Benefits to the ERA-CAPS partners and observers both within and beyond Europe:

- To share information and exchange expertise with other members.
- To take part in ERA-CAPS activities and thereby play an active role in international plant sciences.
- To give our scientists the unique opportunity to form transnational research groups by participating in joint calls.
- To improve the performance of plant sciences research by fostering international collaboration among high-level teams.

How to get involved?

If your organisation is interested in being involved in ERA-CAPS activities, please contact:

Dr Paul Wiley
Senior Programme Manager, ERA-CAPS
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Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council
Polaris House | North Star Avenue | Swindon | SN2 1UH | UK
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Contact Information

- Central coordination, Dr Paul Wiley: eracaps@bbsrc.ac.uk
  (see above).
- For contact information of the ERA-CAPS partners and observers, please refer to the ‘Contact’ page of our website: www.era-caps.org
Why plant sciences?

Plants are essential to human life

Directly or indirectly, plants produce most of the world’s food as well as renewable sources of energy and materials.

Plant sciences face important challenges at the European and global scale due to a burgeoning world population that requires sustenance. Global demand for food is expected to increase by 50% by 2030 and to double by 2050. Reliable production of high-quality and safe food, feed and renewable carbon supplies for green chemistry, without the use of excess land, energy, water, pesticides and chemicals is therefore essential.

Why ERA-CAPS?

ERA-CAPS is a European Research Area Network (or ERA-NET) for Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences, supported by the 7th Framework Programme. ERA-NETs are an instrument of the European Commission’s Framework Programme; the objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to develop and strengthen the coordination of national and regional research programmes. (Further information here: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/about-era_en.html)

The ERA-CAPS Network:

- The ERA-CAPS consortium was launched in January 2012 under the ERA-NET scheme of the 7th Framework Programme and its planned duration is 36 months.
- ERA-CAPS gathers a group of 26 partners from 23 different countries that are responsible for funding or coordinating plant sciences research in their respective countries/regions.

ERA-CAPS origins:

ERA-CAPS was preceded by the very successful ERA-NET in Plant Genomics (ERA-PG, for information please see http://www.erapg.org). ERA-PG ran from 2004-2009 and administered a number of joint calls that resulted in 55M€ of funding for transnational plant genomics research, as well as producing influential reports and position papers.

Future activities of ERA-CAPS:

Joint calls: In the course of ERA-CAPS, calls on various topics will be launched. The topics of the calls will be decided by the member organisations, informed by advice from the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

- First call: the call will be broad and inclusive, and will primarily address fundamental plant science. The topics will encompass those that have been previously identified as scientific, environmental, societal or economic challenges.
- Second call: the second call will be tailored to fit the strategic priorities of the different ERA-CAPS partners and the scientific community.

For up-to-date information, we invite you to visit our website or subscribe to our newsletter: www.era-caps.org

Workshops: ERA-CAPS will organise the following workshops and activities:

- Workshops for stakeholders and policy makers to develop common strategic goals for the programme.
- Grant-holders’ workshops to allow researchers funded through ERA-CAPS to come together and share results.
- Public engagement activities to ensure that research findings are publicised beyond the network to the wider scientific community and general public.