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Strategies for Organic and Low Input Breeding and Management, a European programme (2010-2014)

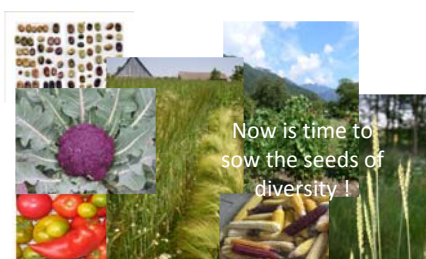
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Our research hypothesis: developing diversity at all levels is the best strategy for improving crop adaptation to fluctuating environmental conditions and for increasing yields and yield stability in organic and low-input systems.

Our objective: to increase our understanding of the vital role of diversity in agricultural activities, through plant breeding and crop management, and their impacts from the soil to the market.

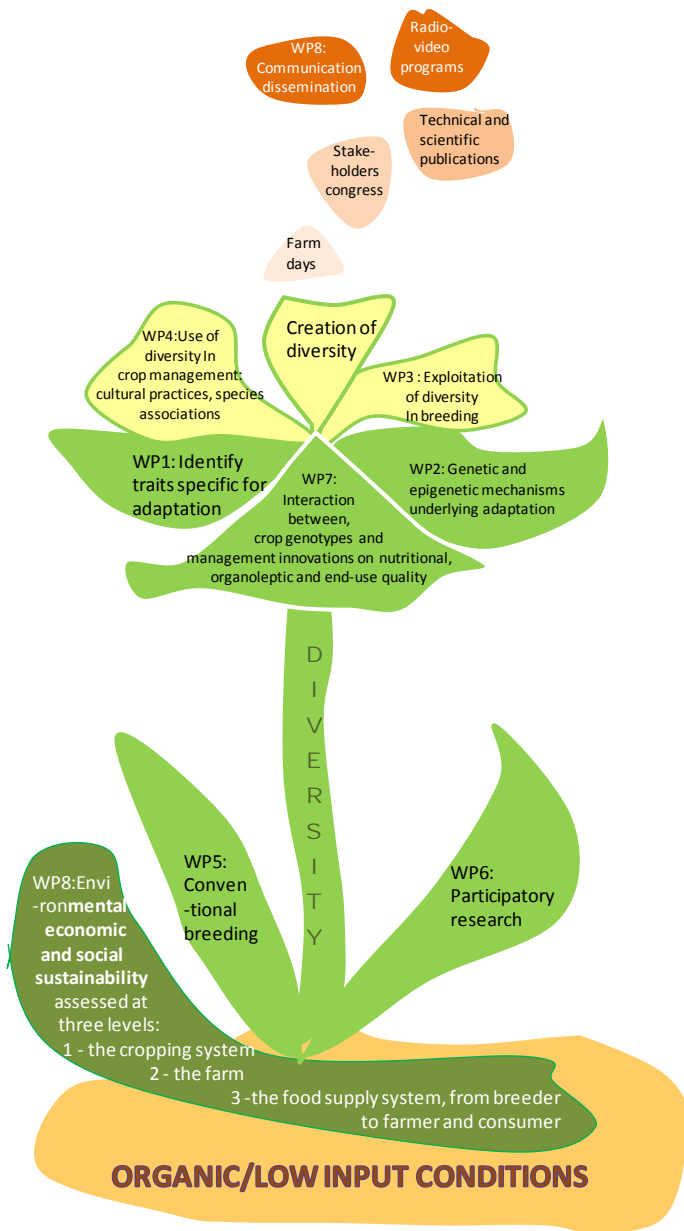


Three groups of species: cereals (wheat, maize, barley...), legumes (faba beans, niebe, beans) and vegetables (broccoli, tomato).

Participatory research: a large part of the methodological development will involve farmers in the framework of participatory research in relation to the diversified management practices, needs, expectations and traditions of farmers, end-users and consumers.



Participatory Plant Breeding and Management (PPBM) strategies are perhaps best suited to meet the specific and original demands of organic and low-input agriculture, particularly related to small-scale farms or farms in marginal areas. Particular attention will be paid to quantifying the effects and interactions of breeding and management innovations on crop performance, crop nutritional, organoleptic and end-use quality.



23 organisations from 12 countries in Europe and Africa