APSA members with an interest in plant breeding for the development of improved vegetable varieties can now tap the knowledge and expertise of an internationally renowned leader in crop research by joining the APSA-WorldVeg Vegetable Breeding Consortium.

The World Vegetable Center (WorldVeg), a non-profit agricultural research and development institute, aims to alleviate poverty and malnutrition in the developing world through increased production and consumption of nutritious, health-promoting vegetables. WorldVeg carries out its mission by forming research partnerships with government, non-governmental, and private sector organizations in developing and developed countries to conserve and utilize vegetable biodiversity, improve vegetable varieties, and increase vegetable production, marketing and consumption.

**WHY create a consortium?**

As advances in biotechnology and genomics accelerate the pace of vegetable cultivar development, seed companies of all sizes must have a robust understanding of the latest vegetable breeding research, the practical skills to apply new breeding methods, and access to a diverse collection of vegetable germplasm to remain competitive in turbulent markets.

Through the APSA-WorldVeg Vegetable Breeding Consortium, participating companies and WorldVeg researchers will have multiple opportunities to discuss and evaluate breeding approaches and discover new avenues to share data and progress, creating a win-win situation. The Consortium will focus on tomato, pepper (chili and sweet), cucurbits (bitter gourd and pumpkin/winter squash), and explore traditional vegetables (amaranth and okra) as determined by Consortium members’ interest.
**BENEFITS for Consortium Companies**

**Professional interaction at the annual workshop**

Come to the source! At the Annual Workshop—an event held exclusively for Consortium members—WorldVeg researchers will demonstrate new outputs of the Center’s vegetable improvement program and discuss results obtained by consortium members who test WorldVeg breeding lines at their field sites using WorldVeg experimental protocols.

During the workshop, consortium members can:
- actively participate in scientific presentations about ongoing WorldVeg research
- review selected field trials of improved breeding material, subject to weather and field conditions

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the annual workshop will be held as a video conference on Tuesday, 11 May 2021. Participants will have the opportunity to hold discussions in groups or individually by appointment with WorldVeg scientists through online one-on-one chats on 12-13 May 2021, by prior request.

WorldVeg will offer **free workshop participation** by prior registration to each Consortium Company with access to the workshop program, presentations, video clips, images and characteristics data of 2021 consortium exclusive breeding lines.

**Early access to improved lines and information**

Consortium Companies will be granted a **24-month lead access to 2021 newly-developed lines**. The 24-month lead access period will run from 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2023 (‘Lead Access Period’). Consortium Companies who request the newly-developed lines at later dates will not be able to extend the Lead Access Period. This lead access will be granted to Consortium Companies relative to all other germplasm requesters located in Asia. WorldVeg shall be free to distribute this germplasm at any time outside of Asia.

A field day for Consortium Companies to view trials of 2021 exclusive lines will be held in May 2022 in India.

WorldVeg cannot warrant or guarantee the receipt of seeds by Consortium Companies within a certain time frame after dispatch or at all, as WorldVeg has no control over import laws and requirements in the countries where Consortium Companies are located. Consortium Companies shall advise WorldVeg in advance regarding specific requirements for importation of seeds into its territory. Both DSIR (Department of Scientific Industrial Research) and Non-DSIR accredited companies in India are responsible for all seed importation requirements; WorldVeg will not provide any services related to seed importation into India.

Consortium Companies may have early access to screening protocols or other kinds of scientific information developed at WorldVeg, provided the sharing of such information does not conflict with existing agreements or policies of WorldVeg.

**Updates on breeding progress**

Consortium Companies will receive a **newsletter** highlighting the latest developments of WorldVeg breeding efforts once a year, approximately six months after the workshop. Other news and information of potential interest to members will be sent throughout the year. Expect exposure to new relevant literature about germplasm screening, breeding methods, and WorldVeg breeding lines. You’ll also receive a soft copy of the WorldVeg’s Annual Report.
It’s a partnership

The APSA-WorldVeg Vegetable Breeding Consortium is a partnership and WorldVeg greatly values key information from Consortium Companies to make its breeding programs more relevant to growers. Consortium Companies are expected to provide:

- **Regular feedback from evaluation trials of improved breeding lines.** WorldVeg scientists will specify the traits to be monitored and provide experimental protocols.
- **Annual report on varieties sold that have WorldVeg germplasm in their pedigree,** the WorldVeg-developed traits these varieties harbor, and the quantity of seed sold (in metric tons per variety per year). Consortium companies are asked to enter data annually. The aggregated results from analyzing these data will be used in WorldVeg’s efforts to raise funds from donors. Seed companies will not be asked to reveal the pedigree of their varieties, and all data will be kept strictly confidential.
Join the APSA-WorldVeg Vegetable Breeding Consortium!

Ready to take your company to the next level? Join the APSA-WorldVeg Vegetable Breeding Consortium and discover how exposure to the latest research and closer contact with international breeders and scientists will change the way you do breeding and business.

Fees in 2021

- Medium/large companies (more than 100 employees): US$6600.00 per annum
- Small/start-up companies (less than 100 employees): US$2600.00 per annum

Consortium fees are non-refundable. The Consortium term is from January 1 to December 31. All 2021 APSA-WorldVeg vegetable breeding Consortium Companies are eligible to attend the virtual workshop on 11 May 2021 and participate in the field day in India to be held in May 2022. The virtual workshop is free by prior registration. An entrance fee for the field day will be charged separately; fees to be announced later. Consortium membership is open to all APSA members in good standing; they can join at any time during the year but must pay the entire annual fee for that term.

To join, please contact the APSA Secretariat:

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