



FLORIAN RÖSCH AND MAINAK DAS GUPTA

UNIVERSITY POTSDAM, INDIAN-GERMAN DUO

MAY 18th | 10:45 am - 11:15 am

AVERTING THE DOOMSDAY USING CRISPR

20 MIN TALK + Q&A | INTRODUCTORY AND OVERVIEW | GERMAN

The expression 'Genome editing' raises a mixed emotional reaction of excitement, curiosity and sometimes fear and repulsion! The claimed genome editing of babies in China raised a storm across the world and painted a dystopic picture of futuristic genome editing projects. Even, the editing of plant genomes to improve crop traits is also looked at with suspicion across the world and was almost outlawed by the European court of justice. However, as scientists, we strongly believe that genome editing holds a key promise to hugely advance and accelerate crop improvement in a climatically changing world where one out of every seven people goes hungry. A casual look at the statistics of deaths by hunger pitted against the benignness of the genome edited plants can easily identify which is the monster that we really need to fight. We would therefore, through a discussion and debate, explain why modern genome editing techniques for crop improvement should be completely acceptable when compared to the traditional ones. Furthermore, we would briefly explain how we are dealing with improving the CRISPR-Cas9 based methods in our lab to expedite the process of genome editing while at the same time making the process more acceptable to the society in general.



Dr. Mainak Das Gupta & Florian Rösch are both working at Potsdam University as Molecular Biologists. Mainak did his PhD in Bangalore, then became researcher at the National University of Singapore before starting a position at the Max Planck Institute and subsequently Potsdam University. Mr. Rösch is attending Potsdam University as PhD candidate in the field of genetic engineering, working with newest technologies like CRISPR together with Dr. Gupta.

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