

## **INCREASE: Citizen Science and the Decentralised Conservation of Agrobiodiversity**

From Experiment to Structural Innovation in Europe

**April 20, 2026**

“IMMEUBLE SCHUMAN 14”, ROND POINT SCHUMAN

**1049 Bruxelles, Belgium**

### **AGENDA**

**09:00 – 09:20**

Registration and coffee

**09:20 – 09:35** (15 min)

#### **Opening & Strategic Framing**

From project to model: decentralised conservation as a structural pillar of European genetic resource governance

Roberto Papa (INCREASE Coordinator, Università Politecnica delle Marche - UNIVPM)

**09:35 – 10:15** (40 min)

#### **Plenary Lecture**

*Citizen Science and the Transformation of Environmental Governance: who have the right to produce environmental knowledge?*

Muki Haklay (University College London - UCL/Muséum National d'histoire naturelle - MNHN)  
(30 min lecture + 10 min questions)

10:15 – 11:15

**Decentralized conservation, the proof of concept: *INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment***

**10:15 – 10:35** (20min)

*The INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment: Design, scale-up and participation across Europe*

Kerstin Neumann (IPK)

**10:35 – 10:45** (10min)

*The International Treaty and the INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment*

Marco Marsella (ITPGRFA-FAO)

**10:45 – 10:55** (10min)

*AI in the INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment*

Adriano Mancini (Università Politecnica delle Marche - UNIVPM)

**10:55 – 11:15** (20 min)

*From citizens' data to scientific and policy impact: Evidence, validation, and systemic implications*

Alice Pieri (Università Politecnica delle Marche - UNIVPM)

**11:15 – 11:35** *Coffee Break*

**11:35 – 12:20** (45 min)

**INCREASE Stakeholder consortium and Citizen Voices: Europe in Practice**

- Filip Vandeloos - Meise Botanic Garden –*Experiences and activities of the INCREASE stakeholder consortium* (15 min)
- Short talks of INCREASE Partners and Stakeholders

**12:20 – 13:00** (40 min)

**Policy Panel**

**Scaling decentralised conservation: what could EU R&I enable?**

*Structure:*

- Future context of EU R&I in agriculture – Agata Gulisano
- 3 minutes inputs per panellist
- Moderated discussion (Moderator: Lena Prochnow – EURICE)
- questions

Panellists:

- Agata Gulisano (European Commission), Roberto Papa (UNIVPM), Muki Haklay (UCL-MNHN), Kerstin Neumann (IPK), Marco Marsella (ITPGRFA-FAO)

**13:00 – 13:10** (10 min)

Role of Genebanks in ex-situ decentralized conservation

Anna Backhaus (IPK)

**13:10 – 13:20** (10 min)

From INCREASE to EU R&I in agriculture – Key Messages

Roberto Papa (UNIVPM)

**13:20 – 13:35** (15 min)

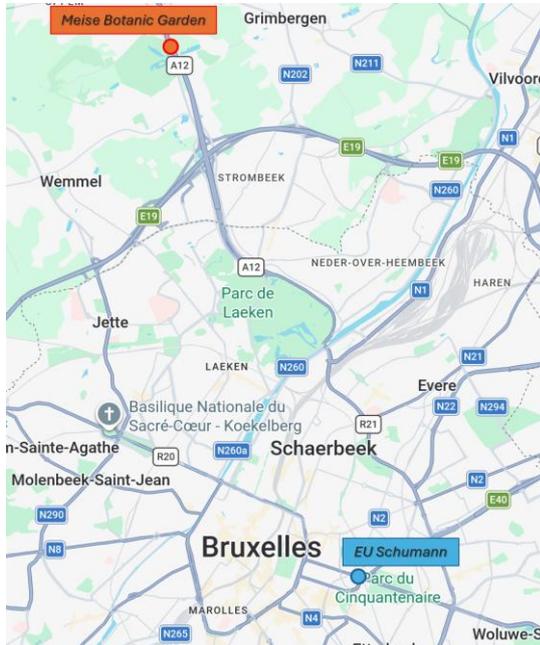
Perspectives on EU R&I in agriculture and Conclusions

Agata Gulisano (European Commission)

**13:35 – End of the meeting** – *Light LUNCH*

**Afternoon:**

**Visit at the Meise Botanic Garden**



**TRANSPORT to Meise Botanic Garden (from Schuman area):**

- with public transport (it could take between 1h and 1,5h): there are regular trains from the Brussels Schuman station until Brussels North station (about 10 minutes); then from the Brussels North station there is a bus (de Lijn R50) every 15 or 30 minutes that stops in front of the Botanic Garden (the bus takes about 25 minutes).

- with a taxi (it could take about 30 minutes) it would cost about 50€ (or a shared Uber).

Tour and visit to the collections organized by Meise Botanic Garden team – ref. Filip Vandeloek (Garden, Greenhouse and Calendary garden), from 16.00 until 18.00 (closure time)

**Proposed Social Dinner, after Meise Botanical Garden visit**

- near Heizel station - La petite Fourchette (<https://www.lapetitefourchette.be/nl>)

**[Registration form, open until 10<sup>th</sup> of April:](#)**

Please use the FORM to register to the event in the morning, to express your interest in visiting the Meise Botanic Garden in the afternoon and to participate to the Social Dinner.

**<https://forms.gle/XyB7cMJ2XRbhsmy16>**