

Herman R. F. P. Höfte

Dr Herman Höfte received his PhD degree at the University of Ghent (Belgium) in 1988 on the study of the insecticidal crystal proteins from *Bacillus thuringiensis* and the generation of the first insect-resistant transgenic tobacco plants. His thesis supervisor was Marc Van Montagu and his work was carried out in the, at that time, start-up biotechnology company Plant Genetic Systems. He then moved to the laboratory of Maarten Chrispeels at the University of California, San Diego in 1989, where he worked as a post-doctoral fellow on the intracellular targeting of vacuolar membrane proteins in plants using aquaporins as a model system. In 1992 he took up a position as a research scientist at the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) in Versailles, France where he is studying the synthesis and assembly of cell walls using a molecular genetic approach in the model plants *Arabidopsis* and *Brachypodium*. He is in particular interested in the synthesis of cellulose and pectin, cell wall integrity signaling and the role of the cell wall in growth control and in responses to the environment. He is currently coordinating a large French stimulus initiative project "Biomass For the Future" aiming at developing new dedicated biomass grasses and uses thereof.