AIM

To launch and deepen the debate on the use of New Breeding Techniques (NBTs) in Portugal, which will undoubtedly be very important for crop improvement and are already being implemented by many companies and research centers.

To envisage the Portuguese position regarding NBTs adoption as tools to the development of new crop varieties.

PROGRAM

9h45 – Registration
10h00 – Opening session
10h10 – What are NBTs? (in Portuguese)
   | Pedro Fevereiro - President of CiB – Centre for Biotechnology Information
10h50 – Scientific and application aspects of NBTs (in English)
   | Wendy Harwood - Senior Scientist at the Crop Genetics Department (Crop Transformation Group) of John Innes Centre, Norwich, England.
11h30 – Coffee-break
11h45 – Legal and social framework of NBTs (in English)
   | Joachim Schiemann - Director of the Institute for Biosafety in Plant Biotechnology at the Julius Kuehn Institute (JKI), Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants, Germany.
12h25 – The Portuguese case (to be confirmed)
13h10 – Lunch
15h00 – Stakeholders roundtable | Use or not to use NBTs: how should Portugal react?
   | Europabio The European Association for Bioindustries, represented by Beat Spâth
   | ANSEME - National Association of Seed Producers and Traders represented by Joana Aleixo
   | FIPA - Federation of Portuguese Food Industries represented by Jaime Piçarra
   | IACA - National Association of Feed Industries represented by Jaime Piçarra
   | ANPROMIS – National Association of Maize and Sorghum Producers represented by Tiago Silva Pinto
   | ANPOC – National Association of Cereals, Oilseeds and Protein crops represented by Bernardo Albino
17h30 – Closing remarks
NEW BREEDING TECHNIQUES

New Breeding Techniques (NBTs) are a set of methodologies that allow changing the characteristics of agricultural varieties in a molecularly accurate way, to increase their productivity and tolerance to environmental factors.

NBTs are eight and include: Nucleases directed to a specific site; Interference RNA (RNAi); Directed mutagenesis for specific oligonucleotides; Agro-infiltration; Cisgenesis; Grafting on modified rootstock; Reverse improvement; and RNA-directed methylation of DNA.

This set of techniques has been developed to fine-tune characteristics of the agricultural varieties. As examples, interfering RNA has allowed the development of varieties resistant to different viruses, such as the introduction of resistance to the golden mosaic virus in beans, and Cisgenesis has allowed, in a few years, to obtain a durable resistance to late blight in potatoes.

The European Community is presently discussing the adoption of these technologies and in which legal frame should their products be evaluated.

REGISTRATION

The registration is free, but required by e-mail to: geral@cibpt.org
Please send us the following information: Name, E-mail, Mobile Phone and Institution.

LOCATION and MAPS

Address: ITQB NOVA - Av. da República - 2780-157 Oeiras - Portugal
GPS: 38° 41’ 38’’ (38.694 N) | 9° 19’ 7’’ (-9.318 W)
Instructions: http://www.itqb.unl.pt/contacts/itqb_location

ORGANIZATION

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SUPPORT

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