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Agroscope Changins-Wädenswil ACW

FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM CONTHEY, 1964 CONTHEY, SWITZERLAND



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Chairman COST 863

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Albino Maggio
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Subject: COST863 Joint Meeting of WG1 + WG4 on ‘Bioactive compounds in berry fruits: genetic control, breeding, cultivar, analytical aspects and human health’, 3-5 December 2008

Zürich, Switzerland

Dear Dr Albino Maggio

Following the action work program, we are submitting the application for the organization of the COST 863 Joint Meeting of WG1 + WG4 on **‘Bioactive compounds in berry fruits: genetic control, breeding, cultivar, analytical aspects and human health’**, to be held at the ETHZ, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich – from the 3-5 December 2008. This joint meeting will be organised by Dr. Carlen Christoph from Agroscope ACW, Research Centre Conthey, 1964 Conthey, Switzerland.

The objective of the joint meeting is to discuss the relation of bioactive compounds in *Fragaria*, *Rubus*, *Ribes* and *Vaccinium* with genetic control, breeding, cultivar, analytical aspects and human health. Different aspects will be treated such as:

- How do genetics and genomics contribute to a better knowledge on bioactive compound in berry fruits?
- Does variability exist in germplasm or collections and how can this variability be used for breeding programmes?
- Analysis to measure bioactive compounds in berry fruits?
- How may bioactive compounds benefit human health?

To have a general international overview on the impact of climate change on berry physiology and needs for modern berry production the following experts were invited to give a presentation:

- **Prof. Dr Kevin Folta**, Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology Program on berries, Horticultural Sciences Department, University of Florida, USA: **Strawberry genomics new impacts in basic biology and crop science.**
- **Dr Rodger Hurst**, Leader of the Healthy Berry Programme, HortResearch, Auckland, New Zealand. Bioactive compounds in Berries: **Factors influencing bioactive compounds in berries.**
- **Prof. Dr. Gary Williamson**, Functional Food, Department of Food Science, University of Leeds, England Bioactive compounds: **Bioactive compounds: absorption and effects on human health.**
- **Dr. Jean Francois Hausman**, Centre de Recherche Public – Gabriel Lippman EVA, Luxembourg, is also invited as rapporteur of the action and for presenting results on genetic resources evaluation.

The outcome of the Joint Meeting is focused on the identification of the present knowledge on bioactive compounds and berries and the future requirements in the area of research to guarantee a sustainable berry production with high quality fruits.

Considering all these aspects, we are requesting the acceptance of the joint meeting program and the reimbursement of the 4 invited speakers and 28 experts from COST 863 signatory countries. Other experts will join the meeting on their own budget.

Sincerely yours

Prof. Dr. Bruno Mezzetti
Chairman of COST 863

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