

EUCARPIA

EUCARPIA Fodder Crops and Amenity Grasses Section *1st Festulolium Working Group Workshop*

Invitation

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to participate in **the 1st EUCARPIA *Festulolium* Working Group Workshop**. The meeting will be held on 22-23 April 2010 in Poznań, Poland. The workshop will be organized by the Institute of Plant Genetics, Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznań. The workshop is designed for everyone with an interest in *Festulolium* and to explore its many potential roles in multifunctional grassland systems. To allow the recent advances in *Festulolium* gene, trait, and breeding technologies relevant researchers from a broad spectrum of science disciplines are welcome, as are interested industries and policy makers capable of exploiting the new and exciting research outcomes. Together we will explore the potential uses of *Festulolium* and its roles in sustainable agriculture to safeguard future food, and environmental security, the maintenance of Europe's fragile grassland ecosystems and in combating climate change by for example reducing the alternative impacts of excessive or reduced rainfall events which can lead to episodic flooding or droughts.

The main themes of the workshop will be:

- 1. To describe what is special about *Festulolium* hybrids compared to current *Lolium* (ryegrass) and *Festuca* (fescue) cultivars?**
- 2. How best to develop *Festulolium* cultivars for EU grass seed markets – opportunities and obstacles?**
- 3. Descriptions of trait variability and analysis in *Festulolium*.**
- 4. Advances and state-of-the-art genomics studies in *Festulolium*.**

Each session will comprise a half-day and begin with 3 short introductory lectures each to address a pre-prepared question (provided to delegates prior to the workshop) which will form the basis of the Workshop discussions. Rapporteurs together with the Session Chairs and speakers will collate the workshop outcomes and provide written reports for Eucarpia and for all interested in *Festulolium* science. There will be ample time provided for general discussions. Besides the Workshops we invite proposals for contributed posters to be displayed, in particular from new researchers, and students under any of the above themes.

Registration, accommodation and abstract submission details for oral presentations and posters will be available shortly and displayed in the next circular.

We anticipate a very interesting and productive meeting where all participants will be strongly encouraged to participate fully by sharing their knowledge and thoughts.

We look forward to seeing you in Poznań!

Chairman of the Organizing Committee

Zbigniew Zwierzykowski

Head of the *Festulolium* Working Group

Mike Humphreys