

Report SLU Multiplier Event 2017-05-31

The Multiplier Event (ME) was arranged on the 31st of May as part of a workshop for the SLU Plant Breeding Platform. The purpose of the ME was to raise awareness about plant breeding and the European Plant Breeding College (EPBC) among the public as well as to facilitate interactions between organisations and companies with interests in plant breeding. The ME was announced at homepages for the SLU Plant Breeding Platform (<http://www.slu.se/ew-kalender/2017/5/slu-plant-breeding-platform--workshop-and-study-visits/>) and the science outreach association Partnerskap Alnarp (<http://partnerskapalnarp.slu.se/konf/20170530.aspx>). Invitation to the event was also distributed to the Swedish Seed Trade Association and to other Swedish universities.

The first half of the day consisted of a field trip to the crop breeding station of the company Lantmännen Seeds (<http://www.swseed.com/>) and to the tree breeding station of the research institute Skogforsk (<http://www.skogforsk.se/english/>), where breeders demonstrated the ongoing activities. The programme then continued at the conference site Örenäs Castle with a lunch, a presentation of EPBC by Anders Kvarnheden, presentations by scientists of the breeding activities at SLU and a dinner.

It was very valuable to have the external participants in the SLU workshop. From SLU, there were around 60 people attending the complete workshop (May 30 to June 2). However, the number of external participants on the 31st of May was low despite the wide announcements, with two participants each from the companies Crop Tailor (<http://croptailor.com/>) and Findus (www.findus.se) as well as two retired people with interests in plant breeding. The month of May is suitable for field visits, but it is also a very busy time of the year and this may have affected the attendance.