

## >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, Corum 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 efficient and sustainable agricultural development strategies.

Agropolis International is part of the organizing committee and will be present at the Conference with a booth to promote the scientific and technical competencies of its research community in this area.

For more information on this event  
[www.inra.fr/biodiversite\\_agriculture\\_pfue](http://www.inra.fr/biodiversite_agriculture_pfue)

### 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 surge 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.agropolis.fr/actualites/actu-montpellier-hohenheim.html](http://www.agropolis.fr/actualites/actu-montpellier-hohenheim.html)

### 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 SupAgro**

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 agriculture on biodiversity, possible 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/l\\_institut/expertise/expertises\\_realisees/agriculture\\_et\\_biodiversite\\_\\_1](http://www.inra.fr/l_institut/expertise/expertises_realisees/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 dialog between biological and social sciences.

For more information on this event  
<http://dodo2009.cefe.cnrs.fr>

### >JUST PUBLISHED

## Societies and Sustainable Development: Contribution of Social Sciences

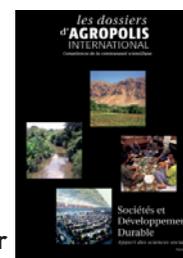
■ **7<sup>th</sup> 'dossier d'Agropolis International' (September 2008, 68 pages)**

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.

To download the 7<sup>th</sup> 'dossier' and former issues  
[www.agropolis.fr/publications\\_eng/thematic\\_files.html](http://www.agropolis.fr/publications_eng/thematic_files.html)



ONLINE  
**Agropolis Fondation**

October 13, 2008, Agropolis Fondation has opened its web site [www.agropolis-fondation.fr](http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr)

### >EDITO

## Agropolis International Newsletter, no.1

Here it is! This is the first issue of Agropolis International newsletter. A few words, both to explain our objectives and the chosen format. This bilingual newsletter will complement '*e-sciences vertes*', an electronic newsletter, published in French, which mostly addresses the Montpellier research community.

Agropolis International Newsletter will be published three or four times a year, and its objective will be to help colleagues and friends abroad to know more about our international activities. We have many reasons to believe our research and training campus is a world leader in research and training related to agriculture, food, biodiversity and the environment. We don't want to be an illustration of the common saying '*it's the best kept secret*'.

Our ambition is to provide regular information on the activities of this 'green science campus', to give you access to its skills and expertises, and maybe to help you identify new opportunities for international exchanges and scientific collaborations.

The format is common to many daily newspapers, with a rather light presentation allowing an easy reading. If you have any suggestion on either the content or the format to make it better next time, don't hesitate to contact us!

Michel Salas,  
Director, Agropolis International

**AGROPOLIS  
INTERNATIONAL**

Montpellier Languedoc-Roussillon  
World centre for agricultural,  
food and environmental sciences

[www.agropolis.fr](http://www.agropolis.fr)

## &gt;LOOKING FOR PARTNERSHIPS

# 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 United 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.

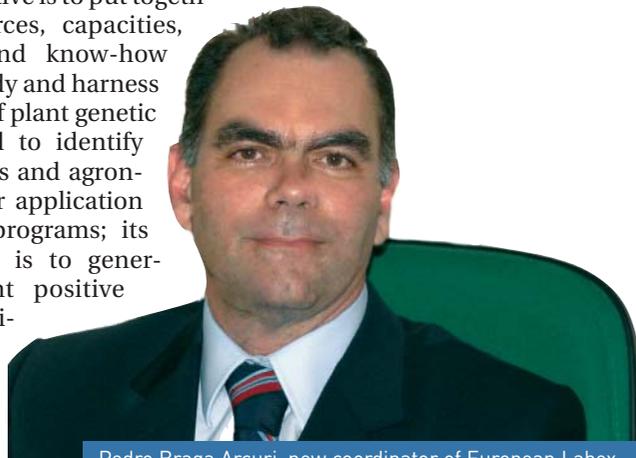
During his visit in Brasilia end of September, Henri Carsalade, Agropolis Chairman, signed a revised agreement to increase the

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 sus-

tainable 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.

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Pedro Braga Arcuri, new coordinator of European Labex

## &gt;TRAINING

# 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.**

The Agris Mundus Master Course is a two-year training programme which focuses on the management of rural and agricultural development in developing countries. The approach is based on a shared high quality standard in education, and on students' mobility within Europe, between host Universities exchanging different disciplines.

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 sustain-

able use of natural resources and the environment.

### European mobility

The course is offered jointly by six European universities from the NATURA network: Wageningen Universiteit, University of Copenhagen, University College, Cork, Università degli Studi di Catania, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, and Montpellier SupAgro.

Each of the students follows a 2-year programme first (M1) and second (M2) years located in two different European Universities. The 4<sup>th</sup> semester is devoted to the thesis work, under a double supervision (from the University of the M1 and from the University of the M2), and this leads to a double diploma awarded to the student.

### 9 thematic areas

- ❶ Water management : operation and design
- ❷ Water management in rural development
- ❸ Water management in horticulture
- ❹ Safe production in horticulture
- ❺ Livestock systems management
- ❻ Agricultural development
- ❼ Food chains and development
- ❽ Rural local development
- ❾ Agricultural systems for local development

- ❶ Water management in horticulture
- ❷ Safe production in horticulture
- ❸ Livestock systems management
- ❹ Agricultural development
- ❺ Food chains and development
- ❻ Rural local development
- ❼ Agricultural systems for local development

Each year, more than half of the 30 selected students attend their second year in Montpellier (training tracks n° ❷ ❸ ❹ and ❺).



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Maputo, Mozambique: December 2008  
**Annual General Meeting 2008 (AGM 2008) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)**



Agropolis International will take part for the fifth consecutive year in the general assembly meetings (AGM 2008) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), to be held in Maputo (Mozambique), 1-5 December 2008. A booth will present the French agricultural research and training system. Several members of Agropolis International are associated : Cemagref, CIRAD, INRA, IRD, Montpellier SupAgro, with the participation of CIHEAM.

The Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), established in 1971, associates 64 public and private funding members (including the French government) that support 15 international research centres in agriculture and major cross-centers programs (*challenge programmes*).

**For more information**  
CGIAR: [www.agropolis.fr/international\\_eng/cgiar.html](http://www.agropolis.fr/international_eng/cgiar.html)  
AGM 08: [www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm08/agm08\\_index.html](http://www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm08/agm08_index.html)

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## &gt;SERVICES

## Guest researchers: organization of French courses

Over 80 foreign researchers and PhD students from Montpellier campuses are registered to attend French courses (five levels), to be held during the last trimester 2008. This training is organized with IAMM French center and set up by the LR Mobility Centre.

The Languedoc-Roussillon Mobility Centre is a tool funded by Agropolis International and Pôle universitaire européen de Montpellier. Its missions are: to facilitate the settling up and integration of guests scientists hosted in our community, i.e. to help with formalities and offer cultural activities. It is a member of the Euraxess network.

**More information**  
[www.agropolis.fr/practical/scientists.html](http://www.agropolis.fr/practical/scientists.html)  
<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess>

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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).

**More information**  
Agris Mundus: [www.agrismundus.eu](http://www.agrismundus.eu)

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