

## Opportunities and collaborations in expanding your network

Advances in plant breeding research can contribute significantly to the benefit of the environment and climate. A responsible and ambitious climate action also calls for climate-optimized crops. We need to start new ways to collaborate.

### INVITATION

**DATE:** February 7, 2025

**TIME:** 10.00-12.00, followed by networking/lunch

**LOCATION:** AU Flakkebjerg, Forsøgsvej 1, 4200 Slagelse

**REGISTRATION:** Please register [HERE](#)

**PURPOSE:** START Site Visit at AU Flakkebjerg. We will be exploring how advancements in gene editing and genetic modification contribute to sustainable food production. The focus will be on EU funding streams and international network.

### PROGRAM:

**10:00-10:05** Welcome and opening remarks on interdisciplinary collaboration / START

**10:05-10:30** Funding streams: What are the EU Commission view on plant breeding innovations, and new genetic tools in particular (presentation and Q&A) / by **Lina Christensen**, Senior advisor, Aarhus University & START

**10:30-10:50** GeneSprout initiative and the challenges of science communication / by **German Vighi**, board member GeneSprout Initiative and PhD candidate at KU Leuven Plant Institute (LPI)

**10:50-11:30** KU Leuven Plant Institute – expertise, research priorities and interdisciplinary collaborations (presentation and Q&A) / by **Filip Rolland**, Professor molecular plant biology and director of LPI, **Jenny Neukermans**, Valorization manager and advising board member of LPI and **Maarten Houben**, Manager of LPI.

**11:30-12:00** Site visit - selected laboratories and greenhouses used for research in crop genetics and biotechnology at AU Flakkebjerg / by **Henrik Brinch-Pedersen**, Professor, Head of section, Department of Agroecology – Crop Genetics and Biotechnology, AU Flakkebjerg

**12:00-13:00** Networking and LUNCH

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Researchers from all disciplinary backgrounds and career stages are welcome to attend.