Other standardisation initiatives for plant genomics

transPLANT EU-US Biotechnology Task Force

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EBI is an Outstation of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory.

This meeting

- Administration (Pascal Kahlem)
 - Deliverables, reporting, etc.
 - Introduction of Project partners
 - What we do, what we plan to do in transPLANT
 - General discussion
 - transPLANT web site
 - Networking work packages
 - Variation data
 - High-performance compute needs
 - Overall collaborative focus



What is transPLANT?

We are proposing the establishment of new European consortium, transPLANT (trans-national infrastructure for **PLANT** genomic science), to design, implement, deploy and operate the software infrastructure critical to the future needs of plant scientists. transPLANT will exploit solutions already developed in adjacent domains (e.g. medical informatics), applying existing approaches to plants and extending them to deal with the specific challenges and opportunities unique to the domain of plant research; and thereby will maximise the potential of genomics to contribute to the second green revolution needed to keep the growing world population from hunger.

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Why is transPLANT timely?

- Advances in sequencing technologies is making the sequencing and assembly of whole plant (especially cereal) genomes tractable for the first time
- Variomics and phenomics are rapidly developing fields in plants science and have the potential for real application
- Key parts of infrastructure needed for plant science are missing
 - Ethical issues applicable to human data are less of a barrier in plant science
 - We can still exploit developments that have occurred in the context of well-funded biomedical research products
 - Crop improvement is desperately needed to meet growing human needs for food and fuel



What is a trans-European infrastructure?

- For transPLANT, this means:
 - A common set of reference data to be shared between different researchers and service provides
 - Construction of missing data archives
 - Provision of tools to manipulate and mine plant genomic data
 - Provision of an integrating point of interactive access to diverse data sets
 - Provision of a compute environment for programatic access to plant genomic data
 - Developing common standards for use within transPLANT and a wider community
 - Training potential users
 - Engaging with other related communities to share experiences, tools and roadmaps



Overall structure

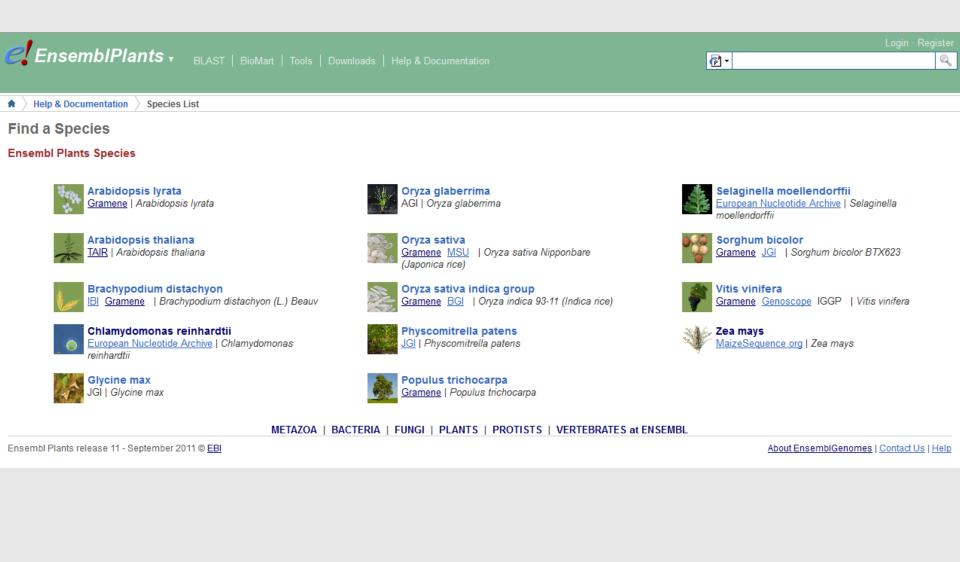
- WP1 Management
- WP2-4 Coordination activities
- WP5-6 Service activities
- WP7-12 RTD activities



Coordination and Support Activities

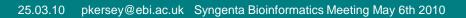
- WP1 Management
- WP2 Interaction with relevant communities
- WP3 Standards development
- WP4 User training







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Working in international partnership

- Developing in collaboration with Gramene
 - a resource for plant comparative genomics led by Doreen Ware at Cold Spring Harbor laboratory that already uses Ensembl technology
- EBI is coordinating a new European effort to develop a computational infrastructure for plant genomic science (transPLANT)
- Collaborate in producing common databases and plantspecific tools
 - Recent UK research council funding for work on barley and wheat genomes
 - These complex genomes will only be deciphered through coordinated international effort
 - Previous funding for work on variation, genome assembly



Funding for this meeting

- BBSRC grant for coordination between the UK and the US aimed at establishing better integration in plant genomics databases (BB/H531519/1)
- transPLANT (EU FP7 283496)
- EMBL









EU-US Biotechnology Task Force

- "Since 1990, the EU-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research has been coordinating transatlantic efforts to promote research on biotechnology and its applications for the benefit of society."
- Plant and Animal Biotech Working Groups (among others) next meetings at PAG 2012
- Potential outcomes include co-ordinated funding calls
- Task force plans for meetings on standards and coordination in 2012-2013; may be co-organised with trasnPLANT

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