



Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

PhD Program in Plant Sciences:

Research with biological material from abroad – International regulations and due diligence in research

Lecturers: Dr. Susette Biber-Klemm, SCNAT & University of Basel
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Dr. Franziska Bosshard, Federal Office for Environment (tbc)
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Location: Botanical Garden of the University of Zurich, *tba*

Dates: 16–17 March 2017

Credit Points: 1 ECTS

Goal and Course Content

Utilization of non-human biological material that comes from abroad is more than just a matter of competence in research techniques and methods. Scientists must be aware of legal and procedural requirements in order to correctly access biological material and to respect existing international and national regulations on plant genetic resources. Researchers need to be familiar with the Nagoya Protocol and terms such as Prior Informed Consent, Mutually Agreed Terms, Benefit-Sharing and Due Diligence in research.

The overall goal of this course is to inform young scientists about the relevant international treaties and existing international and Swiss regulations that affect research projects with genetic resources and to illustrate which steps to undertake.

Training will focus on the

- Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT FAO),
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The course will provide solid knowledge on

- 1) Correct and legitimate access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing for academic research,
- 2) The Multilateral System of the plant treaty,
- 3) Requirements for importing material under CITES in general, and specifically for plant genetic resources,
- 4) Swiss regulations,
- 5) Available support and counseling services for scientists in Switzerland.

Students work in groups, actively analyse each others research projects with genetic resources (biological material) and discuss exemplified case studies.

Prior Knowledge: No prior knowledge is required. Course language is English.

Number of Participants: Participation is limited to 20 people.

Individual Performance and Assessment:

Participants are expected to submit an abstract of their research project before the course starts.

Requirement for the ECTS point: Active participation in case-study work, discussions, and presentations during the course days. Assessment: pass or fail, no grades.