



NEWSLETTER

The Plant Biotechnology and Breeding network

A network to advance global scientific knowledge,
promote outreach and build capacity on
plant biotechnology and breeding



Above is a group photograph taken during [annual Plant B&B meeting 2023](#) in Ghent

Trainings



A light moment at Plant B&B co-funded training

Plant B&B played a crucial role in conception, piloting and development of grant proposals for both hands-on and online training courses. These proposals were successfully awarded under the [ITP_MOBiLab](#), [SI_TC4REaL](#) programs by VLIR-UOS, as well as the [CCMB](#) program by the Province of East Flanders.

Through these training courses, 170 participants have received training and more advanced training are lined up in the upcoming phase.

[Watch a testimonial](#) for volunteer trainers

Short Research Stays

In November 2023, Plant B&B, in collaboration with [SI_TC4REaL](#) co-funded a short research project for Joshua Magu from Kenyatta University at the Ghent University.

During this period, Joshua received training in protoplast isolation, meristem culture, medium preparation with new cytokinin, classical micropropagation of banana collections, and the use of Temporary Immersion Bioreactors for rapid banana micropropagation.

[More information](#)





In May 2024, Plant B&B organized and co-facilitated a VIB IPBO-PSB seminar featuring Prof. **Baldwyn Torto**, an Emeritus Fellow at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE, Kenya).

The hybrid seminar on "Building Eco-Responsive Strategies to Manage Plant Parasitic Nematodes" was an insightful opportunity in plant health specialists.

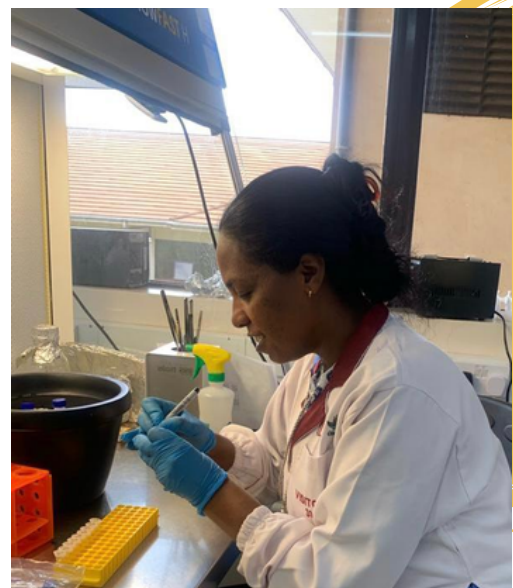
[Watch the seminar.](#)

Proposal development

In January 2024, IPBO co-facilitated and hosted Yemisrach Abebaw, a beneficiary of the Ghent University, Global Mind Fund Short Research Stay, from BETin in Ethiopia.

Her contribution was instrumental in the development of the GSTIC climate action grant proposal, which was subsequently awarded.

More on the next page.



Awarded grants



G·STIC

The Flemish International Climate Action Programme

A three-year collaborative project between the International Plant Biotechnology Outreach (VIB-IPBO) and the Bio and Emerging Technology Institute (BETin).

The project aims to diversify farming systems with drought-tolerant crops to enhance the resilience of farming communities against climate change-related food insecurity.



Global Mind Fund

VIB IPBO secured a small valorization grant from Ghent University GMF. This grant will be used to enhance collaboration between Ghent University and its international partners through matchmaking and proposal development workshops.

Milestones

As part of its capacity-building efforts, Plant B&B supports research and development in Africa.

In this edition, we especially celebrate the recent promotion of **Prof. Teklehaimanot Haileselassie** at the Institute of Biotechnology (Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia).

Congratulations Tekle!

[Read more](#)



Teklehaimanot Haileselasse
Professor of Plant Biotechnology

Actions

News

Upcoming

Upcoming courses



SPEAKING SCIENCE

A training for **biotechnology scientists** to communicate **effectively and proactively** about their research

4th EDITION



Five weekly 3h-sessions every Thursday from 19th September to 24th October, 2024

Time: 13:00 to 16:00h CET (Brussels)/14:00 to 17:00h EAT (Nairobi)

[Find more on Speaking Science Course](#)

Biosafety in Plant Biotechnology

The trainees will gain insights into:

- **Molecular tools** and available technologies for GM crops development and crop improvement.
- **Risk assessment:** the potential impact of GM products on food safety, health and environment.
- European and African **regulatory frameworks:** focus on Ethiopia, Uganda and Kenya.
- How to **trace and monitor** the use of biotechnology products.
- **Stewardship:** how to handle and manage GM products once in the field.



Eight weekly virtual **sessions** starting from 16th of September, 2024

Time: 13:00 - 15:30 CET (Brussels)/
14:00 - 16:30 EAT (Nairobi)

Registration **deadline:** 15th of August, 2024

[Read more about the Online Biosafety Course](#)



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