

Syngenta Foundation & partners at TropAg Brisbane, November 2017

Program: <https://tropagconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/TropAg-Program-FINAL.pdf>

SFSA contact: Vivienne.anthony@syngenta.com

Here's where we're involved:

1. Conference symposium – 2.2 Market driven approaches to plant breeding in tropical horticulture crops - Monday 20 November 2017

Organizer – Dr Vivienne Anthony, Syngenta Foundation (SFSA)
Chair – Professor Gabrielle Persley, University of Queensland

Six speakers focusing on demand-led breeding (DLB) of fruits and vegetables in Australia, Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia, connecting improved varieties with seed companies to reach smallholders, and on achieving sustainable investment in plant breeding in developing countries.

TropAg17 oral abstracts, incl. these presentations (Abstracts 135-140, pp 45-50):
<https://tropagconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/TropAg2017-book-of-oral-abstracts.pdf>

135 Tropical tomato breeding for Australian markets – satisfying the diverse needs of producers, retailers and consumers
Des McGrath, Tim O'Hare, *Australia*

136 Demand-led approaches in the tomato industry in Ghana: Challenges and opportunities for breeding and crop improvement
Dr Agyemang Danquah, Prof Eric Danquah, Prof Pangirayi Tongoona, *Ghana*

137 Maximizing the impact of common bean breeding for farmers and other value chain actors in East, Central and Southern Africa
Jean Claude Rubyogo, Eliud Birachi, Enid Katungi, Dr Clare Mugisha, *Tanzania/Rwanda/Uganda*

138 Connecting public and private breeders and new vegetable varieties to developing markets in SE Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa
Clive Murray, Dr Ian Barker, Camille Renou, *SFSA*

139 Custard apples – breeding for Australian domestic and export markets
Prof Phillip Banks, Paul Thorne, **Grant Bignell**, *Australia*

140 Tropical horticulture – Exploring new approaches for sustainable funding of plant breeding in developing countries
Dr Vivienne Anthony, Dr Ian Barker, *SFSA*

(...)

2. Launch of DLB text book* – Monday 20 November 2017

The book launch is organized by Mellissa Wood (General Manager Global Programmes, ACIAR) and Andrew Campbell (CEO, ACIAR) on behalf of the Food Security Alliance (SFSA, ACIAR and Crawford Fund). The Alliance has provided funding and, in association with University of Queensland, support for the partnership on demand-led breeding (DLB with leading African plant breeding education and R&D Institutions.

***The Business of Plant Breeding / Market led approaches to new variety design**

Persley J.G., and Anthony, V. (Eds.), Chirwa, R., Danquah, A., Danquah, E., Dijing, A., Hussein, S., Kimani, P., Merk, H., Rwomushana, I., Rubyogo, J., Shoham, J., Tongoona, P. and Yao, N. (2017) CAB International, ISBN13:9781786393814.

The following African authors will be at the launch, as will editors Persley & Anthony:

Jean-Claude Rubyogo- CIAT, Tanzania
Dr Paul Kimani – University of Nairobi, Kenya
Dr Nasser Yao – BeCA/ILRI, Nairobi, Kenya
Professor Shimelis Hussein, ACCI/University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa
Dr Agyemang Danquah – WACCI/University of Ghana
Professor Tongoona Pangirayi – WACCI/University of Ghana

Two early-career Africa bean breeders in the DLB network are also attending, having won ACIAR travel grants:

Dr Clare Mukankusi – CIAT, Kampala, Uganda
Dr Stanley Nkalubo – National Crops Research Institute, Kampala, Uganda

3. DLB posters

Poster abstracts:

<https://tropagconference.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/TropAg2017-Book-of-poster-abstracts.pdf>

All of our African partners listed above are either presenting papers and/or posters. Their 15 posters include:

1.84 Demand-Led Variety Design: Make Plant Breeding in Africa a Business Model Responsive to Market Demand

Nasser Kouadio Yao, Paul Kimani, Shimelis Hussein, Tongoona Pangirayi, Roland Chirwa, Jean Claude Rubiogo, Vivienne Anthony, Gabrielle Persley, Appolinaire Djikeng

SFSA is also an author on a poster, linked with DLB, on bean cooking time and innovative breeding approaches to accelerate trait improvement in developing countries:

1.19 A Rapid Recurrent Genomic Selection Project to Reduce Cooking Time in *Phaseolus* Beans
Wallace Cowling, Vivienne Anthony, Kadambot Siddique, Clare Mukankusi

4. Demand-led Breeding Workshop – Thursday 23 November

The African authors of the text book are sharing their innovative approach to plant breeding with young professionals and postgraduate students in relevant disciplines, whether studying in Australia or visiting as participants at TropAg17. About 20 postgrads and early career breeders will be attending. They'll be joined by African, Australian and other experts from the public and private sectors.

This is the first time these new training materials have been available for training outside Africa. The training module has been adapted for this purpose to create a one-day workshop.

5. TropAg 17 Session 5.1 Next Gen Scientist: What's your move? - Tuesday 21st November

Vivienne Anthony is on an invited panel with Dupont Pioneer, UQ and CSIRO regarding careers and advice for students and young professionals in plant science.

More on our DLB work:

<https://www.syngentafoundation.org/demand-driven-plant-variety-design>