



## Promoting crop diversification in European agriculture: New project launched

A major 5-year European project - DiverIMPACTS - was recently launched. The project will explore the full potential of diversifying arable cropping systems with the aim to provide improved agricultural productivity, resource efficiency and sustainable value chains.

(Thiverval-Grignon, August 15, 2017) DiverIMPACTS - Diversification through Rotation, Intercropping, Multiple Cropping, Promoted with Actors and value-Chains towards Sustainability - is funded under the European Union's research and innovation programme Horizon 2020 and will demonstrate the benefits of crop diversification\*.

Furthermore, the project strives to support the removal of barriers to crop diversification, and it will help to promote the uptake of crop diversification at farm, supply chain and territory levels.

Recommendations for policy makers will be elaborated in order to facilitate the coordination of all relevant actors within the value chain.

The project builds on the experience of 10 existing field experiments, which will be used to quantify the impacts of crop diversification. DiverIMPACTS will also work with and support 25 innovation groups in their dynamic processes to develop sustainable value chains characterized by a high level of crop diversification and new market products. The innovation groups include a wide range of actors such as farmers, advisors, processors and scientists.

The project, which is running from 2017 to 2022, is coordinated by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and brings together a broad consortium of 34 partners from 11 European countries. The partnership is comprised of farmers and farmer organisations, advisory services, cooperatives, logistics providers, scientists, industry professionals, and representatives of civil society and rural areas.

*\*Crop diversification can be achieved by a variety of techniques such as a) growing different crop species on the same land in successive growing seasons (i.e. rotation), b) growing different crop species on the same land within a growing season (i.e. multiple cropping), and c) growing different species in proximity in the same field, (i.e. mixed, row and strip intercropping).*

## For more information

### Contact

#### Project contact

- › Dr. Antoine Messéan  
DiverIMPACTS coordinator  
National Institute for Agricultural Research INRA  
Avenue Lucien Brétignières  
78850 Thiverval-Grignon  
France  
Phone +33 1 30 81 52 09  
[antoine.messean@inra.fr](mailto:antoine.messean@inra.fr)  
[www.inra.fr](http://www.inra.fr)
- › Dr. Didier Stilmant  
DiverIMPACTS deputy coordinator  
Centre Wallon de Recherche Agronomiques CRA-W  
Rue de Liroux 9  
5030 Gembloux  
Belgium  
Phone +32 61 23 10 13  
[d.stilmant@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:d.stilmant@cra.wallonie.be)  
[www.cra.wallonie.be](http://www.cra.wallonie.be)

#### Project communication

- › Dr. Helga Willer  
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL  
Ackerstrasse 113  
5070 Frick  
Switzerland  
Phone +41 62 865 72 07  
[helga.willer@fibl.org](mailto:helga.willer@fibl.org)  
[www.fibl.org](http://www.fibl.org)

#### Project website and Twitter account

- › [www.diverimpacts.net](http://www.diverimpacts.net)
- › <https://twitter.com/DiverIMPACTS>
- › Hashtag: #DiverIMPACTS

#### Diverimpacts partners

The DiverIMPACTS project has 34 partners from 11 European countries. (See also <http://www.diverimpacts.net/partners.html>)

- › ACTA - Association de coordination technique agricole, France
- › Agrosolutions - In Vivo Agrosolutions SAS, France
- › AIDER - Agricultura Integrata Durabila Economic Rentabila, Romania
- › APCA - Assemblée permanente des Chambres d'agriculture, France
- › ASR - Associazione sviluppo rurale, Italy

- › Baertschi - Baertschi Agrartecnic AG, Switzerland
- › Barwy Zdrowia, Poland
- › BioForum - BioForum Vlaanderen, Belgium
- › Bionext - Stichting Bionext, The Netherlands
- › CRA-W - Centre Wallon de Recherche Agronomiques, Belgium
- › CREA - Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria, Italy
- › ERF - B.V. Exploitatie Reservegronden Flevoland, The Netherlands
- › ESA - Association groupe école supérieure d'agriculture d'Angers, France
- › FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland
- › FIRAB - Fondazione italiana per la ricerca in agricoltura biologica e biodinamica, Italy
- › HS - Hushallningssaellskapet skane, Sweden
- › INAGRO - Provinciaal extern verzelfstandigd agentschap in Privaatrechtelijke Vorm, Belgium
- › INRA - French National Institute for Agricultural Research, France
- › IT - INRA Transfert S.A., France
- › IUNG-PIB - Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, State Research Institute, Poland
- › LEAF - Linking Environment and Farming, UK
- › LWK - Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen, Germany
- › Mühle Rytz AG, Switzerland
- › NSF - NSF Romania, Romania
- › ÖMKi - Ökologiai Mezogazdasagi Kutatointezet Kozhasznu Nonprofit KFT, Hungary
- › ORC - Organic Research Centre, UK
- › SoCoPro - Services opérationnels du Collège des producteurs, Belgium
- › SLU - Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- › TI - Thünen Institute of Biodiversity, Germany
- › UCL - Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
- › UvA - University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- › WUR-FSE - Wageningen University & Research, Farming Systems Ecology Group, The Netherlands

## Funding

The project DiverIMPACTS - "Diversification through Rotation, Intercropping, Multiple Cropping, Promoted with Actors and value-Chains towards Sustainability" is supported by the European Union's HORIZON 2020 research and innovation programme under the Grant Agreement no 727247 and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) under contract number 17.00092.

The views expressed in this press release are the sole responsibility of the authors and publishers and arguments employed in this press release do not necessarily reflect the official views of the European Commission and the Swiss government. Neither the European Commission/SERI nor any person acting behalf of the Commission/SERI is responsible for the use which might be made of the information provided in this press release.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727482 (DiverIMPACTS)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
State Secretariat for Education,  
Research and Innovation SERI