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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 sixth DiverIMPACTS newsletter with you, and look forward to sharing more news with you soon. Enjoy!

Expanding the network of actors supporting crop diversification



DiverIMPACTS and its Horizon 2020 partner project Diverfarming represented the Crop Diversification Cluster at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Seattle, Washington on 13-15 February 2020. The projects also met with the Diversified Agroecosystems Research cluster of the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) to initiate international networking. The Crop Diversification Cluster brings together research projects which operate in countries across Europe to increase the impact of crop diversification research.

[Read more](#) >

The DiverIMPACTS pixel cropping trial featured in Guggenheim Museum's exhibition, Countryside, The Future



Countryside, The Future, a new exhibit at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, persuades viewers to observe rural landscapes in a different light. One part of the exhibit showcases alternative narratives to industrial agriculture, including the 'extreme' form of strip cultivation known as 'pixel cropping' or 'pixel farming', which is part of the Dutch DiverIMPACTS field trial.

[Read more](#) >

Biodiversity measurements in the DiverIMPACTS field experiments



In order to determine how the strategies tested in the field experiments affect biodiversity, several different measurements are carried out, including soil biodiversity measurements as well as biocontrol measurements. The first results from both are outlined below.

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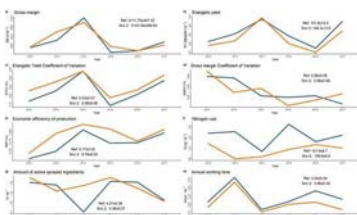
Syppre experimental sites to promote multi-service farming systems



In 2015, DiverIMPACTS partners Arvalis and Terres Inovia initiated experimental platforms in several French arable crop regions in order to design new cropping systems that combine productivity, profitability and respect for the environment, and which support farmers in changing their practices.

[Read more](#) >

Assessing and designing territorial crop-livestock systems using an innovative integrated modelling tool



In collaboration with DiverIMPACTS case study 11 “Co-design of diversified systems in Western France”, we show that connecting and fostering local exchanges between neighbouring arable and livestock farmers is a potential win-win strategy. Using the MAELIA simulation platform, we demonstrate that diversification of rotations via legumes for use in local animal feed can increase the sustainability of farms.

[Read more](#) >

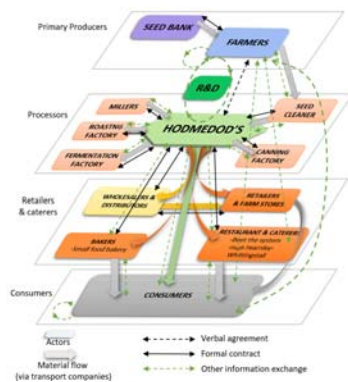
DiverIMPACTS scientific article assesses the link between barriers to crop diversification and the settings in which they emerge



A recent scientific article by Kevin Morel, Eva Revoyron, Magali San Cristobal and Philippe Baret (Morel et al., 2020) analyses the 25 DiverIMPACTS cases studies, which focus on innovations supporting crop diversification. It explores the extent to which barriers to crop diversification are related to the setting in which they emerge.

[Read more](#)

Innovative network for promoting pulses as novel protein sources: the case of the British fava bean food value chain



Fava beans (*Vicia faba*) represent an excellent source of plant-based protein, yet it is underutilised in western countries. A DiverIMPACTS case study sheds light on how value chains can innovate to facilitate the promotion of fava bean-based food.

[Read more](#)

Regional Management and Consumer Strategy DiverIMPACTS



Value chains can play an important role in crop diversification in food systems due to the improvement of productivity and delivery of ecosystem services. The DiverIMPACTS project examines value chains and the impact of crop diversification on downstream and upstream actors and stakeholders.

[Read more](#)

Success stories of crop diversification across Europe



Crop diversification has the potential to produce many benefits, such as improved soil nutrient concentrations and soil fertility. However, it also comes with several challenges. DiverIMPACTS has identified several success stories of crop diversification across Europe.

[Read more](#)

The Crop Diversification Cluster and the European Conference on Crop Diversification

The conference, which took place in September 2019, was organized by DiverIMPACTS partner ÖMKI and convened by DiverIMPACTS together with the other members of the crop diversification cluster: Diverfarming, DIVERSify, ReMIX, LEGVALUE and TRUE.

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New video: Systerre® - Evaluating cropping systems, designing innovative and multi-performing alternatives

The new DiverIMPACTS video explains how SYSTERRE® is used to assess cropping systems and design innovative and multi-performing alternatives

[Read more >](#)

New video: DiverIMPACTS Field Experiment Experiment 8: Arable cropping systems, Switzerland (FiBL)

Can a high share of legumes in a rotation reduce the need for fertilizer? When more legumes are introduced into a rotation, does this increase the amount of soil pathogens over time?

[Read more >](#)

Organic Farm Knowledge: A unique resource with tools for farmers across Europe

The online platform Organic Farm Knowledge intends to promote productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe by providing access to a wide range of tools and knowledge exchange among farmers, farm advisers and scientists. DiverIMPACTS partner, FiBL, is running the platform.

[Read more >](#)

New practice abstract on intercropping grain peas with barley

Barley provides support to the peas, preventing lodging and, thus, reduces yield loss. It increases the soil cover and thus suppresses weeds.

[Read more >](#)

New practice abstract on intercropping of lupin for weed control and complementary grain production in organic farming

Intercrops often contain around half the weed biomass of lupin sole crops. The crop growth together with lupin provides a complementary grain production that can

compensate for low productivity of lupin in some years.

[Read more](#) >

Increasing awareness of soil microbial ecosystem services: New practice abstract

DiverIMPACTS partners Christoph Tebbe and Bei Liu from the Thünen Institute have provided a new practice abstract on increasing awareness of soil microbial ecosystem services.

[Read more](#) >

Developing multi-criteria assessments and sustainability indicators in the crop diversification cluster

One of the working groups in the crop diversification cluster focuses on aligning approaches for multi-criteria assessment of system performance at the field, farm, value chain and landscape levels. The working group, which facilitates contacts and interaction among scientists working on multi-criteria assessment and sustainability indicators in the crop diversification cluster, has already made some progress toward this end.

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