7th International Blackcurrant Conference

11th - 14th June 2024

in Leibnitz, Austria

Tuesday, June 11th

Arrival of delegates

15:00 IBA board meeting
Meeting Room 1

16:30 Agronomy & Plant Breeding Sector Group
Meeting Room 2

16:30 Health Claim Sector Group
Meeting Room 1

19:00 Dinner
Schlosstaverne am Seggauberg, Schloss Seggau

Steirische Beerenobstgenossenschaft eGen
Hans-Thalhammerstraße 28
8501 Lieboch - Austria

International Blackcurrant Association
1 rue Charles Lacretelle
49070 Beaucouzé - France

Wednesday, June 12th

Opening Session

08:45 Welcome by IBA President
Guillaume Marie

09:00 Welcome by StBoG
Dir Ing Stefan Lampl, BA

09:10 Obstland Steiermark - Fruit region Styria
DI Herbert Muster

Market session

09:30 Iprona / BerryPharma
Rolf Philipp

09:50 Grünewald
Jürgen Lernpaß

10:10 Introduction to the pinboard session
Mike Callagher, Amanda Moura, Stan Pluta, Rebecca Perraud

10:15 Coffee break

10:45 Rā koha
Mike Callagher

11:10 The currant market in Poland - from the economic perspective
Michael Ebert

11:35 The science of Superfruits: Unlocking the health benefits of berries
Stephan Plattner

12:00 IBA General Meeting

12:30 lunch

Agronomy session

13:15 Berry growing for processing in Austria
DI Rudolf Robitschko

13:35 Application overview for EU funding – Minor crops case
Amanda Moura

13:45 Pinboard presentations
Room Styria

14:15 Harvest forecast 2024

14:45 Wrap up of the day

15:00 Coffee break

Visit

15:30 Professional School for vine and fruit growing "Silberberg"
Wein- und Obstbauschule Silberberg

19:30 Dinner
Schlosskeller, Schloss Seggau

Guillaume Marie (F), President IBA



After studying agricultural engineering, Guillaume worked for ten years as a director of a nursery for vegetable products and aromatic herbs in Morocco. He then returned on is family owned farm "Les Deux Ormes" close to Chartres (France), where he is farming a total of 440 hectares. He grows wheat, rapeseed, potatoes, onions, beetroots, fava beans, flax, corn, peas, barley - and of course currants!

He was elected President of the IBA in 2023.

Stefan Lampl (AU), StBoG



Stefan Lampl has been managing director of the Steirische Beerenobstgenossenschaft (Styrian berry cooperative) for 14 years. This cooperative counts 250 growers who produce elderflower, elderberries, blackcurrants and aronia, on a area of 900 ha mainly in the Eastern part of Austria. The cooperative was founded in 1962 for blackcurrants. In 1976, they began to grow elderberries.

The main task of Stefan is to coordinate the harvest and ensure quality between growers and their markets.

DI Herbert Muster (AU), Landwirtschaftskammer Steiermark (Chamber of Agriculture, Styria)



1996 - 2019 fruit growing adviser for pome fruit and stone fruit, with a focus on plant protection

Now Head of the Advisory Service of the Chamber of Agriculture and

Managing Director of the Association of Styrian fruit growers

Rolf Philipp (AU), Iprona / BerryPharma



Rolf Philipp is one of the four representatives of the family of entrepreneurs Philipp who are the owners of the Iprona Group.

Since 2022, Rolf Philipp has been focusing on establishing and pushing the BerryPharma GmbH, which is the sales branch of nutritional supplements inside the Iprona Group.

Jürgen Lernpaß (AU), Grûnewald



In four countries, at six highly developed and independent locations, the Grünewald group operates as a strong group of companies with a family tradition and as one of the largest European fruit processors.

Mr. Jürgen Lernpaß is purchasing manager at Grünewald Fruchtsaft GmbH at the Stainz location.

Mike Callagher (NZ), Blackcurrants New Zealand



Mike Callagher is the Manager of NZ Blackcurrant Co-operative based on Christchurch, New Zealand. Mike is an industrial biochemist with more than 30 years experience in the pharmaceutical industry centred in processing, sales and technical roles. He managed the blackcurrant extract processing operation "Just the Berries" between 2013 and 2017, and has been General Manager of the NZ Blackcurrant Co-operative since 2020. He first joined the BCNZ Executive in 2014, and has been on the Executive or advising to BCNZ since that time.

Hartwig Mathias Ebert (DE), HME-Consult



- Lives in Central Poland, in the Grojec basin.
- Studied Economies in Rostock (DE) for Diploma in Business Administration (Diplom Kaufmann).
- 25 years in the fuit & vegetable business (Steinhauser Ravensburg, Binder Group, Edeka Juices).
- Since 2017 owner of a consulting company for fruit and vegetable market research.
- Member of KUPS (Polish Association of Fruit Producers)

Dr. Stephan Plattner (AU), Iprona



Dr. Stephan Plattner is the Scientific Director at the Business Unit Health and Nutrition at Iprona Lana.

With over a decade of experience in the international nutraceutical industry, his contributions range from clinical trial developments to new applications and product innovations in collaboration with scientific institutions and international partners.

Das Land Steiermark
Lebensressort

Grünewald
A member of Grünewald international

iprona

BerryPharma



DI Rudolf Robitschko (AU), Landwirtschaftskammer Steiermark (Chamber of Agriculture, Styria)

Age: 54
Education: University BOKU Vienna
Actual position: Fruit consultant for industrial berry and stone fruits in Styria (Austria)
Experience: Agronomist in South-East Europe, Plant Manager for fruit processing company in Ukraine, business manager for fruit farm in Ukraine, business manager for vegetable trade in Austria.



Prof. Dr. Stanisław (Stan) Pluta (P), InHort

Prof. Dr. Pluta is a research worker at the National Institute of Horticultural Research (InHort) in Skierniewice, Poland, since 1985. He is a geneticist and breeder of new cultivars of small/ berry crops, including blackcurrant (Ribes nigrum L.). He is the author and co-author of 150 original publications and scientific reports in Polish and English, 9 monographs (including 3 books for berry producers) and implementation instructions, and over 190 professional articles for growers.

Stan is the author of 13 bred cultivars (10 blackcurrant cvs., 2 gooseberry cvs., 1 Saskatoon berry cv.) included in the national Register of Cultivars in COBORU and 11 cultivars protected by Community law in the CPVO, Angers, France and 3 blackcurrant cvs. are protected by the plant patents in the USA.



Amanda MOURA (UK), James Hutton Limited

Amanda is a plant breeder with nine years of expertise in the field. She holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy, as well as a master's and doctorate in crop science, with focus on plant breeding. She has previously conducted research and breeding for biotic and abiotic stresses in crops, particularly drought. Currently she leads the commercially funded breeding programmes at James Hutton Limited for blackcurrant, for both the processing and fresh markets (the 'Ben' series). Ensuring the sustainability of crop production in the face of climate change is one of the primary objectives. Amanda is also responsible for redcurrant and other Ribes berries breeding programme grown under protection for fresh market.

Geoff Langford and Molly Shaw (NZ), Berryworld



Geoff Langford

Growing up on an orchard in Nelson, growing fruit has been in his blood from a young age. He took his horticultural qualifications through Lincoln University and then worked in the government's science research and extension organisation as it changed shape and form over the years. Starting as a MAF advisor, moving to Hort Research, and later with Plant and Food Research, Geoff has had an active involvement in the formation, maintenance and future direction of New Zealand's berryfruit industries for over 50 years, including the formation of the Blackcurrant breeding program. Geoff formed Berryworld Ltd in 2012 to continue research and development services to NZ berryfruit industries, and has taken other team members on board over the years.
Phone: 021 142 0619 - geoff@berryworld.co.nz



Molly Shaw

Heralding from New York State, Molly did her bachelor studies in Plant Science and her masters in Plant Protection, both from Cornell University. After working for 8 years as a fruit and vegetable specialist in the Cornell Extension system, she moved with her family to New Zealand, where she worked another 8 years as an agronomist in a commercial greenhouse before joining Berryworld in 2021. Molly enjoys working with grower groups using science as a basis for understanding production challenges.
Phone: 022 329 8188 - molly@berryworld.co.nz



Marine Nars-Chasserey (F), Sayens

- Master's degree in genetic selection at the AgroCampus in Rennes.
- Selector in the Enza-Zaden company in the Netherlands.
- Worked for Welience Agro-Environnement, Dijon, to lead the genetic selection program for the vernalization of mustard.
- Works as a blackcurrant breeder for Sayens, where new blackcurrant varieties are created and tested for their aromatic profile by the Institut Agro Dijon.



Juliette Poirier (F), IBA

- Lives in central France
- Studied agriculture engineering (ISARA-Lyon) and business admistration (Kedge Business School-Marseille)
- + 6 years experience in project development in fruit and vegetable sector (France and abroad)
- Consulting mission for IBA since 2023 in agronomic topics (weeding management).

Thursday, June 13th

08:30 Departure for fieldtrip / visits in 2 groups with common lunch in Lieboch

Morning or afternoon:

Aronia Bauer
Farm Birgit und Christoph REINHART
Birgit & Christoph Reinhart
Petersdorf II 61
8323 St. Marein bei Graz

and

Steirische Beerenobstgenossenschaft eGen & Coldstorage Iprona Lieboch GmbH
Hans-Thalhammerstraße 28
8501 Lieboch

Afternoon or morning:

Ribes
Farm Gudrun, Franz und Bernhard SCHRIEBL
Ribes Frucht & Saft KG
Stainzenhof 11
8511 St. Stefan ob Stainz

19:00 Gala dinner
Princes Halls or Castle Gardens, Schloss Seggau

Friday, June 14th

Visits

09:00 Südsteirische Weinstraße:

Farm E.& St. Lampl
8544 St. Ulrich im Greith

and

Factory Grünewald Fruchtsaft GmbH
Grazer Str. 20
8510 Stainz

Departure of delegates

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