
MAARTEN KOORNNEEF

CV

SPEAKER AT:

THE FUTURE OF PLANT GENOMES. HARVESTING GENES FOR AGRICULTURE

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Maarten Koornneef, PhD., [Professor of Plant Genetics at Wageningen University](#) and director of the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics at the [Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research](#), Germany.

Maarten Koornneef studied Plant breeding at Wageningen University in The Netherlands and obtained his MSc in 1974. Hereafter he worked for two years in a plant breeding company but joined the faculty of the department of Genetics of Wageningen University in 1976 as assistant professor, where he obtained his PhD in Plant genetics in 1982 on a study of the genetics of plant hormones and photoreceptors in *Arabidopsis*. Thereafter he was appointed as associate and full professor (personal chair) in the same department continuing research on *Arabidopsis* but also on tomato combining (quantitative) genetics with physiology and molecular biology. In the past 15 years the study of natural variation as well as seed dormancy became the emphasis of his research. In 2004 he became director of the Department of Plant Breeding and Genetics at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Cologne Germany, while maintaining a position for 1 day a week in Wageningen. The department in Cologne deals both with *Arabidopsis* as model plant and with crop plants such as tomato, potato and barley studying traits that are relevant for plant breeding and using a mix of natural variation and mutant approaches with genomic tools becoming of increasing importance.

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