



FEBRUARY 5TH-6TH 2026, 12 A.M.

BREEDING FOR BIODIVERSITY

University of Hohenheim,
Schloss, Balkonsaal

Keynote Speakers

Hubert Kempf
Monika Messmer
Vanessa Prigge
Axel Schechert
Franziska Wespel



Organising Institute

State Plant Breeding Institute

https://lsa.uni-hohenheim.de/en/start_en



Plant Breeding Symposium
University of Hohenheim

@pbs_UHOH

BREEDING FOR BIODIVERSITY

University of Hohenheim

Day 1 – 5 February 2026

TIME TOPIC

TIME	TOPIC
12:00	Registration
13:00	Welcome - Patrick Thorwarth
13:05	Official Welcome Address - Professor Dr. Christoph Schneider President of the University of Hohenheim
	Session 1 - Chair: Thomas Miedaner
13:20	Hubert Kempf (Keynote) - 35 years of practical wheat breeding - from pedigree to genomic selection
14:00	Lars Solterbeck - Yield Component Dynamics under Nitrogen Stress: A Lens into Breeding-Relevant Biodiversity in Triticale
14:20	Tigist Tadesse - Enhancing Predictive Accuracy of Agronomy and Quality Traits in Barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.) Using Spectral Variable Selection
14:40	Marvin Rose - Enhancing Selection Gain of Population Breeding in Winter Rye by Using Genomic Selection
15:00	Friedrich Longin - Breeding is the backbone of diversification – success story establishment of spelt, emmer & einkorn
15:20	Coffee Break & Poster Session
	Session 2 - Chair: Tobias Würschum
16:00	Emilia Koch - A comparison of statistical models for predicting genotype performance in untested environments using environmental covariates
16:20	Anurag Daware - Leveraging genomic prediction and GWAS to modernize distinctness, uniformity, and stability (DUS) testing in maize
16:40	Desmond Darko Asiedu - Genetic and molecular analyses of European maize landrace for resistance to stalk rot
17:00	Wanda Haller - Evaluation of maize testcross hybrid performance under low and high phosphorus fertilization.
17:20	Vanessa Prigge (Keynote) - Tackling potato breeding challenges through research
18:00	Closing Words Day 1 - Tobias Würschum
18:00	End Day 1
19:00	Symposium Dinner

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Day 2 – 6 February 2026

TIME TOPIC

08:30 Welcome - Karl Schmid

08:35 Session 1 Chair: Karl Schmid

09:15 Franziska Wespel (Keynote) - Adapting novel crops for central Europe: Lessons from phenotyping and breeding

09:35 Anne-Katrin Gorn - Quality over quantity? The optimized allocation of quality samples of perennial ryegrass in Bavarian cultivar trials

09:55 Clemens Hacke - Breeding for drought tolerance in German soybean varieties

10:35 Axel Schechert (Keynote) - Breeding of Dandelion for Natural Rubber Production

Coffee Break & Poster Session

11:15 Session 2 Chair: Tobias Schrag

11:35 Volker Hahn - From Field to Plate: Enhancing Biodiversity Through Buckwheat Breeding

11:55 Hans Peter Maurer - Breaking Out of Its Niche: Safflower Cultivation

12:35 Monika Messmer (Keynote) - TBD

12:40 Closing Words Day 2 - Patrick Thorwarth

Fingerfood & Get Together

The symposium will take place in the beautiful halls of the baroque castle of Hohenheim, in the Balkonsaal on the first floor.

Address: Schloss Hohenheim 1, 70599 Stuttgart

