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New editorial office

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From October 2005 on TAG will have a new editorial office. Albrecht E. Melchinger, University of Hohenheim, will become the new Editor-in-Chief. He will be assisted by Eva Bauer and Jochen C. Reif as Managing Editors.

Almost six years have passed since Heiko C. Becker and Christian Möllers have taken over from Gerhard Wenzel the responsibility for TAG as Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor. During this time TAG has made important steps forward in the electronic publishing and handling of manuscripts. In early 2002 Springer Publishers introduced 'Online First'. This new service allows the quick online publication of accepted manuscripts shortly after receipt of the corrected proofs, well in advance of the print edition. Also electronic supplementary material (ESM) is now published in SpringerLink, which may consist of sequences, lists of material, additional color illustrations, etc. In December 2003, Manuscript Central (MC) was implemented as a web-based electronic system for online manuscript submission and complete editorial handling. It was impressive to see

how quickly authors, editors and reviewers accepted the new system and only three months later almost 100% of the newly submitted manuscripts were handled through the electronic system. With Manuscript Central and Online First the time between manuscript submission, acceptance and online publication could be reduced significantly.

The ever growing number of manuscripts submitted to TAG has let the Springer Publishers to launch a new journal. In May 2005, the first issue of 'Tree Genetics and Genomes' (TGG) has been published with former TAG editor David Neale as Editor-in-Chief. TGG is publishing manuscripts on tree genetics, tree genomics and tree biotechnology. Thus, TAG will concentrate even more on leading crop plants and innovative approaches of general interest.

Most of the work has been done and will be done in the future by the members of the Editorial Board, supported by a large number of reviewers. We thank them for their continuous support in maintaining the high standard of our journal TAG.

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