

26th New Phytologist Symposium

# Bioenergy trees

INRA-Nancy, France  
17–19 May 2011



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## Scope

With the increasing demand for energy and rising petrol-based fuel costs, the development of renewable liquid biofuels derived from cellulosic biomass is a strategic priority for the European Union, USA and Canada. Liquid biofuels offer an important alternative to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to assist rural and agricultural development. In their bid to boost the share of biofuels in transport fuel to 10% by 2020, the European Commission and U.S. Department of Energy awarded >100 million € to a series of research projects dedicated to 2nd generation bioenergy feedstocks.

Trees are attractive energy crops since they thrive in a wide range of habitats and can be grown on marginal lands not suitable for agricultural crops, with reduced input costs and optimised land management. The ultimate goal of the projects that have begun over the last 23 years is to develop poplars, pines and eucalypts as second-generation bioenergy crops, suitable for large-scale deployment in areas unlikely to be used for food agricultural production. These genomics-driven projects integrate ambitious systems biology approaches to optimise the amount, composition, and structure of cell walls for biofuel production and to develop novel tree genotypes with enhanced growth traits under low-input environments.

The 26th NPS will provide a platform for brainstorming and discussions of the most recent systems biology applications aiming to deliver tailored sustainable tree lignocellulosic biomass for bioethanol.

## Symposium format

The symposium will take place over three days at INRA-Nancy, France. Nineteen invited speakers will form the basis of discussion at what will be a

relatively small meeting (up to 120 participants). Following each talk there will be 10 minutes for questions. In this way we hope to provide a lively forum for exchanging ideas and discussing new approaches. There will be a poster session on the Tuesday evening and a conference dinner on the Wednesday evening.

## Confirmed participants

**Catherine Bastien** INRA-Orléans, France  
**Wout Boerjan** University of Ghent, Belgium  
**Carl Douglas** University of British Columbia, Canada  
**Brian Ellis** University of British Columbia, Canada  
**Dario Grattapaglia** EMBRAPA Genetic Resources and Biotechnology, Brazil  
**Ykä Helariutta** University of Helsinki, Finland  
**Pelle Ingvarsson** Umeå Plant Science Centre, Sweden  
**Xiangning Jiang** Beijing Forestry University, China  
**Angela Karp** Rothamsted Research, UK  
**Matias Kirst** University of Florida, USA  
**Shawn Mansfield** University of British Columbia, Canada  
**Michele Morgante** Udine University, Italy  
**Richard Murphy** Imperial College London, UK  
**Ganti Murthy** Oregon State University, USA  
**Andrea Polle** University of Göttingen, Germany  
**John Ralph** University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA  
**Steven Strauss** Oregon State University, USA  
**Gail Taylor** University of Southampton, UK  
**Chung-Jui Tsai** University of Georgia, USA  
**Jerry Tuskan** Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN, USA  
**Björn Sundberg** Umeå Plant Science Centre, Sweden  
**Guido Zacchi** Lund University, Sweden

## Organisation

**Francis Martin** INRA-Nancy, France  
**Michele Morgante** Udine University, Italy  
**Andrea Polle** University of Göttingen, Germany  
**Steve Strauss** Oregon State University, USA  
**Gail Taylor** University of Southampton, UK  
**Jerry Tuskan** Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN, USA

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## New Phytologist Trust

The New Phytologist Trust is a non-profit making organisation dedicated to the promotion of plant science.

Complete details and registration at  
**[www.newphytologist.org](http://www.newphytologist.org)**

