

Program Kennispodium 30th October 2025

To divide is to multiply:

How can DNA help accelerate or improve DUS testing, and thus the breeding processes?

2.00 pm **Welcome & short introduction of the program and speakers**

Jan Meiling - Naktuinbouw



2.15 pm **Innovations in plant breeding and the implications for variety research**

Hedwich Teunissen - CropXR (Utrecht University)

Hedwich Teunissen is a molecular biologist and graduated in 1996 from the Plant Breeding department of Wageningen University. From 2004 to 2023, she worked at Naktuinbouw as a molecular biologist/researcher. In this role, she established a new laboratory facility to identify varieties using DNA techniques. In May 2023, she became managing director of CropXR. CropXR is a Consortium (public-private partnership) in which four universities and more than 25 companies collaborate on resilient and climate-adaptable crops through the development of data-driven breeding methods. The Consortium is coordinated and managed by Utrecht University. CropXR is committed to groundbreaking innovations for more sustainable and climate-adaptive agriculture worldwide.



2.45 pm **The potential applications of DNA information in ornamental plant breeding: from a neglected role to a prominent technology for a growing number of crops**

Tosca Ferber – Dümme Orange

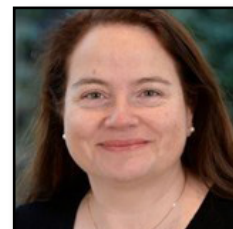
After obtaining her PhD in Evolutionary Genetics, Tosca began her career as Project Lead Genetics in vegetable breeding. In 2016, she transitioned from vegetable breeding to ornamental plant breeding, aiming to make technological solutions accessible to ornamental plant breeding. Under her leadership, Dümme Orange's research department has grown into one of the largest and most authoritative research departments in the ornamental plant breeding sector. After the launch of the resistance brand Intrinsa®, Tosca led Dümme Orange's Global Product Management department to position such innovations for the market. Since 2024, she has led Dümme Orange's global R&D organization, with breeding programs in multiple crops within cut plants, annuals, perennials and potted plants.



3.15 pm **BREAK**

**3.30 pm Molecular data in support of DUS testing for
Community Plant Variety Rights**
Cécile Collonnier - CPVO

Cécile Collonnier is in charge of the R&D activities of the CPVO, the Community Plant Variety Office delivering Plant Variety Rights at the European level. She is the Chair of the CPVO's Scientific Advisory Board and the Chair of IMODDUS, the CPVO's working group for the introduction of molecular tools in DUS testing. After getting a Master in Plant Breeding and a PhD in Plant Molecular Biology, she worked five years at GEVES, and then years as appointed scientist in the French Research Institute for Agronomy (INRAe) focusing on DNA repair mechanisms and gene editing techniques.



**4.00 pm How do we ensure that this vision of the future is widely supported
within the sector?**
*Vision of Naktuinbouw and live room discussion led by Raoul Haegens
- Head of Identification and Variety Testing at Naktuinbouw*



5.30 pm Closing remarks by Jan Meiling

5.45 pm End of meeting, followed by informal drinks

The afternoon will be held in English, so international attendees are also very welcome!