delighted to announce that the International Conference of Photosynthesis Research will be organised by the AAB Liverpool in 2026.

Moreover, to foster the practice, growth, and development of applied biology in next generation researchers, Council has agreed that PhD students and equivalent early-stage researchers will be offered free on-line attendance at AAB meetings. Such activities and interactions will not only enable the AAB to accelerate the growth of its membership and increase the appeal of the organisation nationally internationally, but also increase the benefits of membership of the organisation.

Following a conference on the topic of "Trees for the Future' the AAB established a new 'Applied Tree and Forest Biology' Specialist Group.
https://www.aab.org.uk/specialist-groups/applied-tree-and-forest-biology/

The financial position of AAB is secure and we have sufficient reserves and revenue to explore new activities and open new opportunities for growth and development, in the service of the membership and society in general. We will continue to elaborate the 'Fit for the Future' strategy, built upon AAB's specialist groups, conference activities and our journal publications (Annals of Applied Biology and Plant Biotechnology Journal).

Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS)
https://www.asps.org.au/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC
Prof Roslyn Gleadow is currently President of GPC and Dr Peter Ryan is the ASPS representative (Email: ros.gleadow@csiro.au)

Name of the current president
Dr Peter R Ryan (Email: Peter.Ryan@csiro.au)

Term of the current president
October 2020 – November 2022

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.
Dr Kim Johnson (Hon Secretary, Email: Simon.Williams@latrobe.edu.au)
Dr Mike Haydon (Hon Treasurer, Email m.haydon@unimelb.edu.au)

Member Report June 2021 – August 2022
Annual Meetings: ASPS has approximately 340 members over all categories.
Covid restrictions were just being relaxed in 2021 so ASPS ran a hybrid-style annual meeting whereby members in each of the Australian states held concurrent face-to-face meetings. All sites were linked together virtually for a joint session of plenary talks and presentations from our award winners. A hybrid-style AGM followed the following day. Covid restrictions were largely lifted in 2022 and ASPS has joined with four other biological societies from Australia and New Zealand to organise a much larger combined meeting called ComBio. This is being held in 27-30 September 2022 in Melbourne. There are more than 1,000 registrants and >700 abstracts submitted so it promises to be a great success. The AGM will be run during ComBio a swill our annual dinner. Tasmania is the likely destination for the 2023 annual meeting and AGM.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: ASPS recognises the importance of diversity and inclusion in our institutions and society more generally and launched several changes to encourage this. Most importantly, we generated a new position on our executive team for a DEI Officer that will be concerned solely with these matters. This officer (Dr Eloise Foo), along with a team of helpers, proposed two initiatives during their first year. One of these is already operating. It facilitates ASPS members with family-care responsibilities to attend the annual meeting by funding a support person to travel with them. The second initiative is similar but instead targets indigenous ASPS members to attend meetings. We anticipate this second initiative will be rolled out in a year or two.

Outreach initiative: ASPS continues to reverse the falling enrolments in plant science and agriculture-related subjects at schools and universities. This trend is especially alarming considering the unprecedented challenges to food security posed by population growth and climate change. ASPS obtained funding last year from the Australian Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to run a series of events around the country as part of National Science Week (August 2021). The events ranged from face-to-face activities concerning plant science, crop production, healthy diets and climate change to

fully virtual meetings. Eight different universities and research institutes were involved and more than 40 videos were posted online. Our aim was to emphasise critical role plant science plays in our futures and to inspire young adults to consider careers in these areas. The events were very successful and the team that organised the National Science Week events in Adelaide were recognised with our Society's annual award for Educational and Outreach.

ASPS joined similar organisations around the world in condemning Russia's violence in Europe and offering support and hosting opportunities to scientists and technologists fleeing this embattled region.

Science Meets Parliament: ASPS is a member organisation of the Science and Technology Australia (STA). STA is Australia's peak body for ~90k science and technology professionals from more than 80 member societies. Its purpose is to conducts outreach sessions and campaigns to influence public policy in STEM-related areas. Each year STA organises an event called "Science Meets Parliament" during which politicians and parliamentarians are connected STEM professionals to encourage communication and engagement between our national decision-makers and our scientific practitioners. ASPS sponsored two early career scientists to attend this week-long event which exposed them to media training, high level analyses of current issues from science leaders as well as direct meetings with members of parliament.

Dr Peter R Ryan (President ASPS)

Chinese Society for Plant Biology
http://www.cspb.org.cn/

Name and email of current representative to the GPC
Weihua Tang , General Secretary ,whtang@cemps.ac.cn

Name of current president
Xiaoya Chen, xychen@cemps.ac.cn

Term of current president
2019.7—2024.7

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary.
Bing Leng, Deputy General Secretary , bleng@cemps.ac.cn

Member Report June 2021–September 2022

Publications (if any): *Molecular Plant*, which started its publication in 2008, has been ranked among top-level periodicals in the international plant science field. Its impact factor is 21.949 in 2021. And it starts a sister journal, *Plant Communications* in 2019, its first impact factor is 8.625 in 2021.CSPB also publishes a Chinese journal, *Plant Physiology Journal*. Started in 1951, this journal has been selected as core journal in Chinese education and libraries.

Organized conferences or events (if any):

Academic Activities:

- The 4th National Symposium on Plant Stress Biology, Shanghai, China, May 31 - June 3, 2021
- The 23rd National Symposium on Biological Nitrogen Fixation, Shanghai, China,
- June 3-6, 2021
- 2021 National Academic Annual Conference of Chinese Society for Plant Biology
- ,Kunming, China, July 26-29,2021
- Crop Ecophysiology Seminar and Photosynthesis Research Technology Training Course, Shanghai, China, August 22-27, 2021
- The 6th International Conference on plant biological interaction , Online ,October 8-10, 2021
- The 5th International Symposium of Functional Food and Plant Metabolism, Shanghai, China, October 30-31, 2021
- The 8th academic exchange conference of women scientists in Plant Biology, Harbin, China, August 11-13, 2022
- 2022 National Academic Annual Conference of Chinese Society for Plant Biology, Fuzhou, China, September 27-30, 2022

Science Popularization:

The CSPB initiated a series of activities in May to October to celebrate International Fascination of Plants Day 2022,more than 10 cities participated.

Talent Awards:

CSPB Lifetime Contribution Award
CSPB Outstanding Accomplishment Award
CSPB Outstanding Young Scientist Award
Wei Zhiming Award for innovation by Young Talents
Award for Outstanding Young Women

Copenhagen Plant Science Centre
https://cpsc.ku.dk/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC
Elizabeth Heather Jakobsen Neilson en@plen.ku.dk

Name of the current president
Staffan Persson staffan.persson@plen.ku.dk

Member Report June 2021–September 2022

The Copenhagen Plant Science Centre (CPSC) was revitalized in spring 2020. During the last year, main focus has been on internal development, inclusion of new departments and team building. Every second month, a CPSC lecture is organized with renowned scientists. An internal workshop on infrastructure was held in November 2021, and a networking event with a scientific talk and pitches about innovation and spinouts. The CPSC website has been updated and the CPSC LinkedIn page is used actively for research related posts and the plant of the week. The CPSC LinkedIn page is https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/copenhagen-plant-science-centre.

Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP)
https://jspp.org/en/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC
Wataru Sakamoto, saka@okayama-u.ac.jp
Makoto Hayashi, makoto.hayashi@riken.jp

Name of the current president
Takayuki Kohchi

Term of the current president
2022-2024

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.
Secretary General: Ryuichi Nishihama, nishihama@rs.tus.ac.jp

Member Report June 2021–September 2022

- The JSPP held the 63th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP) on 22-24 March, 2022, online.

  The JSPP organized Fasciation of Plants Day (FoPD) 2022 in Japan on 13-28 May, 2022. We had 4 online events by universities, an NPO, and a college. FoPD 2022 in Japan was continuously supported by seven plant and crop societies including JSPP. Japanese coordinators updated FoPD-related web sites, called for the plant science communities to join FoPD activities through several mailing lists, and passed out the event flyers with the financial support from JSPP.

- The JSPP published the official journal of the JSPP "Plant and Cell Physiology (PCP)", on a monthly basis with Oxford University Press (OUP). This year's published highlights included special focus issues on trending topics such as "Mineral Element Transport Systems" (Vol. 62, No. 4), "Advances in Plant Imaging Technologies" (Vol. 62, No. 9), "Photosynthesis and Chloroplast Regulation" (Vol. 62, No. 7), and "The Biomechanics of Plant Cell Walls" (Vol. 62, No. 12). In addition, PCP engaged in various outreach and promotional activities, e.g. Fasciation of Plants Day, PCP luncheon seminar at the JSPP annual conference. PCP's Editor-in-Chief (Wataru Sakamoto) presented GPC Publication Seminar held on July 21, entitled "Changing Landscape of Peer Review in Plant Science", which is available at YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=UUNiSjkSfKI&feature=youtu.be).

Plant Canada
Plant Canada's website

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC
Geoffrey Wasteneys, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver
geoffrey.wasteneys@ubc.ca

Name of the current president
Geoffrey Wasteneys

Term of the current president
2019-2024

Name and email of other member organization contacts e.g. Executive Director, Vice President, General Secretary etc.
Vice President: Valérie Gravel, valerie.gravel@mcgill.ca
Secretary: Rima Menassa, rima.menassa@AGR.GC.CA
Past President, Deena Errampalli

Member Report June 2021–September 2022
Plant Canada, the Federation of Canadian Plant Societies, held its 2022 Annual Meeting of Members on September 1, attended virtually by the executive and board members. The main item to report this year is that we have confirmed that our next joint conference of members will be held in July 2024 in Winnipeg Manitoba. This conference will be hosted by the Canadian Phytopathological Society. This past year has seen a partial return to in-person meetings. Notable activities by member societies are listed as follows.

Canadian Botanical Association (CBA): From June 6-9 2022, CBA held its first in-person meeting since 2019 at the UQ Abitibi in Timiskaming Quebec, showcasing new initiatives to improve inclusion of first nations and underrepresented groups at annual meetings. This included an indigenous presentation, and a foraging field trip with a Timiskaming first nation. CBA has diversified its awards to students to include proposal-stage and results-based awards.

Canadian Society of Plant Biologists (CSPB): The 2022 annual meeting was held July 9-13 in Portland Oregon, jointly with the American Society of Plant Biologists. Current President Robin Cameron organized her own symposium on plant immunity, and there was a joint symposium with ASPB on inclusivity. This year, CSPB awarded the Gold Medal Award this year to Vincent Da Luca, the CD Nelson award to Isabel Desgagnes Penix, and the Carl Douglas Prize for postdocs to Lauren Ehrland.

Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS): This year's annual meeting was held virtually from July 4-8 2022, and featured a successful workshop on the microbiome. CPS also held three virtual workshops over the past year on the topics of soil-borne diseases, smut of cereals, and black leg of canola. CPS donated $2000 to the International Society for Plant Pathology's newly established Resilience Bursary for Plant Pathologists, which this year focused on helping Ukrainian scientists attend scientific conferences.

Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS): CWSS's last meeting, held February 22-24 2022, was a virtual joint one with the Weed Science Society of America. Their next meeting will be held November 14 to 17 in Halifax Nova Scotia, jointly with CBA.

Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA): This year's meeting will be held from Nov 14 to 17 in Halifax NS, and will be joint with CWSS.

Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS): CSHS held an in-person meeting in Halifax NS from August 18-21 2022. This meeting featured symposia on Cannabis, high-value plants, fruit, innovations in vegetable production, and potatoes. Other highlights included a workshop on Haskap berries, and a pre-conference tour of the Annapolis Valley, a rich fruit-growing region.

Canadian Association for Plant Biotechnology (CAPB): This year, CAPB hosted monthly seminars on Zoom that were open to all. They updated their bylaws and broadened the executive board to include academics, industry and government. CAPB's annual meeting was held August 22-24 2022 at Laval University in Quebec City. The main theme was climate change, with sessions on biotic and abiotic stress, cannabis, and plants as biofactories. A workshop was held on communicating science to the general public.

Sociedade Portuguesa de Biologia de Plantas (SPBP) - Portuguese Society of Plant Biology
http://www.spbp.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, Chair of the Financial Council, tavares@bio.uminho.pt
Maria Margarida Oliveira, Chair of the General Council, mmolive@itqb.unl.pt

Member Report June 2021–September 2022

1. Dissemination of Plant Biology in the Community
The Fascination of Plants Day 2022 was celebrated by SPBP with the official inauguration of a dissemination / educational section ("Seeds of Knowledge) of the society website (www.spbp.pt) (ongoing). Moreover, ITQB/NOVA and SPBP were, once more, the national coordinators of the numerous activities planned all over the country.

2. Organization and Co-organization of Scientific Meetings:

a) Collaboration with the Spanish Society of Plant Biology on the organization of the XVII Spanish-Portuguese Congress on Plant Biology (on-line, hosted in Vigo, Spain, 7-8 July 2021)

b) Organization, with the collaboration of the Spanish Society of Plant Biology, of the XV Portuguese-Spanish Symposium on Plant-Water Relations (on-line, hosted in Lisbon, Portugal, 26-28 January 2022)

c) Collaboration with the Portuguese Society of Biochemistry on the organization of the XXI National Congress on Biochemistry. The SPBP organized the Session 2 "Plant Biology and Biotechnology" (Évora, Portugal, 14-16 October – presential and, also, on-line).

d) Collaboration with the Brazilian Society of Plant Physiology on the organization of the I Ibero-latinamerican Congress of Plant Biology (planned to Porto Alegre, Brazil, 6-9 September 2022)

e) Ongoing organization, with the collaboration of the Spanish Society of Plant Biology, of the XVIII Portuguese-Spanish Congress on Plant Biology (planned to Braga, Portugal, 9-12 July 2023).

3. 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) SPBP'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 organizations was supported.

c) SPBP continues to participate in the development of the Federation of Ibero-Latinamerican Societies of Plant Biology (FISPB).

Slovenian Society of Plant Biology
https://www.plantslo.org/

Name and email of the current representative to the GPC
Špela Baebler spela.baebler@nib.si

Name of the current president
Špela Baebler

Term of the current president
2021-2025

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

Treasurer & executive board member:	Aleš Kladnik ales.kladnik@bf-uni.lj.si
Secretary & executive board member:	Tine Grebenc tine.grebenc@gozdis.si
Members of executive board:	Marina Dermastia marina.dermastia@nib.si, Andreja Urbanek Krajnc andreja.urbanek@um.si

Member Report June 2021 – June 2022

- The Society is the main organizer of Fascination of Plants Day events in Slovenia. After two years break, this year's main event took place on May 27th in Ljubljana. It attracted over 1000 schoolchildren that attended 30 stands with plant science-related experiments and demonstrations (https://www.plantslo.org/wp/dan-ocarljivih-rastlin-2022/).
- Due to high demand, in September 2021, we published a second edition of the children's book "Fascinating experiments with plants" (https://plantday18may.org/news/ocarljivi-poskusi-z-rastlinami/). The book and selected experiments from the book were presented in the gardening TV show on national TV. We also received "Golden pear" award which is awarded by the Ljubljana City Library in partnership with the Association of Library Associations of Slovenia to those youth books that stand out in terms of content and design and are among the best editions of the year.
- We have organized two professional lectures:
  - Andreja Urbanek Krajnc, Faculty of Agriculture and Biosystem Sciences of the University of Maribor: Trailing mulberries: Genetic, morphological and biochemical diversity of old local mulberry genotypes and reintroduction of moriculture in Slovenia
  - Tine Grebenc, Forestry Institute of Slovenia: Soil Biodiversity - how deep can we see? (April 2022)
- In April 2022, we have organized the Society General Assembly
- We have initiated activities related to the organization of an international conference Plants in Changing Environment, that will take place Sept 15-16 2022 (https://www.plantslo.org/wp/conference2022/)
- We are a national coordinator of the EU-SAGE (regulation of gene editing in EU, participation in public consultations), members of Federation of Federation of

European Societies of Plant Biology, International Association of Plant Biotehnology (IAPB) and GPC.

- We are continuously informing members of interesting lectures, conferences, project calls, job openings via email and the society webpage. The new webpage on WordPress platform was launched in July 2021.

Society For Experimental Biology (SEB)

www.sebiology.org

Name and email address of current representative to the GPC:
Stefan Kepinski, S.Kepinski@leeds.ac.uk

Name of current president:
Jim Murray murrayja1@cardiff.ac.uk
Term of office: 2021-2023

Name and email address of other member organisation contacts
Pamela Mortimer (CEO) - p.mortimer@sebiology.org
Tracey Lawson (Vice President) tlawson@essex.ac.uk

Member Report June 2021–September 2022

At the end of 2021 SEB had a total of 1,260 members made up of 27% Students, 20% Early Career Scientists (young scientists who are within 6 years of having completed their PhD), 51% Full Members, 1% retired & 1% complimentary.

Members are spread across 57 countries, 39.24% are UK based, 27.55% are in Europe (excluding United Kingdom), 33.81% rest of the world.

Publications

The Society 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.

Journal impact factors

The impact factors for the journals were as follows:

- Journal of Experimental Botany- 6.992
- The Plant Journal – 6.417
- Plant Biotechnology Journal - 9.803
- Conservation Physiology – 3.079
- Plant Direct - 3.038

Publication governance

In December 2021 the Society signed a letter of intent to agree a new contract for The Plant Journal, that is co-owned by the SEB and Wiley Blackwell. The new contract will be negotiated during the first quarter of 2022. A change in business model is expected and will be based on a Royalty payment with the SEB receiving 30% of all revenues.

The Plant Direct Journal is co-owned by the SEB, Wiley Blackwell and the American Society of Plant Biologists; a new Editor in Chief was sought during 2021 with the appointment of Dr. Larry York made in January 2022.

Trustees remain vigilant to assessing the risk presented to the current business models for three of the Society's journals as the developing international consensus is to support a move towards open access publications; in 2021 the Society continued to monitor and consider the potential impact of the implementation of Plan S (https://www.coalition-s.org) and other funders, particularly the UKRI

Events

During 2021, the second year of the pandemic, the Society was pleased to host its first ever virtual annual conference.

In March 2021 Council took the decision to convert the in-person conference to a virtual offering. The abstracts received from 2020–2021 were transferred to the virtual conference programme. The Plenary and President Medalist winners from 2020 were offered the opportunity to present their talks at the 2021 virtual conference.
The virtual conference took place over a two-week period from Tuesday 29 June 2021 – Thursday 8 July 2021. A total of 930 people attended the virtual conference throughout the two-week period. In the first week of the virtual conference there was a conversion rate of 77% of registered attendees to the number of virtual attendees. Virtual events normally have a conversion rate of 50%

Outreach, education and Diversity

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, outreach, education, and diversity activities have continued to expand through 2021. Our offering of career development opportunities for science professionals and researchers has continued to grow, we have engaged with wider audiences promoting the impact of experimental biology and created more opportunities for members to get involved.

Annex 2. GPC Member Organizations Websites

1. **African Crop Science Society (ACSS)**

2. **Association of Applied Biologists**
   https://www.aab.org.uk/

3. **ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, Australia (PEB)**
   http://www.plantenergy.uwa.edu.au

4. **Argentine Society of Plant Physiology (SAFV)**
   http://www.fisiologiavegetal.org

5. **Australian National University (ANU)**
   http://www.anu.edu.au/

6. **Australian Society of Plant Scientists (ASPS)**
   http://www.asps.org.au

7. **Chilean Society of Plant Biologists (ChilSPB)**
   http://www.biologiavegetal.cl

8. **Chinese Society of Plant Biology (ChSPB)**
   http://www.cspb.org.cn

9. **Cluster of Excellence on Plant Science (CEPLAS)**
   https://www.ceplas.eu/en/home/

10. **Copenhagen Plant Science Centre**
    https://cpsc.ku.dk/

11. **European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)**
    http://www.epsoweb.org

12. **The Heat and Drought Wheat Improvement Consortium (HeDWIC)**
    https://www.hedwic.org

13. **Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University**
    https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/lec

14. **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**
    http://irri.org/

15. **Indian Society for Plant Physiology (ISPP)**
    http://www.ispponline.org

16. **Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP)**
    http://www2.jspp.org

17. **Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology**
    http://www.mpimp-golm.mpg.de

18. **Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee**
    http://arabidopsisresearch.org/index.php/en/

19. **New Zealand Society of Plant Biologists (NZSPB)**
    http://plantbiology.science.org.nz

20. **Plant Canada (PC)**
    http://www.plantcanada.ca

21. **Portuguese Society of Plant Physiology (SPFV)**
    http://www.spfv.pt

22. **Scandinavian Plant Physiology Society (SPPS)**
    http://www.spps.fi

23. **Slovenian Society of Plant Biology (SSPB)**
    https://www.plantslo.org/home.php

24. **Spanish Society of Plant Physiology (SEFV)**
    http://www.sefv.net

25. **Society for Experimental Biology (SEB)**
    http://www.sebiology.org/

26. **Taiwan Society of Plant Biologists (TSPB)**
    http://tspb.org.tw/TSPB_en/

27. **Royal Society of Biology**
    https://www.rsb.org.uk/policy/groups-and-committees/ukpsf