



Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

The Role of Crop Diversity in Transitioning to a Resilient Food System in a Changing Climate

23rd November 2015, 9:30-16:30
Millennium Seed Bank, Wakehurst Place, Ardingly,
West Sussex. RH17 6TN

Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust)
and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Kindly RSVP to Kewscience@kew.org stating your attendance and if you would like to participate in a tour of the MSB

The 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), taking place in Paris in December 2015, will discuss a legally binding global agreement to combat climate change through both adaptation and mitigation, and promote the transition towards more resilient, low-carbon societies and economies. Agriculture and food security are major issues in this regard. Breeding better adapted and more efficient crops are key to addressing these objectives; and this requires an understanding of the distribution and diversity of global crops and their wild crop relatives.

This one-day symposium organized jointly by the Global Crop Diversity Trust ('Crop Trust') and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew ('RBG Kew'), will bring together experts from around the UK to discuss the role of crop diversity and Crop Wild Relatives (CWR), in building more sustainable and resilient agriculture and food systems. The Objective of this symposium is to inform policy and decision makers about the critical importance of CWR in climate change adaptation, and the ongoing work of the Crop Trust and RBG Kew in this field.

Topics to be discussed:

- How crop diversity, including CWR, contribute to the continued, sustainable development of agriculture and its adaptation to a changing climate.
- The social and economic benefits of the use of CWR in crop improvement, and the need to conserve them and unlock their potential value through research.
- The role of the Crop Trust as an essential element of the funding strategy of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- The role of the RBG Kew in conserving plant diversity required for a resilient food system.

Symposium Agenda

Time	Topic	Chair
9:30 – 10:00	Arrival – Tea and Coffee	
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome	Professor Kathy Willis, Director of Science, RGB KEW
10:15 – 10:45	The scale of the problem - Climate change and agriculture: Dr. Geoff Hawtin, Special Advisor to the Crop Trust, Trustee of RBG KEW and Chair of the Board of Trustees for CIAT	
10.45 – 11:15	Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change – the Crop Wild Relative project at Kew: Dr. Ruth Eastwood, RBG Kew	Julian Jackson, Genetic Resources Policy Advisor, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 12:00	Increasing global wheat production by exploitation of wild related species: Professor Ian King, University of Nottingham	
12:00 – 12:30	Safeguarding the future: CWR holdings and associated research at the John Innes Centre: Mr Mike Ambrose, John Innes	
12:30 – 13:00	An Introduction to the UK National Fruit Collection: Dr. Matt Ordidge, University of Reading	Marie Haga, Executive Director of The Global Crop Diversity Trust
13:00 – 13:45	Buffet Lunch	
13:45 – 14:15	CWR Conservation Around the World: Where are the gaps? Luigi Guarino, Crop Diversity Trust	
14:15 – 14:45	Conservation and Vegetable Crop Improvement: the benefits of wild species in research and breeding: Dr. Charlotte Allender, University of Warwick	
14:45 – 15:15	Resilience in the coffee sector - the importance of knowing the location of CWRs: Dr. Aaron Davies, RBG KEW	
15:15 – 15:30	Closing Remarks	
15:30 – 16:30	Tea, coffee, and tours around MSB (optional)	

