

## Science & Policy Panel and Plenary Discussion

Friday 9 October 2015, 16.15 – 18.15

ETH Zurich, Building LEE E 101, Leonhardstrasse 21



# Plant Sciences, Patents and Food Security

### Prof. em. Chris Leaver

Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford

Founding trustee «Sense about Science» and senior science advisor « Biosciences for farming in Africa» ([www.b4fa.org](http://www.b4fa.org))

### Jayashree Watal

Counselor in the Intellectual Property Division of the World Trade Organization WTO

Co-editor of Handbook on the WTO TRIPS Agreement (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

### Karin Nichterlein

Agricultural Research Officer at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization FAO

Member of the FAO based Secretariat of the Tropical Agriculture Platform TAP, a G20

Initiative to promote capacity development for agricultural innovation in tropical countries

Plant sciences have a great potential for the improvement of food and cash crops in tropical countries. However, how do intellectual property rights (TRIPS/UPOV) and international policies influence the use of plant biotechnology for development in tropical countries? Are there sufficient incentives to invest in the improvement and commercialization of orphan crops? Can access to new technologies in plant breeding be ensured through open innovation platforms? Who should be in charge of skill and knowledge transfer for agricultural innovation in tropical countries?

In this panel discussion we address these great challenges from different angles, with insights and perspectives from different experts.

### Moderation

**Guillaume Lacavé, Sofia Nobre and Arianna Nigro** – PhD fellows of the Marie Curie Actions research fellowship program - IDP BRIDGES financed by the European Union under grant agreement no PITN-GA-2013-608422

**Dr. Philipp Aerni**, Director, Center for Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability CCRS, at the University of Zurich

### Who

Anybody interested in the role of science and researchers in policy-making is welcome to attend and contribute to this event – PhD students, postdocs, and PIs alike.

### Costs

Free entrance, no registration required

Language English

### Contact

Luisa Last

Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

+41 44 632 02 71

[llast@ethz.ch](mailto:llast@ethz.ch)

### Links to organizers

→ [www.ccrs.uzh.ch](http://www.ccrs.uzh.ch)

→ [www.plantsciences.ch](http://www.plantsciences.ch)

Left picture: Cassava infected with Whitefly © J. Schläpfer

Right picture: Cassava seedlings © Craig Cutler