

Prof. Andreas Graner

Prof. Andreas Graner has earned a PhD in plant breeding at the Technical University of Munich. Afterwards he has been affiliated for 10 years with the Federal Centre for Breeding Research on Cultivated Plants (BAZ). In 1997 he joined the Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) Gatersleben, where he has been heading the Federal ex situ Genebank for agricultural and horticultural crop species since 1999. In 2007 he was appointed Acting Director of IPK. His research is driven by the fact that plants form the basis of any human and animal life. As their biodiversity is increasingly endangered, genebanks need to act as repositories to prevent plant genetic resources from getting extinct and to facilitate unrestricted access to them. His scientific interest is focused on the development of genetic and genomics-based strategies to improve conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources. In this context, barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) is being used as a model plant for genome analysis both on the structural and functional level, to study genome evolution and to map and to identify genes that underlie important agronomic traits such as seed quality and disease resistance. Andreas Graner has been elected as a member of the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and he is a laureate of the Gregor Mendel Innovation Award.