PLANT GENOMICS AND THE GLOBAL BIOECONOMY
CHALLENGES

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Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a part of Sustainable Development Strategies (SDS) such as Agenda 21 or MDGs 2000 can only be achieved with the implementation of effective long-term international developed goals and targets. The eight MDGs include: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Achieve international primary education; Promote gender equality and empower women; Reduce child mortality; Improved maternal health; Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; Ensure environmental sustainability; Develop a global partnership for development.

The Millennium Development Goals could be achieved if more food, feed, bioenergy, biopharmaceuticals, bioplastics, etc. could be produced in regard of quality and quantity. Plant science in the face of plant genomics has the most modern tools in the postgenomic era to meet these challenges.

The European agri-food industry alone represents more than € 1618 billion annually and employs over 22.1 million people.

The European food and drink industry transforms more than 70% of the agricultural raw materials produced in the EU and exports in excess of € 45 billion.

Forestry and its related industries employ more than 3.5 million Europeans and contribute more than € 200 billion to the EU economy.

In December 2000, plant genomics was recognized as a key priority at the millstone EC-supported Versailles Conference - Agricultural research in European Research Area.

The EC has the serious concern of lagging behind in this field not only from USA, but also from China, Japan and even Brazil.

In 2002 the European Research Area Network (ERA NET) project was launched in order to overcome the fragmentation of EU science and to avoid the duplication of research programmes in the different EU countries.

Bulgaria has joined the ERA Plant Genomics (ERA PG) network in 2007.

In 2002 The European Commission adopted a Strategy for Europe on Life Sciences and Biotechnology.

It proposes a comprehensive roadmap up to 2010 and puts the sector at the forefront helping to take the EU towards its long term strategic goal of becoming “the most competitive and dynamic, knowledge-based economy in the world, capable of sustainable growth with more and better jobs...” within a decade.

This presentation will consider the present situation and future challenges of Plant Genomics development and Global Bioeconomy.

In this interdependent world we should think and act both locally and globally.