

The integration of the old and new scientific disciplines in crop research

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What is meant by old or conventional research

- Plant breeding programs
- Plant biotic stresses disciplines: pathology, entomology, virology
- Plant abiotic stresses disciplines: plant nutrition and physiology, drought tolerance physiology, heat stress tolerance physiology , Processing quality, etc...

The main concern of this session :

There is an evolution of research interest: More analytical and molecular approaches in crop research and less of the conventional ones (More students and more researcher are interested only in molecular laboratory work).

However:

- Molecular work is based on the findings of the conventional disciplines in the past.
- In the future, no good work in up stream research can be made without a reliable mean of phenotyping. Also, changes in climate and biotic stress factors will be monitored and evaluated mostly by the same conventional techniques.
- Field disciplines are the mean of contact of the most up stream scientific research with the real environments and the final client: the farmer or the industry.

Advices from the session:

- These conventional disciplines are not to be called old.
- Even if there is a lack of interest in current time there will be a regain in interest as need will reappear again.
- These conventional disciplines are experimenting their own shift in technology.
- There is always a point in making these scientific disciplines meet in the process of product definition.
- There is a need of educating researchers, students, fund organizations, policy makers, users concerning the process of science, research and end use.
- Contacts should be established and maintained from both sides and funding should consider equally both sides.
- The conventional disciplines researchers should try to reach out for the new disciplines.
- There is a need of translating the different scientific and technological nomenclatures used by the different specialists