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# A global experimental dataset of intercropping and agroforestry studies in horticulture

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#### Abstract

Intercropping fruit trees and vegetable crops in mixed systems is attracting more and more farmers in Europe (Léger et al. 2018; Lauri et al. 2019). There is also an increasing amount of research being conducted to understand the functioning of these complex systems (Do et al. 2020; Paut et al. 2021). Yet, so far, no dataset has been provided for a systematic synthesis of existing data on intercropping and agroforestry experiments in the specific field of horticulture. Therefore, the aim of the present work is to present a global experimental dataset of intercropping and agroforestry studies in the specific field of horticulture (fruit trees and vegetable crops).

The dataset includes, to date, results of field experiments published in 92 articles published between 1980 and 2017 covering 695 experiments worldwide (crop\*field site\* treatment combinations). The selected experiments were carried out over five continents on 11 trees and 67 vegetable crop species (Figure 1). We plan to complete the dataset with articles published after 2017. The dataset contains measurements of variables that are considered relevant for the analysis of agroforestry and intercropping experiments: i.Basic publication information: Title, Authors, year, Country, Site (latitude, longitude).

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ii. Crops and trees information: Species, Botanical family, Functional group (legume/non-legume), Plant functional type (C3/C4).

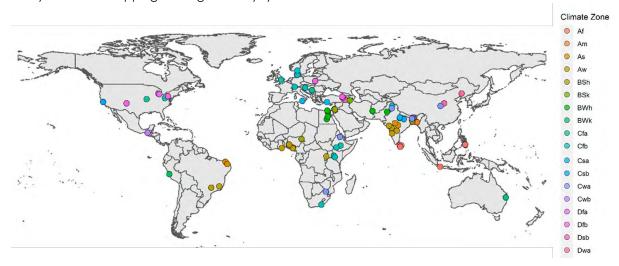
iii.Parameters of the experiment: Soil texture and pH, crop management (greenhouse/field conditions), type of fertilisation (organic/inorganic), Use of pesticides, intercropping pattern (strip, row, mixed), Intercropping design (replacement, additive), Density of each species, Sowing and harvesting dates, N fertilisation, Yields of pure and mixed stands, Standard deviation of yields, Land Equivalent Ratio (LER). Data was extracted from tables, figures and text. Digitising the data from published scatter plots in the literature was performed with the WebPlotDigitizer tool (https://automeris.io/WebPlotDigitizer/). These data were assembled and harmonised according to the International System of Units. The dataset is







reusable and was designed to be updated. We also aim to establish a set of recommendations to design experiments on intercropping. We believe this will provide valuable data for more comprehensive analyses of intercropping and agroforestry systems in horticulture worldwide.



**Figure 1.** Latitude and longitude coordinates of the field sites included in the database. The Köppen-Geiger climatic classification was used to link each field site to a grid size with a resolution of 0.50 degrees of latitude by 0.50 degrees of longitude. Each Köppen-Geiger climatic subzone is indicated by a colour gradient

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