

Dear participants of Planet Diversity!

We would like to alert you to an interesting United Nations Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge Research and Technology for Development. 60 governments last week adopted a global report, which clearly demands a substantial change of agricultural policies and priorities and suggest a "fundamental rethink of agricultural knowledge, science and technology, in order to achieve a sustainable global food system". You may find this useful for your work, and you may be also interested to learn that we will organise a special workshop with many of the authors and one of the co-chairs of this IAASTD at Planet Diversity.

For more information check the official website at www.agassessment.org and the NGO site www.agassessment-watch.org

When we started to organise "Planet Diversity" we had not yet anticipated the most recent developments on the global food market and the acute food crisis situations that have emerged over the recent month in many countries. We did, however, address the underlying problems, that are now coming to a head. We believe this conference comes at the right time to address this issue and discuss appropriate activities and action. Your input, reports on the situation in your countries and specific suggestions how best to address the present situation are most welcome. Also, our demonstration on Monday May 12th will clearly focus on this issue.

We also want to alert all of you to the fact that "Planet Diversity" will close down registration by the end of this week. The list of participants (see <http://www.planet-diversity.org/who-is-behind-it/participants.html>) has now reached the maximum capacity we can handle. However, we still miss quite a few registrations from participants, who we know want to come to Bonn, but have not formally registered yet. ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY FRIDAY, APRIL 18th.

Registration for the WORKSHOPS will remain open to registered participants of course. However, if possible, we want to urge you to register immediately for the workshops you want to participate in at <http://www.planet-diversity.org/programme/workshops/registration.html>

The workshop organisers as well as the Secretariat need to know as soon as possible. We may also have to close some of the most popular workshops to prevent them from becoming plenary type sessions. We also encourage you to participate in the preparations of these workshops with your own contributions now.

We also encourage you to have a look at the internal discussion on the "Planet Diversity MANIFESTO" at <http://www.planet-diversity.org/manifesto.html>

If you have any contributions to make to our FESTIVAL of diversity on May 12 after the demonstration, please directly contact festival@planet-diversity.org

And finally we look forward to your participation in our global map of diversity and to your STORIES. Kindly check <http://www.planet-diversity.org/storiesandvideos.html>

Dear friends, logistical preparations are now at their peak, and we therefore ask you to kindly bear with the organising team and secretariat with respect to your questions and requests. Be assured that we are working as hard as we can to handle your emails as fast as possible. Whatever you can do to make our task easier is most appreciated.

All the Best from

Benedikt Haerlin and the rest of the Planet Diversity Team

Planet Diversity

Local, Diverse & GMO-free

World Congress on the Future of Food and Agriculture Bonn, 12-16 May 2008

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