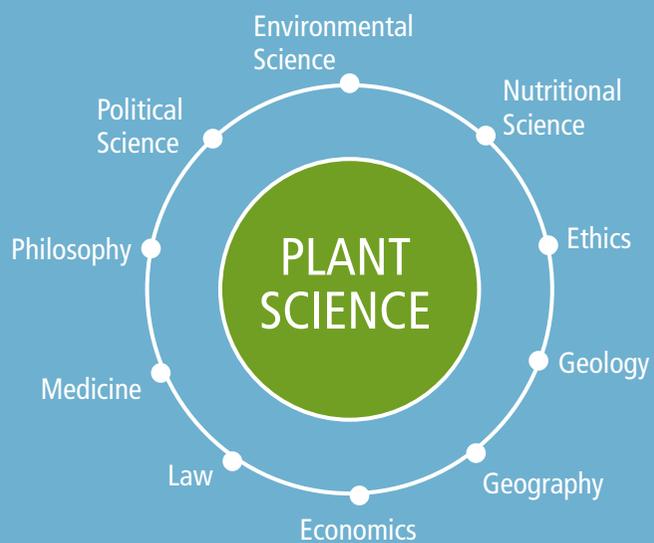


FOOD SECURITY



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COMPETENCE AREA AND KEY PROFILE AREA

The Competence Area "Food Security" is one of six Competence Areas at the University of Cologne and part of the Institutional Strategy of the university. The Competence Area is built around the Key Profile Area "Plant Science", formed primarily by the Cluster of Excellence on Plant Science, CEPLAS. CEPLAS focuses on decoding new plant traits affecting growth, yield and use of natural resources and therefore builds the basis for generation of new crop varieties to ensure a sustainable production of food, feed and energy.

The main mission of the Competence Area is to embed our efforts to improve plant productivity within a broader societal context and to promote efficient knowledge transfer between relevant disciplines.

ABOUT FOOD SECURITY

Food Security as defined by the FAO is given, when „all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life“.

Plant science makes a major contribution to the global food security challenge, by providing knowledge to underpin increasing productivity and nutritional quality of staple crops. This needs to be achieved in a changing climate and in a sustainable manner, which poses further challenges to plant scientists. Increasing crop yields, however, is not sufficient to accomplish global food security, because further social, environmental, economic and political factors also strongly influence the allocation and access to food. Therefore, to tackle the food security challenge in its full complexity, plant science has to be a part of an interdisciplinary network addressing the whole food chain.

ACTIVITIES

The Competence Area supports interdisciplinary knowledge transfer within the University of Cologne and internationally by organising international conferences, workshops, summer schools and lecture series. It is a platform supporting researchers and other parties interested in Food Security to exchange ideas and form new collaborations. The Competence Area will also be strongly involved in outreach activities to raise general awareness of the complex challenge of Food Security.