

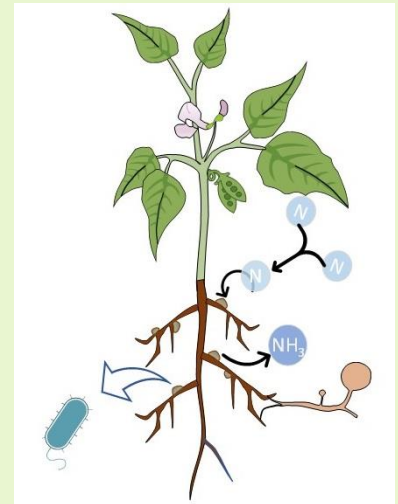
Application of beneficial microorganisms for Farmers and Crofters

Coordinator: Prof. David Kothamasi

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Beneficial agricultural microorganisms not only promote healthy plant growth and increase yields, but they are also low-cost. For instance, savings in terms of costs incurred on phosphate fertilization required to sustain similar levels of plant productivity through use of arbuscular mycorrhizas has been estimated at US\$ 549 billion per year. Likewise, substitution of nitrogen fertilizers with rhizobial species has led to savings of up to US\$1.7 billion.

The Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law & Governance is organising a workshop and consultation event for farmers and crofters on the application of beneficial microorganisms for promoting healthy plant growth.



The Workshop will be inviting experts in Microbial Ecology who will talk about the availability of microbial inoculum for farms/crops and the benefits associated with them for crop growth. There will also be a talk on understanding patents on living resources including microorganisms used in agriculture including the risks of patent infringements from escaped microbes.

The talks will be followed by a panel discussion along with the participating farmer/farmer-crofter organizations on application of beneficial microbial inoculum for crop growth promotion.

Programme

(9.00 – 10.00) - Registration

(10.00 – 10.15) - Welcome by **Dr. Antonio Cardesa-Salzmann**

(10.15 – 10.30) - **Prof. David Kothamasi**. Introduction to the Workshop.

(10.30 – 11:00) - Coffee

(11.00 – 11.30) - **Prof. Stéphane DeClerck**, Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium). Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi: key benefits in agro-ecosystems, formulation and application constraints.

(11:30-12:00) - **Prof. Marcel van der Heijden**, University of Zurich (Switzerland). Soil microbiome engineering and field application with mycorrhizal fungi to enhance soil and plant health.

(12.30– 13.00) – **Mr. Kerr Hunter**. Commercially available microbial inoculations and materials

(13.00 – 14.00) - Lunch

(14.00 – 14.30) - **Prof. David Kothamasi**. Patented microorganisms and the risks of patent infringement.

(14.30 – 15.00) **Dr. Saskia Vermeulen**. Ecological knowledge and intellectual property rights: the need for reform.

(15:00 - 15:15) - **Mr. Donald Campbell**. TBA (A farmers perspective)

(15.15 –16.00) - Panel discussions, Q&As

(16.00 – 17.00) - Coffee