

## EUCARPIA elects IPK scientists Andreas Börner and Ulrike Lohwasser in top positions

Gatersleben, 18.09.2020 The European Society for Plant Breeding Research (EUCARPIA) elected Prof. Dr. Andreas Börner as President and Dr. Ulrike Lohwasser as Secretary General at its recent General Assembly. This means that two IPK scientists are now represented in leading positions. For the first time since the 1980s, the decision also marks the return of the Presidency to Germany.

During his four-year term of office, Prof. Börner intends to focus on attracting new members. "We currently have around 800 members, but are not yet as strongly represented in Eastern Europe as I would like. From there we want to integrate even more institutions into EUCARPIA," says Prof. Börner, who has already headed the Cereals Section since 2012 and is the representative of the German members. The second focus is the organisation of the main congress, which takes place every four years. "The aim is to organise the 2024 event in the central part of Germany, which is also the cradle of German plant breeding." For the IPK, also a member of EUCARPIA, Prof. Börner hopes to gain a further growth in reputation on the one hand. "For the institute it is of course a figurehead that the presidency is now here." On the other hand, President Börner is also hoping for new cooperations and projects that could arise for IPK.

The main task of Dr. Ulrike Lohwasser as Secretary General is to support the President. Thus, both will jointly prepare the main congress 2024 in close coordination. "In addition, I will take care of member support, the announcement of events and the finances of the association", says Dr. Lohwasser.

Andreas Börner has been working at IPK since 1985. Since 1992 he is Head of the research group "Resource Genetics and Reproduction", and since 2005 he has also been Head of the section "Conversation Management and Evaluation" in the Genebank department with the Federal *Ex-situ* Gene Bank, the largest collection of cultivated plants and wild relatives in the European Union. In 2020 he was appointed Associate Professor by the Martin-Luther-University of Halle. Andreas Börner is also active in several international organisations. Ulrike Lohwasser has been at the IPK since 2001 and since 2003 as a scientist in the research group headed by Andreas Börner.

The main objective of EUCARPIA, which was founded in 1956, is to promote cooperation in the field of plant breeding. The association aims to build bridges between research and breeding.



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Dr. Ulrike Lohwasser and Prof. Dr. Andreas Börner  
(Photos: Andreas Bähring/ IPK)