**WHAT'S ON IN MONTPELLIER?**

**Biodiversity and Agricultures, hot topic in Montpellier**

Several international events will be held in Montpellier over the coming months around one of the major areas of interest for the regional research community.

**International Conference**

- **Biodiversity and Agricultures: Today’s Challenges, Tomorrow's Research for More Sustainable Farming** - Montpellier November 4–5 2008, Cours of Montpellier

This event is organized by the French Ministry for Higher Education in cooperation with the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; the French National Institute for Agricultural research (INRA) is coordinating the event.

The Conference, aimed at European and international decision-makers and stakeholders will demonstrate the strategic importance of research on the impact of agriculture and biodiversity. This very dynamic field of research should help better understand the linkage between the biodiversity crisis and agricultural systems, to promote new rules for a better conservation and more sustainable use of biodiversity, central to the sustainable and rural development strategies.

Agropolis International is part of the organizing committee and will be present at the Conference with the organizing committee and will be present at the Conference with the organizing committee and will be present at the Conference with the organizing committee and will be present at the Conference with the organizing committee.

### Workshop

- **Montpellier-Hohenheim Workshop**: 'agrobiodiversity, hostage between food security and biofuels?' - November 6-7 2008, Agropolis International

Following the international conference on biodiversity and agriculture, the workshop is organized in partnership with Hohenheim University. It aims at strengthening French-German collaborations.

Diversity of food production systems and landscape biodiversity are under growing pressure especially in developing countries. The recent surges in cereal prices, as a result of food shortage, will probably induce changes in the markets, and also increase and intensify arable land use. The problem is further amplified by competition with the new plant-for-biofuels sector, as a result of the recent oil price increase. The thematic areas discussed will be: 'What to expect for biodiversity across different scenarios?' 'Which research to help conserve agrobiodiversity?'

For more information on this event [www.inra.fr/biodiversite_agriculture_puje](http://www.inra.fr/biodiversite_agriculture_puje)

### Task force study

- **Regional presentation of the results of a task force study on 'Agriculture and Biodiversity' by INRA - December 1 2008, Campus de la Gaillarde, INRA/Montpellier Sup'Agro**

The study, which was commissioned by the French ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries and the French ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Land Management, looks at the impacts of biodiversity on agriculture, potential roles and uses of biodiversity for agriculture, the windows of technical opportunities to better integrate biodiversity into agricultural practices and their social and economic feasibility. Ca. 20 scientific experts from France and abroad, and from different disciplines were involved in the study.

For more information on the ESCo study [www.inra.fr/institut_expertises/expertises_realisées/agriculture_et_biodiversite_1](http://www.inra.fr/institut_expertises/expertises_realisées/agriculture_et_biodiversite_1)

### Meetings

- **The francophone meetings on conservation research; 'wake-up of the Dodo III' - March 17-19 2009, University of Montpellier 2**

This event is the third of a series (Dodo I and II were held in 2003 and 2006) and offers an opportunity for French-speaking scientists and biodiversity managers to present their work and discuss methodological and conceptual issues related to conservation biology. A large part of the meeting will address the interactions between social and human sciences, and conservation biology: can the latter work without involving the former? The event is organized by Montpellier-Environment-Biodiversity 'Federative Research Institute' (IFR) in partnership with Agropolis International. It will be an opportunity for exchanges between conservation biology interdisciplinary experiences, and to facilitate a dialogue between biological and social sciences.

For more information on this event [http://dodo2009.cerc.cnrs.fr](http://dodo2009.cerc.cnrs.fr)

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**Societies and Sustainable Development: Contribution of Social Sciences**

- **7th ‘dossier d’Agropolis International’ (September 2008, 68 pages)**

The ‘dossiers d’Agropolis International’ is a series published by Agropolis International, complying with its mission to promote the competencies of its regional research community. Each issue relates to one major scientific domain.

This publication presents the research and training competencies available within the scientific community of Agropolis International in the area of social and human sciences devoted to the relations between Societies and Sustainable development. This involves 24 pluridisciplinary research groups, with ca. 700 scientists and faculty, and 500 PhD students.

**Content:** World agricultures at the heart of society’s challenges; Land dynamics and mutations in the production systems; Commodity chains, standards, markets and stakeholder strategies; Environment and natural resource management; Public goods, public policies and international regulations; Common methods and tools adapted to a diversity of challenges; Examples of collective expertise to answering social questions; The Human Sciences House in Montpellier; Specific training and capacity building opportunities in Montpellier linked to this theme.

Michel Salas,
Director, Agropolis International

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**> JUST PUBLISHED**

**Online**

Agropolis Fondation

October 13, 2008, Agropolis Fondation has opened its web site [www.agropolis-fondation.fr](http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr)
EMBRAPA’s Labex in Europe: growing in 2009 with a new coordinator

The European Labex (for external laboratory in Portuguese) was created by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) in 2002, four years after opening its first virtual lab in the Unites States.

In only six years, EMBRAPA’s Labex very significantly contributed to strengthening and diversifying the scientific collaborations between Brazil and France. Two years ago, an antenna was opened in the Netherlands. One area that has been especially productive in developing new collaborative projects is ‘advanced biology’, mostly genetics, genomics and plant biotechnology.

During his visit in Brasilia end of September, Henri Carsalade, Agropolis Chairman, signed a revised agreement to increase the number of scientists posted in Europe from four to six, including a new assignment in the UK. His visit also coincided with the first meeting of the steering committee of the International Consortium for Advanced Biology (CIBA) in Brazil. CIBA was created earlier in 2008 to develop and sustain an efficient strategy for international cooperation in research and capacity strengthening, opened to new partnerships and providing a supportive and integrative environment to third party less developed countries (TPLDC); its main objective is to put together the resources, capacities, knowledge and know-how needed to study and harness the diversity of plant genetic resources and to identify essential genes and agronomic traits for application in breeding programs; its ultimate goal is to generate significant positive impacts in agriculture and livelihoods and to promote a sustainable development in Tropical and Mediterranean countries.

In February 2009, EMBRAPA’s Labex in Europe will have a new coordinator. After Elisio Contini and Luis Vieira, Agropolis International will welcome Pedro Braga Arcuri. Dr. Braga Arcuri is currently the scientific director of the national research center for dairy cattle. He will soon visit Montpellier.

New Call for Candidates Agris Mundus Master, European Master degree

The Agris Mundus Master Course is a two-year training programme which focuses on the management of rural and agricultural development in developing countries.

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Graduates will be qualified to identify and critically assess key factors shaping the development of crops, forests and animal production, the management of research and rural development projects and, finally, the sustainable use of natural resources and the environment.

The first students of this new Master degree graduated this year. As the result of the selection of the Agris Mundus Master course by the Erasmus Mundus programme, the European Commission provides ca. 20 scholarships each year (2-year scholarships).

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Water management in horticulture
Water management in horticulture
Safe production in horticulture
Livestock systems management
Agricultural development
Food chains and development
Rural local development
Agricultural systems for local development

9 thematic areas
- Water management : operation and design
- Water management in rural development