



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 6 November 2008

Email to the editors: elife@life.ku.dk

Final deadline for editorial changes is Wednesday before publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

Editorial changes may occur in relation to the online newsletter.

As regards links in the newsletter, please refer to the Danish online version at the faculty's website http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk

Life at LIFE

Food of LIFE nominated for the Communication Prize

Denmark's new portal on health, food and nutrition is nominated for the 'Bedst på Nettet' (Best on the Net) Award.

At the young age of just 7 months, foodoflife.dk has already been nominated for a prize. The site was launched on 7 April 2008 and was nominated on 3 November for the Communication Prize by the people behind 'Bedst på Nettet' 2008.

Food of LIFE communicates in Danish the latest research on food, health and nutrition to upper secondary school students and anyone else who is interested.

"Ideally, foodoflife.dk can counterbalance the mass of nutritional information which the average Dane is bombarded with every day. I have found that a lot of people feel completely lost in the health universe and therefore have a hard time making appropriate diet-related choices," explains Nutrition Consultant Martin Kreutzer from the Department of Human Nutrition, LIFE.

Generates interest in research

The content of the site is contributed by researchers from the Faculty of Life Sciences and this helps promote their field of research, according to Martin Kreutzer, who has contributed content to foodoflife.dk from the very beginning.

"Food of Life is a unique opportunity for researchers to generate interest in their field of research. At the same time, the site can help attract new students, thus, ultimately, influencing the finances of the Faculty and its departments. An important advantage of the website is that young researchers, in particular, have the chance to show their uncles, aunts, parents etc. what they are actually working on."

Bedst på Nettet and the Communication Prize

Every year, the quality of public-sector websites is assessed in connection with the 'Bedst på Nettet' Award. This year, the judges will be awarding two special prizes, the Innovation Prize and the Communication Prize, which Food of LIFE has been nominated for.

The winners of 'Bedst på Nettet' 2008 will be announced on 18 November.

Signe Rosendal Rasmussen, Communications, sirr@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 November 2008

Innovative university partnership seeks to create green revolution in Africa

On Tuesday 4 November, Dean Per Holten-Andersen signed, on behalf of the Faculty of Life Sciences, a visionary partnership agreement with the University of Agriculture in Tanzania in the presence of HM Queen Margrethe II and HRH Prince Consort Henrik.

Through long-term binding collaboration with selected universities in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, LIFE hopes to create strong regional knowledge centres that can, under their own power, lift Africa out of food crises, mass unemployment, need and misery.

The new collaboration is called STRAPA (Strategic Partnership Agreement).

[Read the press release](#) (in Danish)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 November 2008

The old and the new weeping willow

The Gardens' old weeping willow, which was planted in 1860 where it has stood ever since enjoying life on the island in the Pond in the middle of the Faculty's listed garden, had a terrible experience a few years ago, which the old tree itself wrote about:

I am the weeping willow

"For 144 years, I have stood in the Gardens of the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in the same place of honour I was given in the middle of the Gardens on the little island in the Pond. This fine location has allowed me to be something special because I have been able grow freely on all sides and bend my branches all the way down to the water. I am also the only tree in the Gardens with my own circular bench and, in my shade, generations of people have sat on my bench and enjoyed the most peaceful and most beautiful spot in

all of Copenhagen.

Ducks have chattered under my branches, seagulls have circled my top and I am often visited by the heron in the early hours who comes in search of breakfast in the Pond.

Every spring, spring flowers cover the lawns around me and I delight in the sight of thousands of winter aconites opening their yellow flowers to the spring sun. Later, many of the lawns turn blue as glory of the snow, scilla and crocus spring up and, in the beds, the tulips begin to peek out.

The early summer is always an exciting period in the beds that border the Pond as I try to guess what splendour of colours the summer flowers will have this year thanks to my gardeners. Then summer passes, with its many guests who come to admire the beds but I also often see them point to me and say: 'See the beautiful weeping willow. Now that is the true jewel of the Gardens,' and I gently wave my branches in the wind in thanks.

Autumn arrives and I enjoy the colours on the Japanese maple and the Ginkgo in the rockery. And before I know it, the trees have lost all their leaves and winter has begun. In the short days of winter, the Gardens' statue 'The Dairymaid' again catches my attention but, even after 90 years, she is still as cold as ever, having never said a word to me.

The years have passed and many of my fellow trees, who were planted in the same year as me, are still alive and well in the Gardens but disease and dangerous rot sometimes force the gardeners to fell some of us. I have been hollow for many years but I am still strong and full of life. I have weathered many storms which have sadly taken the lives of other trees. Unfortunately, I have also suffered from willow rust, which causes many of my leaves to fall early in the summer but, even though it taps my energy, I just produce a new set of leaves and pretend like nothing happened.

Even though I have stood here peacefully all my life, about eighteen year rings ago, some intruders in the Gardens for some reason lit a fire in my hollow core. Luckily the fire brigade arrived quickly and put out the fire with foam and, even though I turned all black inside, I survived the attack and again produced new leaves that spring.

There was a similar episode about four year rings ago when someone poured flammable liquid in my core and threw in a match. The Gardens had just closed but the chief gardener, who happened to be working late that day, discovered the fire and the fire brigade again came and extinguished the fire. Two boys were seen jumping over the fence carrying a container but they were never found. Luckily, the damage was minimal and I could again produce leaves as usual.

The 3rd of March 2004, 10.30 pm, became my 9/11. The most ruthless perpetrators you could imagine crawled over the garden fence and walked up to my trunk. With a shiver, I realised what was about to happen and even though I tried to call for help with all my buds, which were already looking forward to spring, no one heard me and the fire greedily raced up my trunk and into my hollow branches. 'The Dairymaid' blushed in the light of the fire in shame at the folly of man and she tried to come to my aid but she is bolted to her base and so she was forced to watch my demise in silence. This time, the fire brigade came too late and, even though they did what they could, the fire had consumed too much and my plump branches fell like a house of cards.

The morning came and there I lay like a felled giant on the battlefield with my dead branches scattered broken all around me. And I, the formerly proud and most outstanding tree in the Gardens, was all in ruins. I sympathised with the gardeners' sorrow as they examined my irreparable damage with solemn voices. And later, when the vandalism was reported to the police, they asked whether I was insured. No insurance sum could possibly repair the damage, for what was done could not be undone.

The gardeners whispered together about taking a cutting from one of my branches and letting me rise again

but that would take years and there was the willow rust, so maybe a brand new weeping willow will be planted in my place. To the new tree, I would like to say: 'You'll never find a better home in this beautiful garden,' and to the entire Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University and all of the Gardens' guests, I want to thank you all for the 144 years I have enjoyed and, despite the terrorists in the world, I wish you all the best possible future. I was the weeping willow."

Please make allowance for the fact that the weeping willow wrote his story before the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University became part of the University of Copenhagen and was renamed the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University.

The Gardens' gardeners were extremely saddened by the meaningless attack and many of the Gardens' guests were deeply affected. I spent the whole first year consoling regular visitors to the Gardens who got almost teary-eyed as they recalled how they used to sit on the bench in the shade of the old weeping willow and have lunch with their grandmother and feed breadcrumbs to the ducks. Yes, we really went down memory lane that year.

We established that there was nothing wrong with the lifeline of the old tree when we took cuttings from its branches a few days after the attack and planted them in the greenhouse. After just ten days from the time we potted a cutting, it had grown roots and, not only that, they had grown out to the edge of the pot – impressive. After the gardeners had recovered from the shock, we began cutting the trunk and branches into pieces so they could be fished out of the Pond but we left 2-3 metres of the stub for the first year while we decided what to do. Hundreds of fresh shoots shot up out of the stub but, since they sat on the thin shell of the hollow trunk, it would never be a decent tree again.

One good thing about the attack was that, in addition to calling attention to the weeping willow, the event also called attention to the willow's surroundings where the bank of the Pond had been neglected for many years. The Senate and Business Committee, which managed the big purse at the time, decided to grant funding to freshen up the entire area. The concrete edging around the eastern part of the Pond was renovated, a new edging of sustainable American cedar was installed on the western part and the rusty wrought-iron railing was dismounted, sandblasted and painted. The old round bench – which had been engulfed by the old tree so we had to remove it with a saw – was dismantled and painted and given beautiful new mahogany planks.

Even though there was nothing wrong with the lifeline of the old tree, we still decided to buy a new weeping willow. We wanted to establish a comfortable, shady round bench for the Gardens' guests quickly and that would take many years if we used the little cuttings. But they have been planted elsewhere on the Faculty grounds.

Then began our arduous search in Denmark's best nurseries for a worthy replacement. We chose a beautiful seventeen-year-old weeping willow from Kortegårds Planteskole on the island of Funen and, almost a year after the attack, the new weeping willow was planted in the old tree's place.

I'm not sure that the new tree can assume the old tree's slightly magical powers – you know you can become the Prime Minister if you sit under the tree and let your thoughts roam. That actually happened once – on a tour last year, I was told the story personally by the one who experienced it. The person in question was at a

conference in Falkonercenteret and needed a breather from all that talking, so he walked into the Gardens and sat under the weeping willow and dozed off until he awoke with a jerk and rushed back to the conference. There, he gave a fantastic speech where he was elected Chairman of Denmark's largest union, SID (General Workers' Union in Denmark) and two years later he was appointed Danish Prime Minister by Jens Otto Krag. Of course, I mean Anker Jørgensen, who was Prime Minister in 1972-73 and again from 1975 until 1982. A few months ago, the Conservative People's Party toured the Gardens and I told them the story of Anker Jørgensen and, since then, I've actually been a bit concerned that the party members would occupy the round bench all summer. Luckily, they have also made room for others but we haven't seen Lene Espersen yet.

The new weeping willow has really taken a strong hold here, in the year of the Faculty's anniversary and stands beautiful and strong, so let's hope that the tree is left in peace for at least 144 years, if the world exists that long.

Kim Greiner

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Announcements

Spaces available on internal courses at University of Copenhagen

HR&O calls attention to the following courses – two that specifically target academic/scientific staff, two that target technical/administrative staff and one for academic/scientific managers.

[Pædagogisk lynkursus for VIP](#) (Crash course in teaching for academic/scientific staff)

Date: 27 January 2009, 9 am-4 pm

Registration deadline: 15 December 2008

[Projekt- og specialevejledning](#) (Project and MA/MSc thesis supervision)

Date: 29 January 2009, 9 am-1 pm

Registration deadline: 15 December 2008

[ScanPas: Telefonbogsoplysninger](#) (ScanPas: phone book information) – Target group: technical/administrative staff

Date: 13 November 2008, 9 am-3 pm

Registration deadline passed – some spaces still available

[Ad hoc-rapportering via Discoverer](#) (Ad hoc reporting via Discoverer) – Target group: technical/administrative staff

Date: 19 December 2008, 9 am-4 pm

Registration deadline: 10 November

[Konflikten som udviklingsdynamo – konflikthåndtering for erfarne ledere](#) (The conflict as a development generator – conflict management for experienced managers) – Target group: academic/scientific staff/managers

Date: 2-3 November 2008, 9 am-4 pm
Registration deadline passed – some spaces still available

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2008

Information meeting for new employees

Information meeting for new employees on 2 February 2009, 9.30-10.30 am in the main lecture hall 1-01 at Bülowsvej 17. After the meeting, there will be a tour of the Faculty which will end around 12 noon.

Coffee and tea will be served before the meeting.

Register with Susanne Magnusson by 23 January 2009 at sma@life.ku.dk

Susanne Magnusson, HR, sma@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 November 2008

Bring good ideas to life!

“Young people have so many opportunities... But how can you use your degree in the real world?” - Hear how to bring good ideas to life on Monday 24 November 2008, 3.30-5.00 pm in aud. 3.12, Thorvaldsensvej 40.

Business Affairs has therefore organised a meeting where Lars Rebien, President and CEO, Novo Nordisk, and Peter Horn Møller, partner in the patent bureau Plougman & Vingtoft, will talk about what you need to know about innovation and the application of research findings in order to have a brilliant career – at a university, in industry, as a self-employed person or something entirely different...

[Register here](#)

Tina Lewis, Business Affairs, tle@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 November 2008

Holiday fund: city flats winter/spring 2009

Lots will soon be drawn for the opportunity to rent the flats in Paris and Barcelona in the period from calendar week 2 until and including calendar week 21. You can submit your request via the holiday fund's website www.ferie.ku.dk (in the 'Kvikbook' system) until 17 November 2008.

Everyone will receive a response by 21 November 2008.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 November 2008

Remember to register: More women in research and management at LIFE – what does it take?

'Out-in-the-open' meeting, Wednesday 19 November, 2.30-4.00 pm

At LIFE, we want to put all our talents into play. But the higher you climb the career ladder, the more pronounced the gender imbalance becomes.

How can we stop this trend? How can women be motivated to choose a career as researcher or manager at LIFE? What kind of a workplace do women want?

Come with your input on Wednesday 19 November at 2.30-4.00 pm.

Clinical Professor Liselotte Højgaard, Faculty of Health Sciences (SUND), will launch the discussion with her own views on the topic.

Register for the event now at sigfrem@life.ku.dk – you will be contacted personally with information on where at LIFE the event will take place.

This event is part of the Faculty management's process of developing an action plan to attract more women to research and management. Everyone is welcome!

See you there!

Per Holten-Andersen and Grete Bertelsen

Karen Vestergaard Petersen, HR, kvp@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Working and studying abroad: cultural and academic experiences – DSCH meeting on 25 November

The Danish Society for Histochemistry and Cytochemistry is hosting a Christmas meeting for anyone interested on Tuesday 25 November 2008 from 4.00-6.30 pm in the Library in the Anatomy building, Grønnegårdsvej 7, 1st floor. Registration necessary – by 19 November to Ulla Evald ue01@bbh.regionh.dk

Languages: [Danish and English – see programme](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Debate meeting: Is Danish research in crisis?

Education is Denmark's commodity. But the intake at the Danish universities is the lowest since 2002. The number of students enrolled in university has dropped by 12 per cent this year. How can we ensure that more people get a higher education? And how can we reduce the dropout rate that costs society as much as DKK 300 million a year?

- The Danish University Act is to be revised in 2009, so what should the university of the future be like?
- Should students be rushed through their studies?
- Will that have a negative impact on academic performance?
- Is research free or bound by the interests of politicians?
- Are researchers spending too much time applying for funding instead of conducting research?
- What role should the university play in relation to industry and business?

Chief subeditor Peter Mogensen will be chairing this 'Politiken discussion' between Helge Sander, Danish Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation, Marianne Jelved, Research Spokesperson for the Social Liberal Party, Ralf Hemmingsen, University of Copenhagen Rector, and Lars B. Goldschmidt, Director of the Confederation of Danish Industries.

Wednesday 12 November 2008, 4.30-6.00 pm in Dagmar Teatret, Jernbanegade 2, Copenhagen V.

Admission free – booking fee DKK 10 – [booking of tickets required](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Education

Essay Competition: Faced with a food and energy crisis, how can society improve its well-being?

What is your view on today's food and energy crisis? Do you think change is possible and if so, how? We want to hear your views in this year's Vinyl 2010 Essay Competition.

Register online by 1 December 2008 and submit your essay by 31 January 2009 to win up to EUR 5,000! Prizes of EUR 3,000, EUR 2,000 and EUR 1,000 are also up for grabs.

To find out more log onto www.vinyl2010.org/essaycompetition or [read here](#)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 4 November 2008

Student press to attend Climate Congress

Are you a student at the University of Copenhagen and are you interested in science and communication, then work as a student journalist at the Climate Congress in Bella Center in March 2009 and participate in a nine-day course at Vallekilde Communications College.

The course is designed to prepare science and journalism students to communicate science with room for critical, independent, free and in-depth journalism.

You get three intensive preparatory courses at Vallekilde Communications College and a unique real-life experience at one of the largest science conferences in Denmark in recent times.

Meet the most prominent climate scientists and debaters. Experience a real deadline, the pressure, the competition and the adrenaline of the student press.

You will have the opportunity to prepare in-depth. You will have the opportunity, beforehand, to choose your preferred angle and perspective. At Vallekilde, you will meet the members of the press with whom you will be working. You will meet other science and journalism students as well as exciting lecturers. You will gain insights into the crossfield and potential inherent in both science and journalism. What do these two disciplines emphasise most? How can you combine them in the best possible way? Vallekilde's lecturers and visiting lecturers will prepare you to present your particular story.

Conduct interviews with the people you think should hear your questions.

At Vallekilde, you will also meet distinguished figures from the media who will talk about hidden political agendas.

The course includes some take-home assignments. You will be conducting your own research and, between the first and the second weekend, you will be required to write two articles/letters to the editor.

Register by email: torbenf@dsr.life.ku.dk

There is room for ten participants from the University of Copenhagen.

The participants will be selected on a first-come-first-served basis and will be contacted in mid-November.

There will be free transport to and from Vallekilde all three weekends – departure from LIFE at 1.30 pm (according to special agreement).

[See the programme here](#) (in Danish)

Torben Frandsen, Union of Natural Resource Students, torbenf@dsr.life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 5 November 2008

LIFE students challenge upper secondary school students' attitudes towards GMO and bioethanol

Upper secondary school students from all over Denmark will get an extraordinary experience when twelve natural resource students from the Faculty of Life Sciences go on a road trip on 3-4 November to conduct role-playing sessions at twelve upper secondary schools from Thisted to Haderslev through Odense to Slagelse. The goal is for the students – when they step out into the real world again – to pose questions about these topics to ministers, members of parliament and scientists.

The road trip will provide a unique opportunity to gain insight into what regular young people think about some of the most important technologies of the future and the questions which the young people who will be using and living with these technologies think it is important to have answered before we begin using these technologies regularly.

[Read the press release](#) (in Danish)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Farrier with an affinity for horses

Horse welfare is improving thanks to the new farrier training programme at LIFE, which focuses on, among other things, the healthy and the performance-inhibited horse. Hestens Værn (society for the prevention of cruelty to horses) welcomes the replacement of the old farrier training programme. "There is much more focus on handling the horse and on how the horse is used and lives than previously, which again encourages cooperation between the farrier and the veterinarian and that clearly benefits the horse."

LIFE in the press: www.hestenettet.dk (in Danish), 30 October 2008

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Kubulus Alumni Association mentor programme

The second round of the Kubulus mentor programme for MSc students begins in January 2009.

In 2008, approximately 100 students joined the programme and, in their mid-term evaluations in May 2008, the students were very enthusiastic about the programme.

According to the evaluations, many of the students participating in the programme learned about it from their supervisors. It is therefore important that academic/scientific staff inform the MSc and thesis students about the programme.

Read more about the mentor programme at <http://alumni.ku.dk/mentorprogram>.

The objective of the mentor programme is to make the choice of a career a higher priority for students and to ease the transition from student life to working life. The mentor programme takes one year and, during that period, the student will have five to seven interviews with his or her mentor, which will provide a better understanding of the realities and possibilities after graduation.

MSc students can apply for a mentor from one of the 24 partner companies, which include private as well as public-sector institutions and NGOs. The participating companies represent a variety of disciplines and the programme is therefore relevant to all students at the University of Copenhagen, regardless of faculty affiliation.

See the participating companies at <http://alumni.ku.dk/karrierebors08/virksomheder/> (in Danish).

The participating companies will be represented at the alumni association's Career Fair in the Ceremonial Hall at Frue Plads on 6 November 2008, 12.30-5.00 pm.

There will also be information meetings for interested students:

At the Career Fair, info session, 6 November 2008, 2.00-3.00 pm

SAMF, JUR, NAT, LIFE, SUND and FARMA: At CSS, room 22.0.19, 10 November 2008, 3.30-4.30 pm
A meeting has already taken place for HUM and TEO.

It is not necessary to attend an information meeting to participate in the mentor programme.

The application deadline for the mentor programme is 17 November 2008, 2.00 pm.

Lisbeth Ihlemann, Kubulus Alumni Association, lii@adm.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Research

What does a climate congress session chair do? Part 2

LIFE has three session chairs at the [University of Copenhagen's major climate congress on 10-12 March 2009](#): Niels Ehlers Koch, John R. Porter and Claus Felby. This week, Professor John R. Porter, Department of Agriculture and Ecology, talks about his work with the "Adapting Future Agricultural Production to Climate Change" session.

John Roy Porter is co-chairing session 37 – "Adapting Future Agricultural Production to Climate Change" – along with Professor Peter Gregory, Director of the Scottish Crop Research Institute. As the session title suggests, participants will be discussing how to adapt food production to climate change, which may already be having an impact on agriculture.

Along with his co-chair, John Porter is currently tackling the difficult art of filtering through the contributions submitted to ensure as broad a representation as possible while still allowing enough time in the session to discuss the contributions.

To set the tone, the session will begin with an invited speaker: Martin Parry, co-chair of the report on the

socioeconomic and natural systems' impacts and on adaptation and vulnerability to climate change produced by Working Group II of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Unfortunately, John Porter and Peter Gregory have not received very many contributions from researchers at LIFE, so John Porter expects the session to be dominated by contributions from other research institutions. Instead, he encourages people from LIFE to participate in the session, which he hopes will result in a proposed set of targets that can help reduce CO₂ emissions as well as a suggestion of ways in which agriculture can adapt to climate change. Read about the [many exciting sessions \(including session 37\) here.](#)

Lykke Thostrup, Communications

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2008

Register for the Climate Congress before 10 November – and save

The fee for registration before 10 November is EUR 240 for students and EUR 475 for staff. It is easiest to pay with Visa or Master/Eurocard directly via the online registration at: <http://climatecongress.ku.dk/registration>.

A total of 800 participants are registered so far with abstracts, 65 of which are from Denmark (ten from LIFE). The organisers expect more than 1,000 abstracts.

The programme is very exciting and also includes many keynote speakers of a more political orientation. At the scientific level, there are many different sessions within a wide selection of fields of research dealing with climate issues. For LIFE, the most appropriate of the many possibilities are sessions 4, 8, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 34, 37, 38 and 46.

There are many sessions on carbon sinks and their management, which would be appropriate for a number of researchers from Forest & Landscape and Agriculture & Ecology. There are also sessions on ecosystem services, agricultural adaptation/mitigation, forests, economics, water, etc., which would be appropriate primarily for researchers from Forest & Landscape, Agriculture & Ecology, Food & Resource Economics and Basic Sciences & Environment.

Seventeen climate professors have now been appointed affiliate professors. A list of the professors can be found at www.klima.ku.dk (list in Danish). All of these professors have been invited to attend the IARU congress free of charge. The departments that initiated the affiliation process are responsible for contact with the Affiliate Climate Professors in relation to their participation in the IARU congress.

LIFE's management group has decided that the departments will pay for airline tickets as well as room and board costs for the affiliate professors and that the departments must host a local climate lecture if the affiliate professor has expressed an interest in giving such a lecture (cf. the attached letter from Lykke Friis).

http://klima.ku.dk/forskning/adjungerede_klimaprofessorer/ (in Danish)

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 6 November 2008

Stronger genes prepare plants for the future

Danish researchers are developing plants and crops that can withstand the climate of the future, which will bring much more drought, cold weather and saline soils. "With the changes to the climate that climate scientists

are predicting, it is important that our crops have a greater tolerance of, for example, drought," says Christina Lunde, Department of Plant Biology and Biotechnology. One of the strengths of these robust plant types of the future is that they can grow in marginal soils, such as those found in fields that are not fertile enough for crops today. Greater exploitation of arable land is necessary to grow crops for biofuels as well as more food for the growing global population.

LIFE in the press: *Ingeniøren*, 31 October 2008

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 3 November 2008

Research funds etc.

See the updated information on the Research & Information website.