



## 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

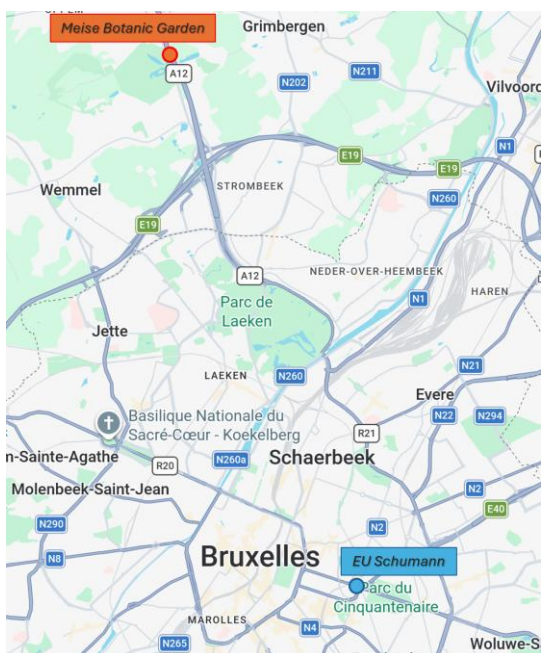
### AGENDA

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>09:00 – 09:20</b>          | Registration and coffee   |
| <b>09:20 – 09:35</b> (15 min) | <b>Opening &amp; Strategic Framing</b><br><i>From project to model: decentralised conservation as a structural pillar of European genetic resource governance</i><br>Roberto Papa (INCREASE Coordinator, Università Politecnica delle Marche) |
| <b>09:35 – 10:15</b> (40 min) | <b>Plenary Lecture</b><br><i>Citizen Science and the Transformation of Environmental Governance: who have the right to produce environmental knowledge?</i><br>Muki Haklay (University College London/Muséum National d’histoire naturelle)   |
| <b>10:15 – 10:25</b> (10 min) | <i>Perspectives on European Research &amp; Innovation in agriculture</i><br>Agata Gulisano (European Commission)  |
| <b>10:25 – 11:25</b>          | <b>Decentralized conservation, the proof of concept: INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment</b>  |
| <b>10:25 – 10:45</b> (20min)  | <i>The INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment: Design, scale-up and participation across Europe</i><br>Kerstin Neumann (IPK - Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung)  |

<b>10:45 – 10:55</b> (10min)	<p><i>The International Treaty and the INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment</i>  <a href="#">Marco Marsella</a> (The Secretariat of the International Treaty of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)</p>
<b>10:55 – 11:05</b> (10min)	<p><i>AI in the INCREASE Citizen Science Experiment</i>  <a href="#">Adriano Mancini</a> (Università Politecnica delle Marche)</p>
<b>11:05 – 11:25</b> (20 min)	<p><i>From citizens' data to scientific and policy impact: Evidence, validation, and systemic implications</i>  <a href="#">Alice Pieri</a> (Università Politecnica delle Marche)</p>
<b>11:25 – 11:45</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>
<b>11:45 – 12:30</b> (45 min)	<p><b>INCREASE Stakeholder consortium and Citizen Voices: Europe in Practice</b></p> <p>→ <i>Experiences and activities of the INCREASE stakeholder consortium</i>  <a href="#">Filip Vandelook</a> - Meise Botanic Garden</p> <p>→ Short talks of INCREASE Partners and Stakeholders</p>
<b>12:30 – 13:10</b> (40 min)	<p><b>Policy Panel</b>  <b>Scaling decentralised conservation: what could EU R&amp;I enable?</b></p> <p>Panellists:  Agata Gulisano (European Commission)  Roberto Papa (Università Politecnica delle Marche)  Muki Haklay (University College London/Muséum National d'histoire naturelle)  Kerstin Neumann (IPK - Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung)  Marco Marsella (The Secretariat of the International Treaty of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)</p> <p>Moderator:  Léna Prochnow (Eurice GmbH)</p>
<b>13:10 – 13:20</b> (10 min)	<p><i>Role of Genebanks in ex-situ decentralized conservation</i>  <a href="#">Anna Backhaus</a> (IPK - Leibniz-Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung)</p>
<b>13:20 – 13:30</b> (10 min)	<p><i>From INCREASE to EU R&amp;I in agriculture – Key Messages</i>  <a href="#">Roberto Papa</a> (Università Politecnica delle Marche)</p>
<b>13:30</b>	<b>End of the meeting – Light LUNCH</b>

**Afternoon:**

### **Visit at the Meise Botanical 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 are organised by Filip Vandelook of the Meise Botanic Garden team (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>



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