



invitation

Thursday
17 September 2015
18:00-19:30

Room 3, 1st floor,
Tassos Papadopoulos Building,
Themidos and Ifigenias corner,
Cyprus University of Technology

The Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology
and Food Science of the Cyprus University of Technology
invites you at a lecture on:

Bridging the gap between genomics and fruit breeding

Speaker:

Dr. Francois Laurens,

Leader of the INRA Fruit genetics and breeding Group
Coordinator of the European project FruitBreedomics

Information:
Dr. George Manganaris
tel.: 25 002307



CV



Francois Laurens got his PhD thesis at The University of Rennes in 1992 working on “the genetic determinism of resistance to clubroot in Brassicae”. For the last 23 years, he has been working at INRA Angers (France) as a geneticist and a breeder in charge of many and diverse missions: French fruit varietal testing network, apple and pear breeding programmes, apple germplasm management, and fruit quality genetics studies.

He is currently the Deputy Director of The Institute of Research on Horticulture and Seeds, a large laboratory of 230 members, developing research projects dealing with the quality and health of horticultural crops. He is in charge of the animation of the «pome-fruits and legumes» group and coordinator of the activities developed on Fruit Quality (Genetics, Genomics, Ecophysiology). He is the leader of the apple and pear breeding programs. At the French level, he is the co-leader of the INRA Fruit genetics and breeding group including pome and stone fruits. He is also the co-leader of GIS Fruit, a scientific interest group which draws together 22 French partners involved in research, training and professional organization in the fruit sector.

From 2004 to 2007, he has been the President of the Eucarpia Fruit Breeding and Genetics group. Since March 2011 he is the coordinator of the large collaborative European project FruitBreedomics which aims to improve the efficiency of apple and peach breeding programs by filling in the gap between basic research studies and applied breeding.

FruitBreedomics: A European project to help bridging the gap between basic research and breeding in fruits.

The FP7 European research project FruitBreedomics has come to an end. Started in March 2011, the project officially ended on August 31st, 2015. It has been 52 months of intense research activity by many researchers from 28 research institutes and private companies to fulfill the goal of bridging the gap between genomics and breeding in fruit trees. The approach taken to close this gap has been comprehensive. It has encompassed the generation of new tools for phenotyping, genotyping and transcriptomics; The genomics tools enable the discovery of new associations of markers and traits of commercial interest thanks to different approaches (Pedigree Based Analysis (PBA) and Genome Wide Association studies (GWAS). They also enable to decipher new knowledge about the European apple and peach germplasm structure. FruitBreedomics also helps to develop methods (Molecular Assisted Breeding, Genomic Selection, Fast Breeding) to improve the efficiency of fruit breeding programs and plant material that commercial breeders of fruit varieties can implement and use in their day to day effort to create new cultivars

