



Hot topics in intercropping: achievements and challenges

Eric Justes, Alison Karley, Christine Watson, Jackie Stroud, Kairsty Topp,
Henrik Hauggaard - Nielsen, Laurent Bedoussac

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Virtual Conference 23th March 2021
ReMIX and DIVERSify projects

Intercropping to boost agroecology in European Agriculture

Conclusion



ReMIX

Species mixtures for redesigning
European cropping systems



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Hot topics in intercropping: *achievements and challenges*

Speakers: Eric Justes (Cirad, FR) and Alison Karley (JHI, UK)

Contributors:

Christine Watson, Jackie Stroud, Kairsty Topp (SRUC, UK)

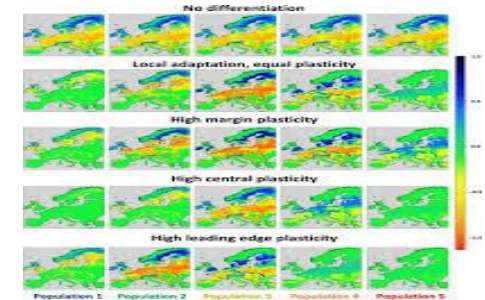
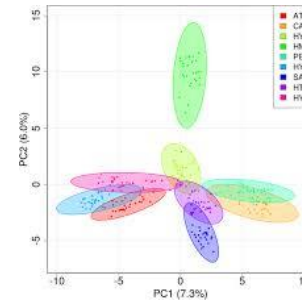
Henrik Hauggaard-Nielsen (RUC, DK)

Laurent Bedoussac (ENSFEA/INRAE, FR)



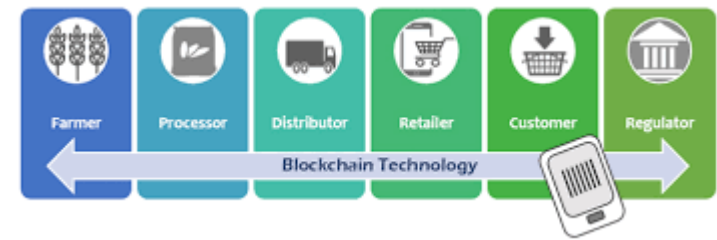
Achievements on Production from intercropping

- Global understanding for local adaptation
- A reliable and secure crop production supporting EU protein plan
- Reduced dependence on agrochemicals and fertilisers compared to sole crops



Achievements on Boosting adoption/knowledge exchange

- Embracing the digital mindset - including the need for myth busting
- Widening participation - Tools for intercropping as a project legacy
- Innovation across the whole supply chain and unlocking the agri-food chain



Achievements on Policy (European & National levels)

- Delivering robust intercrops for Policy goals
 - EU Green deal
 - EU Protein plan
 - Diversification of crops

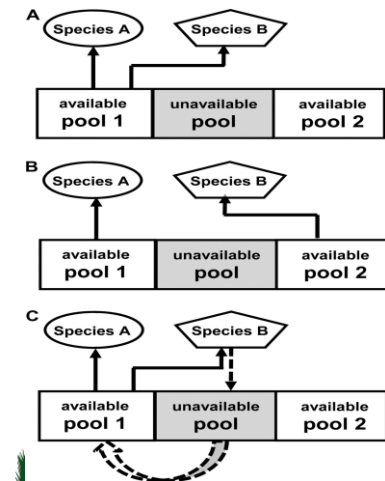
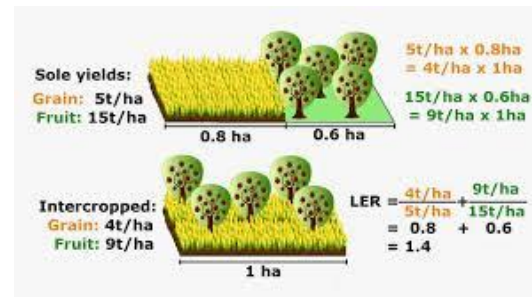
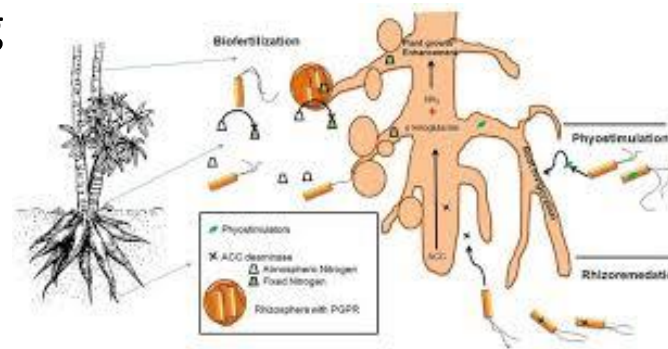


**European Conference
on Crop Diversification**
September 18-21, 2019
Budapest, Hungary



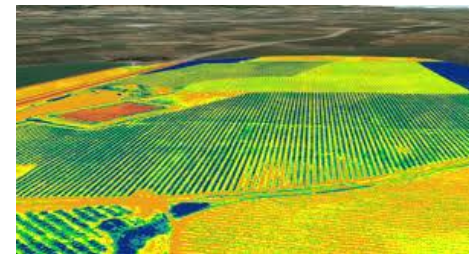
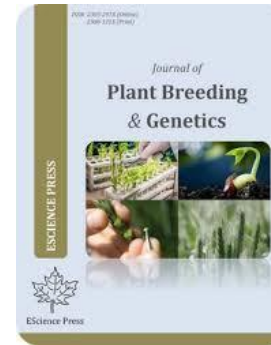
Scientific challenges

- Understanding the intercropping microbiome
- We need more relevant metrics for **Triple I** analysis (**I**ntra-specific and **I**nter-specific **I**nteractions in intercrop)



Practical challenges

- Selection of fit-for-purposes ideotypes for intercrop systems
- Precision farming and numerical agriculture for boosting intercropping development in Europe



Societal challenge

- Institutional change and capacity building across services and academia
 - Shift away from “input based” to “natural-based” solutions
 - New approaches in education for farmers and agricultural advisors



Societal challenge

- Institutional change across the supply chain “equipping different communities to change”
 - New partnership needed
 - From fork to farm paradigm?



In conclusion

- Paradigm shift is needed
- Yes we can!
- Intercrop, just a brick in the wall!





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