



Tropical Crop Biotechnology Conference

-new horizons for the tropics-

22-25 July 2009

Kruger National Park, South Africa

This second Tropical Crop Biotechnology Conference is a follow-up to the very successful first conference held in Cairns, Australia, in 2006. The 2009 event will be an update of progress and prospects in plant biotechnology for the tropics. It will be essential for researchers working on the biotechnology of tropical crops, as well as public and private sector managers interested in business and economic development from tropical plant biotechnology. The programme will include networking tours.

<http://www.tcbc2009.com>



Berg-en-Dal Restcamp, Kruger National Park, is set within natural bush and the gardens planted with flowering shrubs and aloes, leaving much of the natural habitat unchanged within the camp. Berg en Dal is one of the newest camps in the Kruger National Park and offers conference delegates outstanding accommodation.

2ND TROPICAL CROP BIOTECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

-NEW HORIZONS FOR THE TROPICS-

JULY 22-25 2009

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA

ORGANIZATION

Institute of Plant Biotechnology, University of Stellenbosch and South African Sugarcane Research Institute, Mount Edgecombe, South Africa

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Jens Kossmann (Chairman; University of Stellenbosch)
Rachel Chikwamba (CSIR Pretoria)
Barbara Hockett (South African Sugarcane Research Institute)
Karl Kunert (University of Pretoria)
Altus Viljoen (University of Stellenbosch)

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Graham Bonnett (CSIRO Plant Industry Brisbane)
John Manners (CSIRO Plant Industry Brisbane)
Paul Moore (ARS, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, USA)

SYMPOSIUM SECRETARIAT / ADMINISTRATORS

Cobus Zwiendelaar, Institute for Plant Biotechnology
University of Stellenbosch
Tel: +27-21-808-3834 **Fax:** +27-21-808-3835
Email: cobusz@sun.ac.za

For accommodation and transport enquiries

contact Ethne Cameron, Going Africa cc
Tel: +27-13-751-1638 **Fax:** +27-13-750-0847
Email: ethne@goingafrica.co.za

SYMPOSIUM LOCATION

The symposium will be held in the Berg en Dal Restcamp (<http://www.sanparks.org/parks/kruger/camps/berg-en-dal/tourism/accommodation.php>) in Kruger National Park, South Africa. This camp is close to the Malelane Gate at the southern end of the National park and only 80 km from Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) that is situated between Nelspruit and White River.

TRAVEL TO BERG EN DAL

BY AIR:

The closest airport to Berg-en-Dal is Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport (KMIA) that is situated between Nelspruit and White River. KMIA is situated approximately 25 km from Nelspruit and about 70 km from Malelane Gate. There are daily scheduled flights between KMIA and OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg, with less frequent flights from Cape Town and Durban International Airports respectively. Coaches for transport between KMIA and Berg en Dal Camp will be arranged.

BY ROAD:MALELANE GATE

Take the N4 to Nelspruit and head through Nelspruit to Malelane. Turn left at the Kruger National Park sign just outside Malelane and head to gate. Berg-en-Dal camp is 12 km away from the gate. Allow about 30 minutes for the drive to the camp, however if you want to enjoy the game viewing possibilities give yourself more time!

IMPORTANT DATES

Second Circular release

- October 31, 2008:**
- Call for Papers (abstracts)
 - Abstract submission opens (online submission on www.tcbc2009.com)
 - Registration commences (November 10th, fax submission)
 - Accommodation and excursion booking open
- March 6,2009:**
- Deadline for early registration
- April 30, 2009:**
- Deadline for receipt of abstracts
- May 31, 2009:**
- Deadline for registration
 - Release of invitation letters for participants

ACCOMMODATION

All accommodation bookings and enquiries will be handled by the Symposium's Travel Office –Going Africa cc. Participants should book accommodation via the registration form or by contacting Ethne Cameron, Tel: +27-13-751-1638, Fax: +27-13-750-0847, **email:** ethne@goingafrica.co.za quoting "TCBC 2009".

At present, Going Africa has reserved the complete camp allowing for ca. 200 participants plus accompanying persons. Additional capacity will be available at the Pestana Kruger Lodge at Malelane Gate, however the participants number is limited to 250 due to limitations of the conference facilities. To avoid disappointment, bookings should be made as soon as possible. We also offer camping facilities mainly for students, but also others might prefer this. Prices range from US\$ 8 to US\$ 190 per person per night depending on your choice.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

A valid passport is required for entry into South Africa. If you decide to join the networking tours to Mozambique or Zimbabwe, visas will be arranged for you.

PERSONAL INVITATIONS

If you require an official letter of invitation to attend the Symposium, please contact the Secretariat. This letter does not represent any commitment on part of the organizers to provide financial support.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The official time in South Africa is GMT +2.

The electricity supply is 220V 50Hz AC.

Insurance: The Symposium organizers cannot assume responsibility for injuries or losses occurring to persons or personal belongings during the Symposium. Therefore, participants are advised to take out travel and health insurance.

The climate in July is warm and mild, although visitors going on night-drives will require warm clothing. At this time of the year the risk for malaria infections is very low in the surroundings of Berg en Dal Restcamp. To be on the safe side, please consult your doctor regarding precautionary medication before leaving.

SYMPOSIUM CENTRE

The Berg en Dal Camp is fully audio-visually equipped. Presentations will be given in one main room that will be divided into two during parallel sessions. A reception and exhibition area is also available.

CURRENCY & EXCHANGE

The National currency is the Rand. Exchange Bureaus and ATMs are available at KMIA.

SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS

Symposium participants, on payment of registration fees, are entitled to attend the opening ceremony and all sessions of the Symposium. They will receive the registration pack with the full program and other documents, the Book of Abstracts, and free coffee and some light lunches for the duration of the Symposium. They may also present one oral contribution and up to two posters.

ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

Accompanying persons are entitled to attend the opening ceremony, and upon payment, any of the dinners.

FUNDING

Unfortunately, funding is not available yet to assist those wishing to attend the Symposium. Participants will have to find sources of funding from their own countries and institutions.

REGISTRATION FEES

Please note that SAR amounts are only for SA citizens and USD amounts for all foreign delegates irrespective of country of origin.

Early Bird registration (Register and pay by 6 March)	USD 435	SAR 3250
Normal registration	USD 535	SAR 4000
Students (Register and pay by 6 March)	USD 205	SAR 1525

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Symposium is English.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

MAIN THEME OF THE SYMPOSIUM

“Progress in Crop Biotechnology and its impact on Tropical Crop Biotechnology”

MAJOR TOPICS

- Impact of Plant Biotechnology on Developing Countries
- Systems Biology
- Rice Improvement
- Improvement of African Crops
- Metabolic Engineering
- Plant Disease and Pest Resistance
- Plant Abiotic Stress Tolerance
- Tropical Crop Genetics and Genomics
- Enhancement of the Nutritional Value of Tropical Crops
- Capacity Building
- Biomass for Biofuels

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

- Frikkie Botha (Sugar Research and Development Corporation, Brisbane, Australia)
- Cathie Martin (John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK)
- Marc van Montagu (Institute of Plant Biotechnology for Developing Countries, Gent, Belgium)
- Ed Rybicki (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Uwe Sonnewald (Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany)
- Jennifer Thomson (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Richard Visser (Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands)
- Lothar Willmitzer (Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology, Potsdam, Germany)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite you to submit an abstract for a presentation on a subject related to one of the above topics. Papers may be presented orally or as posters. Each Symposium participant may be allocated time for only one oral presentation. Abstract submission is possible only for registered participants and invited speakers.

Abstracts can be submitted online at the site <http://www.TCBC2009.com>. This service will be available from October 31, 2008 until April 30, 2009. Abstracts will be limited to a total of 2500 characters in length.

NETWORKING TOURS

To promote interaction and networking between delegates, several networking trips are being organised for July 23. Delegates may choose between the following 3 options:

1. ORGANISED TRIP TO MOZAMBIQUE

We will depart from Berg en Dal after an early breakfast at 07:30 to the Mozambique border post. Journey time forty-five minutes. The border crossing will take approximately an hour. Delegates from all countries, with the exception of South Africans, do have to have visas and these we will organize in advance. The journey from the border to the city of Maputo will also take an hour. We will have a Mozambican guide on board the coach to give us the history of this incredible country. It is, after all, the fastest growing economy in Africa. A tour of the city, time to enjoy the markets, a seafood lunch at the world renown Casa do Sol Restaurant overlooking the sea and a walk along the beach before heading back to Berg en Dal.

2. ORGANISED TRIP TO SWAZILAND

This little Kingdom is known as “Africa’s Switzerland” which needs no explanation. After breakfast the drive to enter Swaziland at Jeppe’s Reef will take a good hour. This is very much a Scenery and African Craft Day. First stop will be the world renowned Ngwenya Glass Company. It is here that the glass animals are blown from recycled glass and sold world-wide. We will continue towards the city of Mbabane and travel through the Ezulweni Valley to the Swazi Candle Factory. They have perfected the stained glass effect on candles, which, when seen in the form of elephants, hippos etc. are most attractive. Lunch will be enjoyed at Marandellas overlooking the mountains with time to enjoy “Going Rural”. Return to Berg en Dal over Jeppe’s Reef.

3. FULL DAY OPEN VEHICLE GAME VIEWING IN KRUGER PARK

This day involves transport in private vehicles with well qualified game rangers. Early departure from the camp as soon as the gates open and off you go for a day in the Kruger National Park. The beauty of private vehicles is the radio contact they have with their colleagues which makes game viewing much more targeted and exciting. Breakfast is to be enjoyed at the camp of Lower Sabie and each vehicle will carry a picnic lunch to be enjoyed during the course of the day. Return to Berg en Dal when the gates close.

THE PRICES FOR THESE TOURS WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS AND CAN BE BOOKED WITH REGISTRATION.

1 st Choice - Trip to Mozambique	USD 242	SAR 1815
2 nd Choice - Trip to Swaziland	USD 116	SAR 870
3 rd Choice - Full day Open Vehicle game viewing in Kruger Park	USD 116	SAR 870