Taste the future of food at the Australasian Plant Breeding Conference

The 16th Australasian Plant Breeding Conference (APBC) will open at the QT Hotel on the Gold Coast on 9 May 2022 – the first event of its kind in nearly a decade.

Over three days and featuring 200 speakers and 450 delegates, APBC will bring together current and future plant breeders, allied scientists, innovators, and experts from around the globe to explore the theme Towards 2050.

Contributors will examine the long-term nature of plant breeding and its essential role in delivering food and prosperity for the predicted global population of nine billion by mid-century – all in the context of decreasing available production area, climate change and demand for new products.

Opening day conference highlights include:
- **Interactive showcase event** to shine a spotlight on plant innovations and give attendees a chance to taste-test and get amongst new plant varieties.
- **'Spotlight on opportunities for adaptation in agriculture under climate change'** plenary session by Prof. Mark Howden, the Vice-Chancellor of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change).
- **'Accelerating crop improvement through functional genomics'** plenary session by Dr. Ed Buckler, a research geneticist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service and adjunct professor of plant breeding and genetics with Cornell's Institute of Biotechnology.

Chair of APBC Organising Committee Associate Professor Craig Hardner said this conference is a tremendous opportunity for the industry to come together and work Towards 2050.

"Plant breeding is a fundamental component of agriculture. It is vital for the ongoing sustainability of food and fibre industries and the health and well-being of society," Dr Harder said.

"We're responsible for ensuring that tastier, higher productivity, disease-resistant, resilient, and sustainable varieties and breeds of plants continue to be developed and refined for kitchen tables worldwide.

"As the first Conference since 2014, the APBC will be an important meeting place for different generations of plant breeders and scientists to connect and share experiences and ideas.

"We're looking forward to learning from international and local experts and the industry leaders of tomorrow.

"And it's not just vegetables and fruits. The Conference will also attract the best scientists and representatives from fields including forestry, grains, nuts, and turf.

"We encourage attendees to come along to the Showcase event on the opening day to celebrate plant innovation, novelty, and breeding success stories.

"It promises to offer something to anyone from beers bred with a new variety of hops to new breeds of snack-sized vegetables, a fluffier rice variety for the perfect paella and pink strawberry varieties for prettier pavlovas."

APBC is supported by major sponsors including The University of Queensland, the Queensland Government via the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Illumina, Kalyx, Nuseed, and other sponsors representing agriculture groups and food industry companies.
Download the [APBC program](#) including plenary and concurrent sessions from the [APBC website](#).

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**MEDIA ACCREDITATION:** Journalists wanting to attend the conference to conduct interviews will be given a complimentary media pass by contacting Jenny at [APBC@apbconference.org](mailto:APBC@apbconference.org).

Photos of speakers available from Dropbox
[https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/b55lb3xz3dgvvlq19khde/h?dl=0&rlkey=aachte8b5ezvkamh1v9dn3ps7](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/b55lb3xz3dgvvlq19khde/h?dl=0&rlkey=aachte8b5ezvkamh1v9dn3ps7)

**Assoc. Prof. Craig Hardner** (Churchill Fellow 2013), Chair of the Australian Plant Breeding Conference (APBC) Organising Committee at The University of Queensland.

**Prof. Mark Howden**, the Vice-Chancellor of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change)

**Dr. Ed Buckler**, research geneticist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service and adjunct professor of plant breeding and genetics with Cornell’s Institute of Biotechnology.