



**4<sup>th</sup> International Vavilov Conference**  
**N. I. Vavilov's Ideas in the Modern World**  
20 – 24 November 2017 Saint Petersburg, Russia

**First Circular Letter**

**24 March 2017**

**Dear Colleagues,**

25 November 2017 is the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Academician N. I. Vavilov, an outstanding scientist of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, plant researcher, botanist, geneticist, taxonomist, evolutionist, geographer, founder of the national collection of worldwide crop genetic resources, and eminent citizen of not only his homeland but the whole world.



To celebrate this commemorative date, the N. I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (VIR) is pleased to announce the **IV International Vavilov Conference “N. I. Vavilov's Ideas in the Modern World”** to be held on 20–24 November 2017.

The delegates of the Conference are welcome to share academic viewpoints, present research findings, and develop networking activities.

Located at the banks of the Neva River, St. Petersburg is one of the most beautiful European cities and its architectural ensembles of the Hermitage, Russian Museum, Peter and Paul Fortress, St. Isaac Cathedral are on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

All the participants of the Conference will have a great opportunity to combine scientific activities offered by an extensive program of plenary sessions, oral and poster presentations at the Conference, and a fine sightseeing program in St. Petersburg.

Prof. Nikolai Dzyubenko

Director of the N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Genetic Resources

The official website of the Conference [www.vavilov2017.org](http://www.vavilov2017.org) is available starting from 10 April 2017. Working languages of the Conference are Russian and English.

Topics to be covered at the Conference:

- 1. N. I. Vavilov's scientific school (his associates and followers)** (issues to be discussed: little-known information about the life and research activities of N. I. Vavilov, his closest associates and followers).
- 2. Theory of crop origin and evolution: history of the problem and modern research trends** (issues to be discussed: development of Vavilov's ideas concerning the centers of origin of cultivated plants and homologous series in hereditary variation; historical geography of cultivated plants; modern concepts of plant domestication mechanisms; molecular genetic markers in crop evolution research).
- 3. Applied botany from Vavilov's times to the present** (issues to be discussed: classification and phylogeny of cultivated plants and their wild relatives; the problem of the plant species; population botany; structural botany as a tool to study the problems of reproduction, morphogenesis, adaptability, etc.; introduction of new species into cultivation; rare and forgotten agricultural crops).
- 4. Natural immunity of plants to harmful organisms** (issues to be discussed: mechanisms of resistance, conjugate evolution of pathogens and host plants, genetic diversity of plants in the context of their resistance).
- 5. Problems of collecting and conservation (*ex situ* and *in situ*) of plant genetic resources** (issues to be discussed: strategy, scientific, methodological and informational support of targeted search for and collecting of plant genetic resources; strategies, methods and technologies of their safe conservation; informational maintenance and management of their collections).
- 6. Modern technologies in the study of plant genetic resources** (issues to be discussed: evaluation of plant genetic diversity using genomic, post-genomic, proteomic and metabolomic screening technologies).
- 7. Modern plant breeding; problems and achievements** (issues to be discussed: genetic, botanical and geographic principles of plant breeding; plant genetic resources collections for breeding purposes; methods and modern technologies of plant breeding; innovative competitive varieties).

### **Organizer & Local Host**

The N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (VIR)

### **Supporters**

Russian Federal Agency of Scientific Organizations

St. Petersburg Scientific Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences

The Vavilov Society of Geneticists and Plant Breeders

FAREXPO Group of Companies - Professional Congress Organizer

## **Conference Venue**

On 20 November 2017, the Plenary sessions of the Conference will be held in the historic building of the Russian Academy of Sciences on the banks of the Neva River.

Sectional and poster sessions of the Conference on 21- 24 November 2017 will be held in the main building of VIR in St. Isaac's Square in the historic center of St. Petersburg.

## **Registration**

The registration fee of the Conference **Euro 400** will cover all expenses of organization including Conference program with publication of the Abstracts book, Conference dinner, coffee-breaks and lunches, registration pack and one excursion.

On-line registration at the Conference site [www.vavilov2017.org](http://www.vavilov2017.org) is open on 10 April 2017.

## **Accompanying persons**

Accompanying guests are welcome! All the accompanying persons take part in all the social events for the participants of the IV International Vavilov Conference. In addition, there will be organized a special sightseeing program for accompanying guests with English speaking guides. The exact amount of the registration fee for accompanying persons will be announced at the official website of the Conference [www.vavilov2017.org](http://www.vavilov2017.org) later.

## **Abstract Submission and Publication**

The framework of the Conference envisages plenary, sectional and poster presentations. The programme of the Conference, the number and themes of its sections will depend on the presentations submitted. Each participant may submit no more than one abstract as the lead author and maximum one more abstract as a co-author.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference reserves the right to select abstracts among the submitted ones for publication. The abstracts will be published in the author's version, so the authors are responsible for their credibility and contents. The book of abstracts will be distributed to participants at the beginning of the Conference.

The published collection of abstracts will be included in the database of the Russian Science Citation Index (RSCI). The presentations that won positive opinions of peer reviewers will be published after the Conference in the next issue of *Proceedings on Applied Botany, Genetics and Breeding* listed among the reviewed scientific journals of the Higher Attestation Commission and included in the RSCI database.

Guidelines concerning the format of abstracts will be available at the Conference website [www.vavilov2017.org](http://www.vavilov2017.org)

Abstract submissions is open on 10 April 2017

## **Accommodation**

Participants of the conference will be able to book a hotel in the city center at special prices.

All detailed information about booking will be posted on the official website of the Conference [www.vavilov2017.org](http://www.vavilov2017.org).

## **Visa Request**

Foreign participants are required a visa in order to visit the Russian Federation. The visa processing depends on your citizenship and country of residence. You may apply either for Tourist voucher (scientific tourism) or Business invitation.

Please enquire at the Russian Consulate in the country of your residence which type of visa is appropriate for you and which documents are required.

All detailed information about booking will be posted on the official website of the Conference [www.vavilov2017.org](http://www.vavilov2017.org)

## **Contacts:**

### **Local Host**

N.I. Vavilov Institute of Plant Genetic Resources (VIR)  
42-44, Bolshaya Morskaya Str., Petersburg 190000, Russia  
[www.vir.nw.ru](http://www.vir.nw.ru)

### **General enquiries**

Conference Secretariat [s.shuvalov@vir.nw.ru](mailto:s.shuvalov@vir.nw.ru)

### **Registration & Registration fee payment enquiries**

Local Organizing Committee [loc@vavilov2017.org](mailto:loc@vavilov2017.org)

### **Abstract Submission**

Conference Secretariat [i.stepanova@vir.nw.ru](mailto:i.stepanova@vir.nw.ru)

### **Accommodation & Visa enquiries**

Local Organizing Committee [loc@vavilov2017.org](mailto:loc@vavilov2017.org)

*Please, circulate this letter among those who may be interested in participating in the 4th International Vavilov Conference.*

## **Local Organizing Committee**