

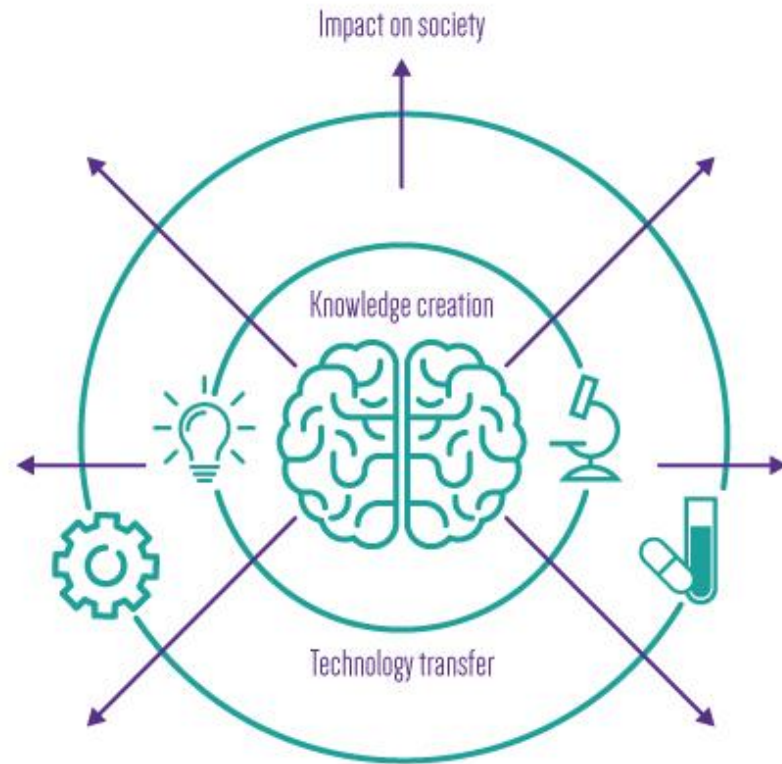
SCIENCE MEETS LIFE

VIB International Plant Biotechnology Outreach

Ghent, Belgium, October 13th, 2020

Marc Heijde

VIB, Research at the intersection of academia and industry



VIB

- ▶ Founded in 1996 (not for profit)
- ▶ 5 partner universities
- ▶ 75 research groups
- ▶ 1600 collaborators
- ▶ Investment Government of Flanders

Inspired by global societal challenges

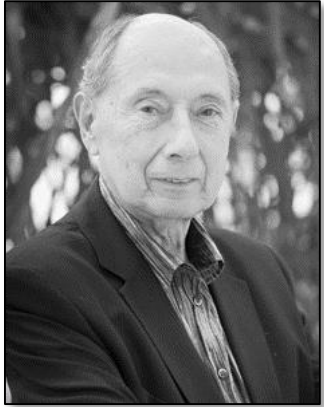
Healthy living



Sustainable food
production



IPBO: International Plant Biotechnology Outreach



Prof. Dr. **Marc Van Montagu** founded IPBO in 2000

- Father of plant molecular genetics (discovery of Ti plasmid and gene transfer from Agrobacterium to plants)
- Co founder of Plant Genetics systems (1st plant biotech startup in Europe, now BASF group)
- 1998: Japan Prize for Biotechnology in Agriculture Sciences (Japan)
- 2013: WFP laureate



Lieve



Laura



Vanessa



Dulce



Marc

IPBO's work



Develop projects to transfer knowledge, tools and technologies between EU and Africa for a **sustainable development of research, agriculture and agro-industry.**

Capacity building

2-3 week summer courses

study case relevant for an African region
(e.g. Late blight resistant potato, Banana, Cassava, maize...)

based on three pillars:

1. Scientific challenges and solutions
2. Regulatory aspects in scientific research
3. Science communication

→ **2021: Modern breeding techniques of maize**

12 fellowships from VLIR-UOS and 2 from the Marc and Nora Van Montagu Fund



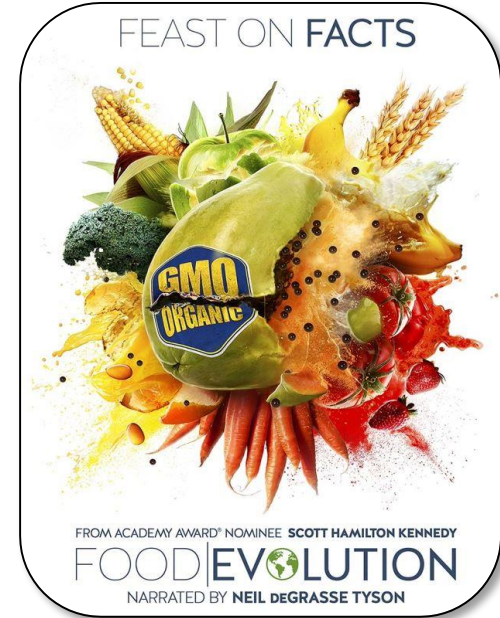
Science communication and advocacy

2018: IPBO conference:
**Scientific innovation for a
sustainable development of
African agriculture**
Ghent, Belgium



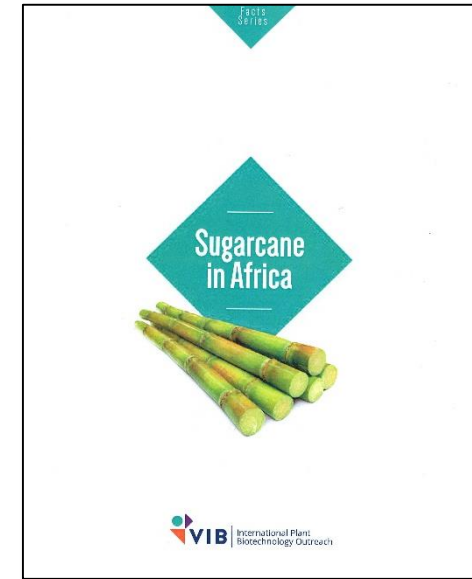
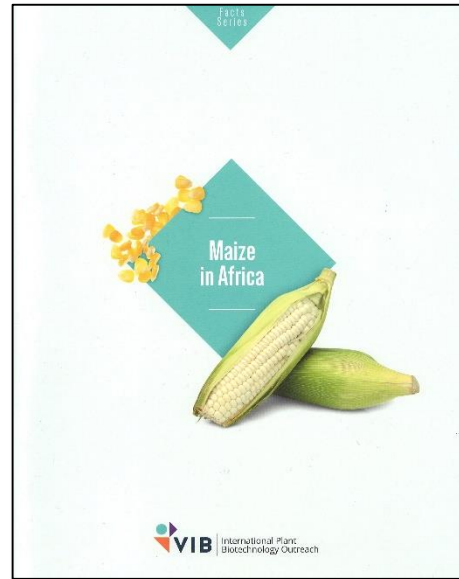
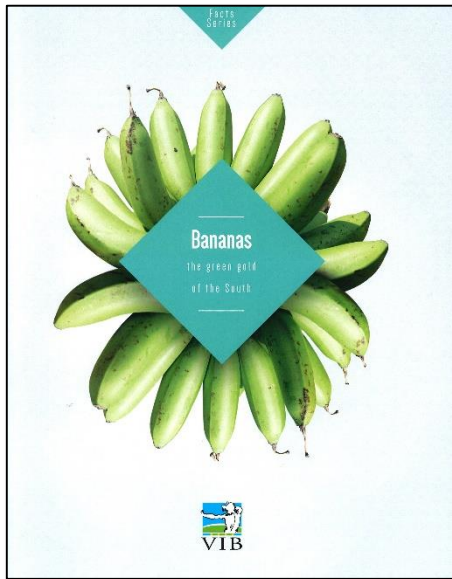
ABBC 2019:
Getting it Right: Communicating about
Genome Editing
Pretoria, August 2019

Science cinema



Science communication

- Information and tools tailored to specific audiences



Research



**EU-Africa research partnership
Adoption of climate resilient
banana varieties and improved
agricultural practices**

<http://ipbo.vib-ugent.be/projects/leapagri-clismaban/leapagri-clismaban>

ITN: Plant Breeding and Biotechnology network (PlantB+B)



17



25



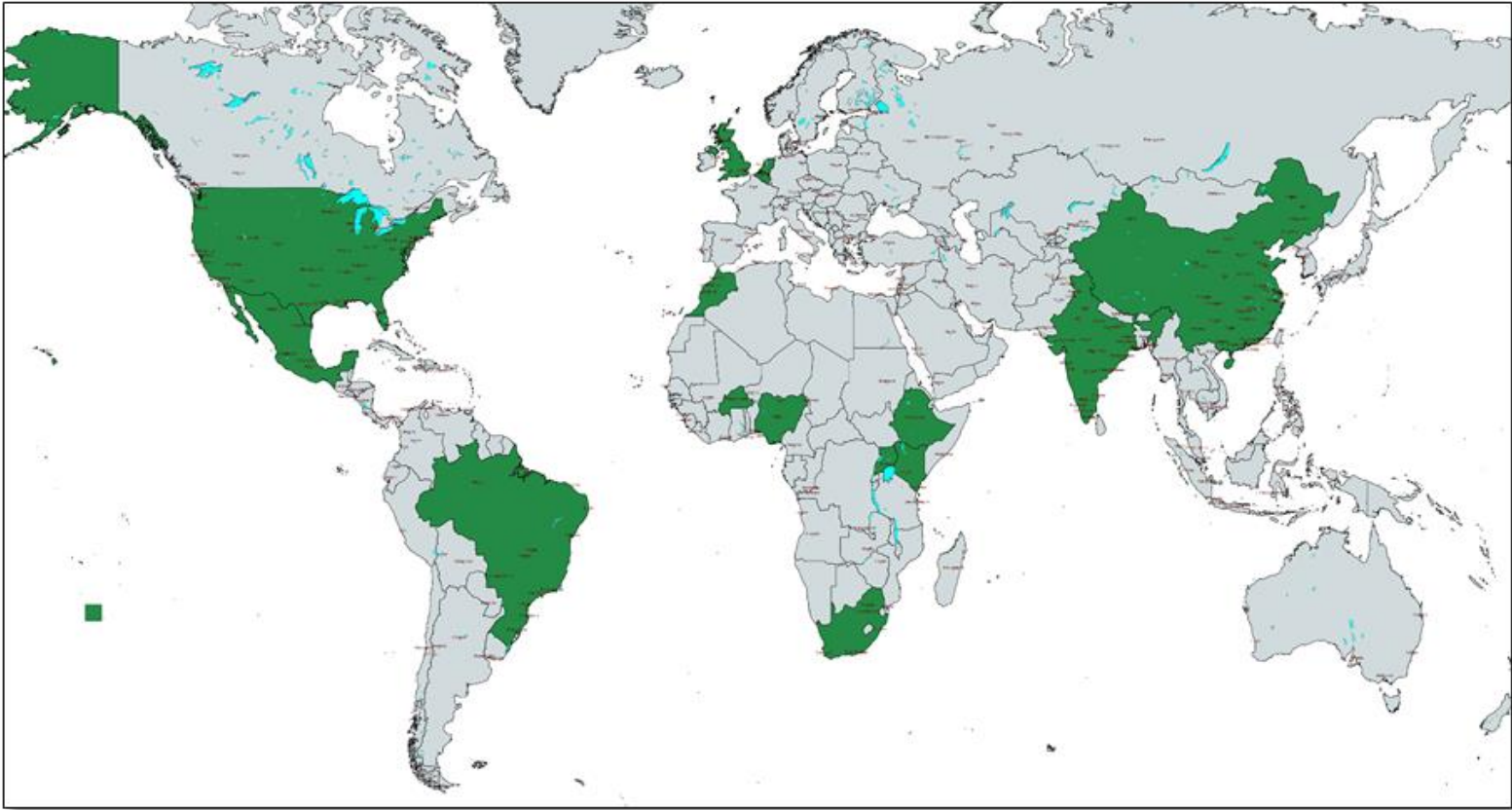
15 countries



29 institutions



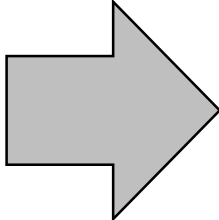
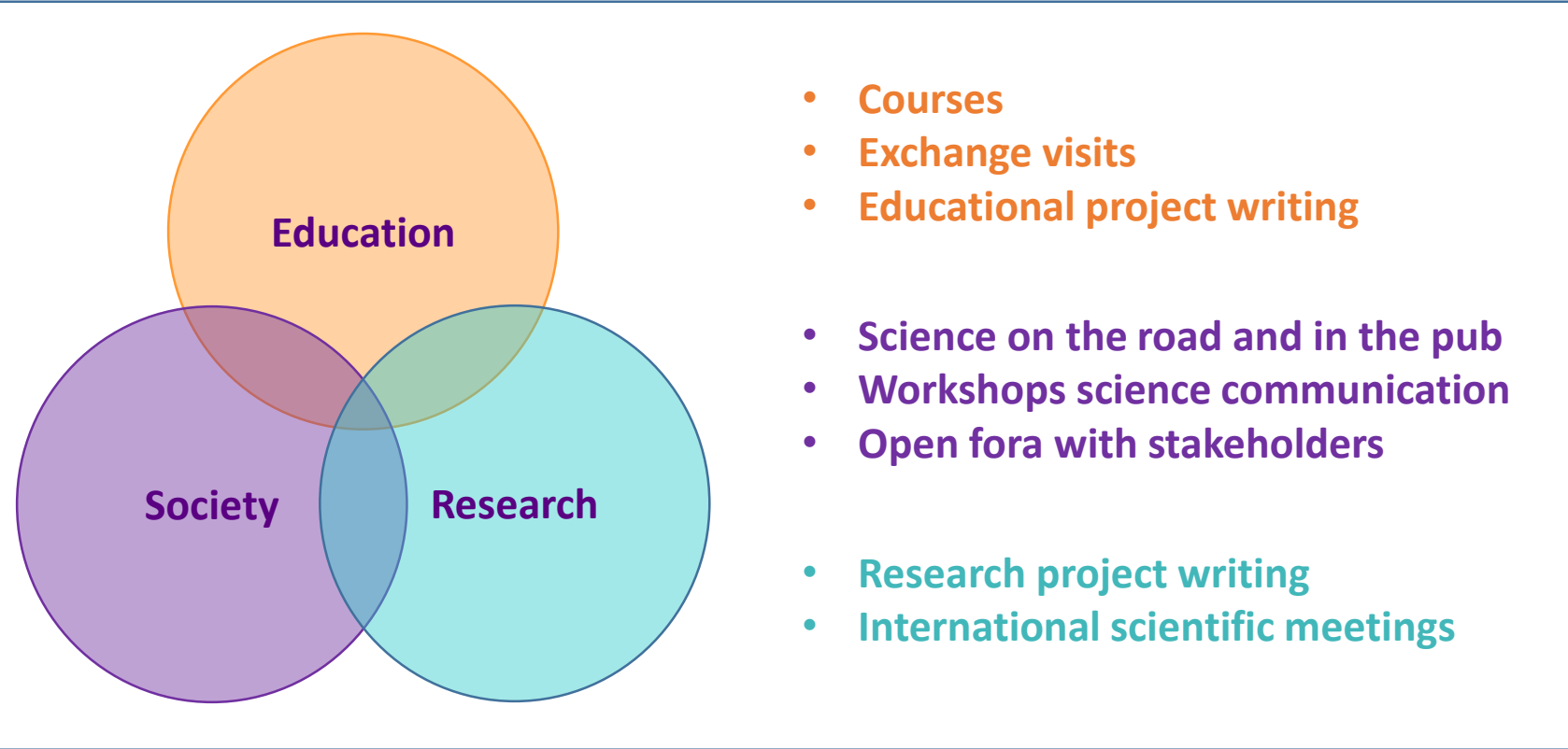
13 UGent promoters



International Plant
Biotechnology Outreach



Plant Breeding and Biotechnology network (PlantB+B)



Thank you!!!

<http://ipbo.vib-ugent.be/>