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Dear reader,

In DiverIMPACTS we strive to achieve the full diversification potential of cropping systems for improved productivity, delivery of ecosystem services and resource-efficient and sustainable value chains. The project is funded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Research and Innovation programme.

We are pleased to share the fifth DiverIMPACTS newsletter with you, and look forward to sharing more news with you soon. Enjoy!

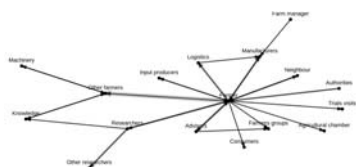
## First European conference on crop diversification brings together more than 200 participants



The first European Conference on Crop Diversification took place from the 18th to the 21st of September 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. It explored the role of crop diversification and strategies towards sustainable agri-food systems. The DiverIMPACTS project, funded under the European Union's Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, convened the conference in collaboration with its partner projects Diverfarming, DIVERSify, ReMIX, LegValue, and TRUE as well as the German programme INSUSFAR. The local host was DiverIMPACTS partner ÖMKI, the Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture.

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## Key factors for crop diversification: first results from a qualitative survey across European experiences



In the early stages of the DiverIMPACTS project, a quantitative survey was done to identify the diversity of crop diversification experiences (CDEs) in Europe. In order to add to these results, in-depth qualitative interviews were conducted in order to highlight key factors, such as drivers and lock-ins, in various European CDEs.

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## Exploring the potential of value chains for Sicilian hemp-based food products



Crop diversification in semi-arid environments proves to be challenging at both the agroecological and socioeconomic levels. Introducing hemp cultivation in wheat-based farming systems is one of the promising options that the DiverIMPACTS case study 9 is exploring in Sicily. While various agronomic issues are still under investigation, a study carried out in collaboration with the Université Catholique de Louvain shows valuable business opportunities for Sicilian hemp-based food products.

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## Case study 22: Italian farmers met Eva Revoyron, a French researcher



Within the framework of DiverIMPACTS, a very interesting meeting took place on October 8th in the Italian region Le Marche. Eva Revoyron (INRA), together with Paolo Mucci and Laura Ridolfi (ASR) joined forces to further understand crop diversification practices and to find out how farmers engaged in it to sell their products on the market.

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## Lots of interest in alternative cropping methods at a field day organized by the German case study



Three years of extreme weather demanded a lot, not only from farms in Lower Saxony, but also from the soils. Heavy rains in 2017 and drought together with heat in 2018 and 2019 brought the soils to their limits. In an attempt to address these issues, the search for adapted strategies to such conditions is ongoing. This could be seen by high degree of interest in the field day on soil life held by the German case study on crop diversification to improve water quality in catchment basins.

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## To mix or not to mix: benefits of spatial diversification



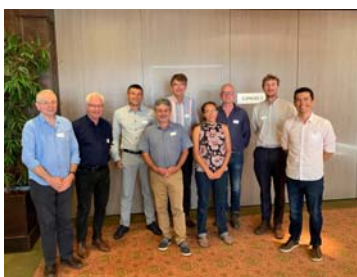
Preliminary data collected from the ten DiverIMPACTS field experiments show many benefits of spatial and temporal diversification. In many cases, a range of diversification strategies have had positive impacts regarding yield, weed suppression, beneficial insects, nutrient availability and more.

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## DiverIMPACTS stakeholder platform meeting



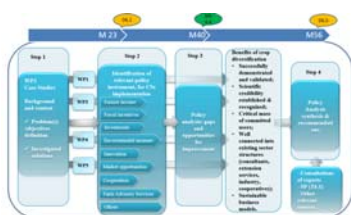
The second in-person meeting of the DiverIMPACTS stakeholder platform was held on September 16 and 17, 2019 in Budapest, ahead of the European Conference on Crop Diversification.

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## Policy analysis in the context of the DiverIMPACTS project



The DiverIMPACTS project developed a framework for policy analysis to be applied to the DiverIMPACTS case studies. Using the framework, DiverIMPACTS will generate policy recommendations to promote crop diversification.

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## Italian field day on strip cropping and DiverIMPACTS case study 22



On June 16th, 2019, the Associazione Sviluppo Rurale (ASR) in cooperation with the farm Coste del Sole organized a field day in Staffolo (Ancona, Marche region, Italy).

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## Field visit about intercropping with grain legumes attracts attention



About 50 farmers, advisors, scientists and stakeholders from the value chain came to the FiBL field visit in Fislisbach, canton Aargau, on 7 June 2019 to discuss the latest findings about intercropping with grain legumes.

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## DiverIMPACTS meeting in Alnarp, Sweden



From June 3 to 5, 2019, the second annual meeting of the DiverIMPACTS project—took place in Alnarp, Sweden, hosted by DiverIMPACTS partner SLU, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. Almost 80 members of the project team came to exchange their first results and plan the work for the next year.

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## Workshop Outcomes: Towards a crop diversification network



At the European Conference on Crop Diversification, several actors came together to discuss why a crop diversification network would be important, as well as the challenges, possible objectives, success factors, actors who should be involved, potential governance structure, tools and next steps. EIP-AGRI was present and reported the outcomes of a workshop that they organised in June 2019 in Almere.

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## Crop diversification cluster has a new website!

The crop diversification cluster, made up of European research projects which aim to increase the impact of crop diversification research, has a new website.

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## The book of abstracts for the European Conference on Crop Diversification is now available

The book of abstract contains all

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presentations as well as the results from the workshops.

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## Learn more about the crop diversification cluster in their new flyer!

The crop diversification cluster, which is made up of six H2020 projects, has a new flyer to describe what we are working on.

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## New practice abstract on using winter field peas as green manure before nitrogen-demanding crops

Ploughing in winter field peas in spring can provide more than 100 kg of nitrogen to the following crop and increase yield. The improved development of the crop also leads to improved weed control.

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## New practice abstract on the success and failure factors of European diversification experiences

Lock-ins of crop diversification can prevent cropping systems from becoming more diversified. Identification of success and failure factors are thus important. In this practice abstract, a database was built from the 128 valid responses of the survey performed in 12 European countries.

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## New practice abstract on undersowing in organic oilseed rape

Oilseed rape sown in summer only forms a dense canopy in the following spring. In autumn and winter, the stands can become infested with weeds, and in vulnerable areas, soil erosion can occur. The new DiverIMPACTS practice abstract deals with undersowing, which helps to increase soil cover.

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## New practice abstract on nitrogen supply for winter oilseed rape

Modern varieties of winter rapeseed require a lot of nitrogen in early spring. Optimal fertilisation ensures that current rapeseed varieties reach their full yield potential. Find practical recommendations in this new DiverIMPACTS practice abstract.

## New practice abstract on how to test soil for legume fatigue

Among legume crops, forage peas and field beans show the most symptoms of legume fatigue. In this new DiverIMPACTS practice abstract, a simple legume fatigue test is presented.

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## New video on the DiverIMPACTS Field experiment 6

This video highlights the work being developed in Field experiment 6 of the DiverIMPACTS H2020 project. The experiment is located in Alnarp, Sweden.

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