



University of St.Gallen

Institute for Law and Economics

Regulation of New Plant Breeding Techniques

Bridging Science, Society, and Policy

Conference

11 June 2026, Zurich

Programme

- 13.00 – 13.15** **Prof. Dr. Peter Hettich, University of St. Gallen**
Welcoming and Introduction
- 13.15 – 13.40** **Prof. em. Dr. Beat Keller, University of Zurich**
Keynote: Understanding Modern Plant Breeding from
CRISPR Techniques to Traceability Challenges
- 13.40 – 14.40** **Dr. Dr. Stephen Milford, University of Basel**
The Moral Foundations of Polarising Debates
- Dr. Angela Bearth, HF Partners**
Cultivating Common Societal Ground for Innovation in
Plant Breeding
- Prof. h.c. Dr. Urs Niggli, President of the Institute of
Agroecology**
Plant Breeding at the Public – Private Goods Interface:
Sustainable Innovation
- 14.40 – 15.10** Coffee Break
- 15.10 – 16.10** **Prof. Dr. Véronique Boillet and Dr. Pierre Walckiers,
University of Lausanne**
Legal Implications of Scientific Rationalisation for New
Plant Breeding Technologies
- MLaw Nadina Isliker, University of St. Gallen**
The Future of New Plant Breeding Techniques under Swiss
Law
- M.A. Sara Fischer, University of St. Gallen**
Regulation of New Plant Breeding Techniques in the EU
- 16.10 – 17.10** **Panel Discussion**
How Can New Plant Breeding Techniques Be Regulated
Effectively and Responsibly?
- Panelists:**
Prof. em. Dr. Beat Keller, Dr. Angela Bearth,
Prof. Dr. Urs Niggli, Dr. Stefan Kohler
- 17.10 – 17.20** **Prof. Dr. Peter Hettich, University of St. Gallen**
Closing Remarks
- 17.20 – 18.00** Apéro

Objective

The conference aims to discuss the topic of new plant breeding techniques in an interdisciplinary manner. The event is set to open with an introduction to modern plant breeding techniques, followed by two thematic blocks. The first block will explore societal and ethical dimensions of new plant breeding techniques. This understanding could help to navigate regulatory challenges, which are to be discussed in the second block. The conference will conclude with a panel discussion on how effective and responsible regulation should be designed considering all these perspectives.

Further Information

Registration

Please register via this link: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/Ceu0gcaGud>

Costs

Attendance is free of charge. However, a no-show fee of CHF 100 will apply if cancellation is not received by 7 June 2026. Please cancel by email to nadina.isliker@unisg.ch.

Location

Vischer, Schuetzengasse 1, 8001 Zurich (5 minutes from Zurich Main Station)

Contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at any time by email at nadina.isliker@unisg.ch.

Language

The conference will be held in English.

Research Affiliation

This conference forms part of the National Research Programme “Plant Breeding Innovation” (NRP 84) under the ongoing project no. 226945. The opinions of the speakers do not necessarily reflect the positions of NRP 84.

The image features a white background with two green geometric shapes. One is a small trapezoid in the top right corner, and the other is a larger, irregular shape in the bottom right corner. The text 'From insight to impact.' is written in white on the larger green shape.

From insight
to impact.