Success Stories
Gap year 2021

www.plantday18may.org  #PlantDay
More than 160 events in 21 countries worldwide for FoPD "Gap Year" 2021

Participating countries: Angola, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Croatia, Finland, France, India, Japan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, UK

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19, the official edition of Fascination of Plants Day (FoPD), initially planned for 18 May 2021 was postponed to 2022. FoPD is organised under the umbrella of the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO).

Since the first edition in 2012, FoPD has been turning the world green with plant enthusiasts organising events that demonstrate their passion for the amazing world of plants to the public in an interactive way.

Scientists and organisations from 21 countries around the globe opened their doors in order to stir up people’s enthusiasm about plants, and highlight their importance for sustainable production of nutritious food and non-food products such as paper, timber, chemicals, energy, and pharmaceuticals, as well as horticulture and forestry.

This document gives a glimpse of success stories in 2021, while it was a gap year under FoPD.

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4,319 followers @PlantDay18May
3,357 followers at FoPD
3,091 likes
482 followers at @fascinationofplantsday
2,297 unique visitors at www.plantday18may.org
Europe

Bulgaria
Bulgaria hosted an event with video presentations of its young researchers about the world of plant biology.

Austria
Austria hosted 6 events which included virtual spotlights of world plants on their Instagram, held a quiz and organized a seminar with Bernhard Haidler entitled "Nature in the Garden".

United Kingdom
United Kingdom organized 6 events where they shared short films that explore plant growth, a virtual tour of BIFoR FACE facility, and a presentation of a citizen science project.

Poland
Poland organized around 77 events around the country which included field classes, online classes, and excursion and educational activities.

France
France hosted 8 events which included workshop to better understand lignin - one of the main components of wood; discussion with researchers or access to 70 digital contents.

Portugal
Portugal organized 9 events which included a webinar entitled "The Contribution of Science to the Sustainability in the Sector" and a digital event where it showed a video that uses 3D technology allowing visitors to explore a plant growth chamber by moving the video image in any direction.

Slovenia
Slovenia organized 3 events they offered free entrance to Alpine Botanical Garden, hosted a lecture called Fascinating Plants by Prof. Marina Dermastia, and presented a book called Fascinating Experiments with Plants.
Argentina hosted 5 events where they held a few activities such as a drawing contest, shared a series of videos, showcased trees, shrubs and green spaces and inviting visitors to the Botanical gardens.

Brazil hosted 4 events which included lectures of Bryophytes, Monilophytes, Lycophytes and Angiosperms experts who explained the importance of plants. Another event celebrated the day with virtual exhibition of climber plants, which is an important component in forests.

Japan hosted 5 events amongst them a seminar and two science cafes. Hands-on activity for kids offered an introduction to food analysis where tomatoes looked the same but tasted different, and an introduction to plant physiology with chloroplasts and photosynthesis.

India organized a virtual meet on "What A Plant Knows?" about plant senses and how plant experiences the world themselves.

Turkey joined in 2021 for the first time with a virtual tour of Ege University Botanical Garden. Also several successful scientists from five different universities presented their studies on broadrange of plant science from plant genome editing tools to phylogeographical studies to capture attention of students on plant science.
Angola

Angola organized a one-day event which included Ornamental Plant exhibition, sweets tasting made with seasonal wild berries, a competition among students on mounting plant specimens and launching Teaching Garden.

#PlantDay on social media

Media, organisers, patrons, and visitors of Fascination of Plants Day events used social media to share their excitement about plants using the following hashtags: #PlantDay, #PlantsDay, #FoPD, #FascinationOfPlants. We’ve selected only a few of many posts. To see more follow the hashtag links.
Thank you to all National Coordinators mobilising the community in their countries and Global Coordinators synchronising the effort and providing central resources. Thank you to all engaged in Fascination of Plants Day events, all volunteers sharing their knowledge about plants, and those who sent their success stories to us and helped in creating this booklet.

Next Fascination of Plants Day will take place around 18th May 2022.