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"Making solutions - from field to cell and from cell to field": Plant Biotechnology at the new Department of Applied Plant Sciences and Plant Biotechnology, BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna

The Department of Applied Plant Sciences and Plant Biotechnology was founded at the BOKU University in 2004. Four former institutes and two experimental stations were merged to a new research and teaching unit with more than 100 scientists. Due to the variety of expertises and the available facilities the new department covers a broad range of topics reaching from basic research in molecular biology of plant and plant related organisms to applied research in agriculture and horticulture.

Plant biotechnology has its dominant place at the interface between basic research and application. Projects focus for example on the understanding and application of plant growth and development (hormones, root developmental genetics, nutrient transport and metabolism), the analysis of interactions between and plant pathogens or pathogen toxins, the development of resistance strategies, and the use of plants as a production system for recombinant proteins. A few examples will give a more detailed insight in the national and international relevance of the Department's activities in research and teaching.