



Press release – 26 February 2020

## **PI@ntNet is celebrating its 10th anniversary, with the platform's long-term future secured through the creation of an open consortium**

Some 10 years after the launch of the collaborative plant identification platform used by millions, its founding members Cirad, INRAE, Inria, and IRD have set up a consortium to secure its long-term future. The consortium run by Inria and affiliated with the Agropolis Fondation is looking for new members.

**From 27 to 29 February, stop by the Cirad and INRAE stands at the Paris International Agricultural Show and meet those involved in PI@ntNet.**

PI@ntNet was launched in 2009 with the aid of the Agropolis Fondation. It is a mobile and online participatory science platform which aims to facilitate the collection, exchange and accessibility of botanical data using the latest machine learning technology. Besides the mobile app, PI@ntNet has given rise to some of the largest plant-related networks and datasets in the world.

### **A consortium to secure the long-term future of PI@ntNet**

Some 10 years after the launch of the platform, the founding members Cirad, INRAE, Inria, and IRD have set up a consortium to secure its long-term future. The consortium run by Inria and affiliated with the Agropolis Fondation is now looking for new members, for example scientific, educational, not-for-profit and industry partners. Several membership categories exist, with involvement in the platform varying depending on the annual subscription amount selected. New members will be able to take part in the governance of PI@ntNet and have their say in defining its development priorities, thereby enabling them to become key stakeholders in characterising plant biodiversity.

### **PI@ntNet, the leading app on plants**

PI@ntNet is now used by millions of professionals and amateurs around the world in a wide variety of fields, including research, education, agronomy, ecotourism, and business. The tens of millions of observations collected represent a mine of new data whose analysis can improve knowledge of the plant world and aid in preserving agricultural biodiversity. Indeed, the global changes that we are facing make it more necessary than ever to improve our understanding of our environment so that we can anticipate how it will change and protect it.

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The French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, or INRAE, is a major research and innovation body set up on 1 January, 2020. This applied research institute was created with the merger of two French research bodies, Inra and Irstea. INRAE comprises a community of 12,000 people, with 268 research, service and experimental units located in 18 centres across France. The institute is one of the leading research bodies globally on agriculture, food, plant and animal science and ranks 11th in the world in ecology and the environment. It is also the foremost research body in the world in the combined field of agriculture, food and the environment. INRAE aims to play a key role in the transitions needed to tackle the biggest challenges facing us globally. In light of population growth, climate change, decreasing availability of resources and declining biodiversity, the institute is developing solutions for diversified farming, good-quality food and sustainable management of resources and ecosystems.

*la science pour la vie, l'humain, la terre*

Find us at:



[www.inrae.fr](http://www.inrae.fr)

**CIRAD** is the French agricultural research and international cooperation organization working for the sustainable development of tropical and Mediterranean regions. Along with its partners, it is convinced that agriculture has a central role in the major transitions required to guarantee a sustainable future for every country in the global South. Generating and sharing new knowledge, contributing to innovation processes and building the capacity and skills of stakeholders in those countries to support their sustainable development are the drivers of its operations. In particular, its activities centre on issues such as biodiversity, the agroecological transition, climate change, health (of plants, animals and ecosystems), the development of rural territories, and food systems. CIRAD works in some fifty countries on every continent, thanks to the expertise of its 1650 staff members, including 800 researchers, backed by a global network of partners.

About **Inria**: Inria is the French National Research Institute for Computer Science. World-class research and technological innovation are its core priorities, with the aim of developing and supporting scientific and entrepreneurial projects that create value for France within a European perspective.

**Agropolis Fondation** is an organisation that promotes scientific cooperation in the specific areas of research, training and innovation to aid stakeholders in agriculture and sustainable development. Its primary role is to promote the agroecological transition in the agriculture of tomorrow through its international, multi-stakeholder network and partnerships. It has held the "Labex Agro" label as a centre for excellence in agronomic research since 2011 under the French government's Investment in the Future programme, and has now retained that label for a further five years (2020–2024) as part of the I-SITE MUSE Montpellier University of Excellence project. To find out more, go to: [www.agropolis-fondation.fr](http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr)

**The French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)** is a French public multidisciplinary research body and a stakeholder in the international development agenda. It boasts a novel model which revolves around equal scientific partnerships with developing countries.

IRD's research aims dovetail with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The objective is to support development policies and the elaboration of solutions tailored to the environmental, economic, social and cultural challenges facing humanity and the planet. [www.ird.fr](http://www.ird.fr)