

# DiverIMPACTS

## Diversification through Rotation, Intercropping, Multiple cropping, Promoted with Actors and value-Chains Towards Sustainability

### *Deliverable 7.3*

### *First DiverIMPACTS international conference*

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Contents

- 1. Introduction..... 3
- 2. About the conference ..... 3
- 3. Crop Diversification Cluster ..... 3
- 4. Programme and outputs ..... 4
- 5. Communication and dissemination..... 4



## 1. Introduction

The aim of Deliverables 7.3 (First DiverIMPACTS international conference) and 7.6 (Final DiverIMPACTS conference, foreseen M58) is to consolidate outcomes from all workpackages and stakeholders and generate more publicity for DiverIMPACTS. The first conference was designed to bring project partners and stakeholders together, to

- › receive feedback and plan how to move the project further for the remainder of the project, and
- › create a platform for exchange with other stakeholder and related Horizon 2020 projects.

## 2. About the conference

The conference was held from 18-21 September 2019 in Budapest, Hungary. The conference explored how we can achieve the full potential of cropping system diversification for improved productivity, delivery of ecosystem services and resource-efficient and sustainable value chains.

The focus was on all scientific aspects of agri-food system diversification, including support for practical implementation of crop diversification in value chains and policy-related issues. In particular, the conference addressed the following themes:

- › Benefits, barriers, lock ins, enablers and practical experiences of crop diversification
- › Innovations and incentives to promote diversification along value chains
- › Breeding for crop diversification
- › Approaches to assess the performance of diversified cropping systems at various scales
- › Co-designing approaches that foster crop diversification and accompany actors when transitioning towards European sustainable systems
- › Policy recommendations to make systems more disposed to crop diversification.

The conference, organized by DiverIMPACTS partner ÖMKI, was convened by the DiverIMPACTS project together with the other members of the Horizon 2020 Crop Diversification Cluster - Diverfarming, DIVERSify, ReMIX, LegValue and TRUE - as well as the German programme INSUSFAR.

An organisational committee and a scientific committee were set up (<https://www.cropdiversification2019.net/committees.html>). In response to the call for abstracts, 173 abstracts were submitted and peer-reviewed twice (twice by members of the scientific committee and twice by the organisational committee). According to selected criteria (novelty, quality, relevance and overall approach and methodology), 162 abstracts were finally accepted, either as oral presentations or as posters. Based on this material, 16 sessions were defined, five workshops were selected, and session chairs and workshop convenors were chosen. Keynote speakers were chosen to address gaps identified in the conference material.

The conference attracted as many as 215 participants and provided a unique opportunity for scientists, practitioners, policy makers and other actors along the supply chain to gather and exchange about crop diversification.

## 3. Crop Diversification Cluster

The conference saw the development of a stable community around crop diversification represented by the recently established "Crop Diversification Cluster", which is committed to fostering the co-

design of technical, organisational and institutional innovations so that barriers to crop diversification can be overcome and diversified systems can be established and sustained.

The conference served as a unique opportunity to further develop the crop diversification cluster and for cluster working groups to meet, exchange and advance their plans.

More information is available on the cluster website: <https://www.cropdiversification.eu/>

#### 4. Programme and outputs

The conference programme included:

- Presentations from five keynote speakers with a wealth of knowledge and experience in themes related to the role of crop diversification and strategies towards sustainable agri-food systems
- 87 oral presentations in 16 parallel sessions, covering all aspects related to crop diversification and touching on hot topics such as impacts of crop diversification, incentives to promote diversification along value chains and policy recommendations
- Five workshops addressing how to promote crop diversification across Europe, challenges in breeding for crop mixtures, technology for spatial crop diversity, value chains business models and policy recommendations to make agri-food systems more disposed to crop diversification.
- 75 poster presentations
- One optional excursion-

The full conference programme is available in Annex 1 as well as on Zenodo, and can be accessed via the conference website here: <https://www.cropdiversification2019.net/programme.html>

The book of abstracts, conference papers, keynote speeches and workshop outputs are available in Annex 2 as well as on Zenodo, and can be accessed via the conference website here: <https://www.cropdiversification2019.net/proceedings.html>

#### 5. Communication and dissemination

WP7 worked closely with the conference organizers to promote the conference and disseminate information before, during and after the conference.

The conference website provided access to all conference details. Prior to the event, it included

- Information about the event, important dates, and committees
- Links to the registration software and abstract submission software
- A detailed programme, including the schedule and information about the keynote speakers, sessions, workshops, posters and the optional excursion.

After the event, the website was updated to include:

- The book of abstracts
- Links to keynote speeches, and workshop outputs

The conference website can be accessed here: <https://www.cropdiversification2019.net/>

In addition to the conference website, other tools to disseminate the conference include:

- DiverIMPACTS website: The event was regularly advertised on the DiverIMPACTS website, including news items

- › Newsletters: In addition to advertising the event in the regular DiverIMPACTS newsletters, a special conference newsletter was sent to all DiverIMPACTS newsletter subscribers
- › Social media: DiverIMPACTS twitter and Facebook accounts were used
- › DiverIMPACTS partner network: partners were asked to disseminate the event within their networks
- › Crop diversification cluster network: Members of the cluster disseminated information about the event throughout their networks, including on their websites and social media
- › Crop diversification cluster website: after the event, selected blog posts and workshop outputs were posted on the cluster website and disseminated through project social media accounts
- › Press release: After the event, a press release was circulated to advertise the event
- › Zenodo: After the event, introductory and keynote speeches were made publicly available on Zenodo. Also, participants were urged to make their oral presentations and posters available (publicly or upon request) on Zenodo. In total, 26 speeches and oral presentations and 13 posters were uploaded (Accessed date: 19 March 2020).

The conference community on Zenodo can be accessed here:

<https://zenodo.org/communities/eccd2019/search?page=1&size=20>

Annex 1: Programme

Annex 2: Book of abstracts

Annex 3: Reports from workshops