



DIVERSIFOOD

Embedding crop diversity and networking for local high quality food systems

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H2020 - Research and Innovation Action

Deliverable 6.4 Proceedings of the European stakeholders' forum

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Workpackage concerned: WP6

Concerned workpackage leader: Frederic Rey

Lead Beneficiary: RSR

Responsible author: Riccardo Bocci (RSR) and Frederic Rey (ITAB)

Additional author: Dora Drexler (OMKi) / Bernadette Oehen (FiBL) / Ambrogio Costanzo (ORC) / Isabelle Goldringer (INRA) / Susanne Padel (ORC) / Véronique

Chable (INRA).

Dissemination level:

IXI PU: Public (must be available on the website)

☐ **CO**: Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

☐ CI: Classified, as referred to in Commission Decision 2001/844/EC

Brussels, 11th April 2018

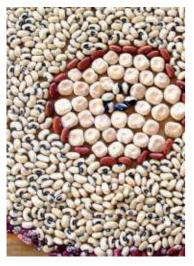
Forum with policy makers and stakeholders

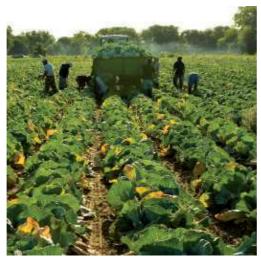
Cultivating diversity and food quality











PROCEEDINGS



project aiming at enriching cultivated biodiversity by testing, renewing and promoting underutilized or forgotten crop species. Through multi-actor approaches, it supports the spread of a new food culture, based on diverse, tasty and healthy food.

www.diversifood.eu





This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 633571

Brussels, 11th April 2018

Forum with policy makers and stakeholders

Cultivating diversity and food quality









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naring, collecting feedback and extending (for FP9, CAP 2020, The outputs of this

the Regions (Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat



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D., Bocci R., Oehen B., Constanzo A., Goldringer I., Padel S., Chable V. (Eds) 2018. sity and food quality. Proceedings of Diversifood EU Forum, Brussels, 11th April 2018.



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Forum with policy makers and stakeholders

Cultivating diversity and food quality







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Outputs of the Workshop: how can we better embed crop diversity working for high quality local food systems

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participants

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1. Programme

10:00	Welcome by the moderator and presentation of the programme	Dora Drexler, ÖMKI	
10:05	Welcome by the Committee of Regions	Michael Collins, Deputy Director of the CoR	
10:10	Short video on DIVERSIFOOD	Giulia Bonelli, Formicablu	
10:20	Introduction to DIVERSIFOOD: Idea and concept	vt Véronique Chable, INRA	
10:30	Underutilized and forgotten crops - Definitions and concepts	Ambrogio Costanzo, The Organic Research Centre	
10:45	New approaches to plant breeding for sustainable farming systems	Isabelle Goldringer, INRA	
11:05	First results of EU experimentation on marketing Heterogeneous Material: presentation of case studies	Ambrogio Costanzo, The Organic Research Centre	
11:25	Break		
11:50	Value chain for produce from participatory plant breeding/underutilized crops	Bernadette Öhen, FiBL;	
12:05	From on-farm conservation to Community biodiversity management	Riccardo Bocci, Rete semi rurali	
12:20	Roundtable with policy makers and stakeholders/ Plenary session and Q/A session Chair: Susanne Padel, The Organic Research Centre	Speakers: -Annette Schneegans, DG AGRI - Thomas Weber, DG SANTE - Garlich von Essen, ESA - Bram Moeskops, TP-Organics - Riccardo Bocci, Rete Semi Rurali - Veronique Chable, INRA	
13:10	Lunch - Meet and Eat		
14:30	Workshop: how can we better embed crop diversity and networking for high quality local food systems? Introduction to the workshop: process, rules and expected outputs. Q&A	Frédéric Rey, ITAB	
14:45	Workshop, question I (in working groups)		
12:05 12:20 13:10 14:30	From on-farm conservation to Community biodiversity management Roundtable with policy makers and stakeholders/ Plenary session and Q/A session Chair: Susanne Padel, The Organic Research Centre Lunch - Meet and Eat Workshop: how can we better embed crop diversity and networking for high quality local food systems? Introduction to the workshop: process, rules and expected outputs. Q&A	Riccardo Bocci, Rete semi rurali Speakers: -Annette Schneegans, DG AGRI - Thomas Weber, DG SANTE - Garlich von Essen, ESA - Bram Moeskops, TP-Organics - Riccardo Bocci, Rete Semi Rura - Veronique Chable, INRA	

17:00	End of the Forum	·
16:55	Conclusion and future outlook	Véronique Chable, INRA
15:55	Workshop question II	



Diversifood partners

	I
France	INRA • Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
	ITAB • Institut technique de l'Agriculture Biologique
	RSP • Réseau Semences Paysannes • Association pour
	la Biodiversité des Semences et Plants dans les Fermes
	IT • INRA Transfert
UK	ORC • Organic Research Centre
Switzerland	FiBL • Forschungsinstitut fur Biologischenlandbau Stiftung
OWILZEITATIG	PSR • ProSpecieRara
The Netherlands	LBI • Louis Bolk Instituut
THE NETHERIANUS	EDI * EOUIS DOIK IIISUILUUL
Portugal	IPC • Instituto Politecnico de Coimbra
1 Ortagui	ITQB • Instituto de Tecnologia Quimica e Biologica - Universidade Nova de Lisboa
Italy	UNIBO • Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna
italy	UNIPI • Università di Pisa
	RSR • Rete Semi Rurali
	FORMICABLU • Science communication agency
Cymrus	· .
Cyprus	ARI • Agricultural Research Institute
Finland	LUKE • Luonnonvarakeskus
FIIIIaliu	LONE • Luoliilolivalakeskus
Spain	CSIC • Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas
- -	RAS • Asociacion Red Andaluza de Semillas Cultivando Biodiversidad
Hungary ÖMKI • Okologiai Mezogazdasagi Kutatointezet Kozhasznu	
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Austria	ARCHE NOAH • Arche Noah Schaugarten GMBH
	·
Norway	FNI • Fridtjof Nansen Institute
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More information on Diversifood: www.diversifood.eu

2. Video on DIVERSIFOOD



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXYUwRa_eUI

VIDEO: "Cultivating Diversity"

In a field near Raddusa, in Sicily, an Italian farmer named Giuseppe Li Rosi is cultivating an evolutionary participatory crop made of a mixture of 2,000 varieties and 750 crossings of soft wheat from Syria. He is working with the DIVERSIFOOD partner Rete Semi Rurali: starting from 90 kilograms of seeds, 60 hectares are now being cultivated in Sicily using an extraordinary variety of crops.

In Vienna, Austria, the agronomist Beate Koller from Arche Noah is working with farmers to build a map of community seed banks in Europe, at the same time promoting local initiatives such as growing winter vegetables. These are only two of the many experiments being conducted as part of the DIVERSIFOOD project, which presents a new idea of agriculture to promote food diversity.

This 5 minute video was shown for the first time during the DIVERSIFOOD stakeholders Forum with policy makers in Brussels.



3. Presentations



Introduction to DIVERSIFOOD - Idea and concept

Véronique Chable, INRA

https://www.slideshare.net/diversifoodproject/introduction-to-diversifood-idea-and-concept-vronique-chable-inra

Underutilized and forgotten crops - Definitions and concepts

Ambrogio Costanzo, The Organic Research Centre

https://www.slideshare.net/diversifoodproject/underutilized-and-forgotten-crops-definitions-and-concepts-ambrogio-costanzo-the-organic-research-centre

New approaches to plant breeding for sustainable farming systems

Isabelle Goldringer, INRA

 $\underline{https://www.slideshare.net/diversifoodproject/new-approaches-to-plant-breeding-for-sustainable-farming-systems-isabelle-goldringer-inrates and the sustainable farming-systems and the sustainable farming-systems and the sustainable farming-systems are sustainable farming-systems and the sustainable farming-systems are sustainable farming-systems. \\$

First results of EU experiments in marketing Heterogeneous Material: presentation of case studies (UK, Italy, Denmark, France, etc.)

Ambrogio Costanzo, The Organic Research Centre

 ${\it https://www.slideshare.net/diversifoodproject/first-results-of-eu-experimentation-in-marketing-heterogeneous-material-presentation-of-case-studies-ambrogio-costanzo-the-organic-research-centre$

Value chain for produce from participatory plant breeding/underutilized crops

Bernadette Öhen, FiBL

https://www.slideshare.net/diversifoodproject/value-chain-for-produce-from-participatory-plant-breedingunderutilized-crops-bernadette-hen-fibl

From on-farm conservation to Community biodiversity management

Riccardo Bocci, Rete semi rurali

https://www.slideshare.net/diversifoodproject/from-onfarm-conservation-to-community-biodiversity-management-riccardo-bocci-rete-semi-rurali

4. Outputs of the Roundtable

with policy makers and stakeholders

Annette Schneegans (European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development)		
Bram Moeskops (TP Organics / IFOAM-EU):		
Véronique Chable (INRA – DIVERSIFOOD project coordinator)		
Garlich von Essen (European Seed Association)		
Riccardo Bocci (Rete Semi Rurali – Seed network)		
Thomas Weber (European Commission, DG Santé)		

The roundtable was chaired by Susanne Padel (ORC)

Susanne Padel: ORC is involved in the DIVERSIFOOD project and I work on WP5 on the marketing of diverse food. What can be done to promote this food diversity from the field to the plate? A variety of supporting mechanisms already exists, ranging from business activities, policies and regulations and, in particular, the research framework programmes, for example FP9. There are also new seed related provisions in the new organic regulation, which will come into force in 2021.

Question (Q) for Annette Schneegans: What can we expect in terms of support for food diversity in the new research framework?

Annette Schneegans: We are currently developing the next Research Framework Programme (FP9). Looking back, agro-diversity has always been relevant in our funding for agricultural research. Diversity is seen as a vehicle to confer resilience to farming systems. If you look at the evolution of topics in H2020, you will see a whole line of funding activities supporting agro-biodiversity ranging from the promotion of in situ and ex situ genetic resources, major and minor crops for the development of diversity rich farming systems. This ambition will continue. DG AGRI has developed a long-term strategic approach to agricultural research which is being used to programme Horizon 2020 activities and also to develop FP9. The strategy calls for more diverse production systems, not only to face climate change but also to reflect the diversity and changes in consumer demand. Organic and conventional farming are seen as complementary and crops – no matter under which kind of production systems - will have to be prepared for more variable and extreme conditions. Under H2020 1.7 billion € have been allocated to agriculture, a substantial part of this programmed as a contribution to the European Innovation Partnership EIP-AGRI. EIP-AGRI aims to foster cooperation between different actors, e.g. farmers, the scientific community and consumers, with the aim of bringing results from research closer to practice. The communication on the forthcoming Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has a strong innovation component building on EIP-AGRI mechanisms. We can therefore expect significant synergies between the future CAP and FP9.

Q for Annette Schneegans: I focus mainly on non-European agriculture systems, is the international perspective going to be taken into account in the formulation of the new research programme?

Annette Schneegans: In principle, FP9 is open to the participation of any country in the world. Of course, if topics don't specifically require international cooperation, Third World countries will not really participate. When FP9 started, we had a somewhat European centric approach but that changed as FP9 implementation developed. It is now recognized that international cooperation is crucial and we are pushing for more international cooperation. We have to wait and see what comes out of the negotiations for FP9 but I am sure that international cooperation will be given due attention.

Q for Bram Moeskops: What can be expected from the organic sector in relation to food diversity from field to plate and how is it reflected in your position paper for FP9?

Bram Moeskops: In the FP9 position paper, TP Organics called for a transformation of EU food and farming systems: 50% of the farm land should be managed according to agro-ecological and organic principles; an increase in on-farm biodiversity; a reduction in food waste; an increase in sustainable diets; and a 75% decrease in the use of pesticides. To achieve these aims, we need more diversified farming systems, based on intercropping, crop rotation and more species, more cultivars and breeds adapted to local and organic conditions, and we need to improve the marketing of organic seeds. Conventional systems can be inspired by organic farming to be more diverse.

Q for Véronique Chable: Looking back, what have you seen in terms of change, what are your wishes for the FP9 and the next CAP?

Véronique Chable: These last ten years, I have seen real support from Europe on the topic we work on and we have been able to develop a real multi-actor and participatory approach. The challenge is to shift the evaluation of research from only publications to its impacts on society. Scientists should work with all society. With FP9, I expect to extend these kinds of approaches and activities. Micro-organisms are still overlooked, so we need a new perception of the role of micro-organisms to achieve better quality and more resilience.

Q for Garlich von Essen: Seeds are essential for diversity, industries working on seeds are thus essential for diversity, what do you think about the practical difficulties of working with diverse seeds and organic varieties?

Garlich von Essen: We are currently involved in some projects to improve seed production for organic farming, for example, LIVESEED. We develop varieties for our consumers and this is our key message: any seed company developing new varieties knows what their customers expect and they have a very clear understanding of what they need. There are niche markets that look for diversity, e.g. heterogeneous material, but that's a niche and not the norm. It is important to come back to basics. what does diversity mean? Are we talking about genetic diversity, food diversity, farm diversity, or dietary diversity? These are different concepts, which are linked but are not the same. Today, more than 42,000 different varieties are available to European farmers, and more than 3,500 new varieties are registered in the catalogue every year. There is a large-scale output of products targeting different markets. These are the drivers of our research; we are not going to conduct research if we don't see a market, i.e., where there is no demand from society. How do we see the future? We discussed the new seed legislation, opening up marketing possibilities for non-DUS materials, and we did make a proposal concerning that, but as you know, the whole legislative proposal was finally dropped because some people's objective was not to open up markets but to revise the whole formal seed system, to get rid of it and to replace it with something else. There were opportunities for such non-DUS materials and I think it was a political mistake to oppose the whole proposal. International rules on access and benefit sharing should facilitate access to genetic resources: everything that restricts such access is going to achieve the opposite of what we want (conservation).

Q for Riccardo Bocci: Based on your experience, what lessons can be learned from the implementation of the EIP-AGRI in Italy?

Riccardo Bocci: We implemented three regional projects in Italy, based on the SOLIBAM populations, adapting them to regional conditions. We learned that regional policies are nicely worded but don't understand the challenge and there is too much bureaucracy. The second major problem is scientists; many of whom still don't understand what a multi-actor approach is, because they have a short-term vision. They really continue 'business as usual' just worded differently.

Q for **Thomas Weber**: Regarding the forthcoming organic regulation, organic varieties and heterogeneous materials: how will it work?

Thomas Weber: Each production system should have access to the varieties it requires, including organic production. The existing legislative framework did not create sufficient incentive to invest in varieties that are specifically adapted to organic practices. I hope that we are on the way to addressing this issue (despite of the fact the seed law proposal failed). The on-going temporary experiment on heterogeneous material is quite promising and the issue to be resolved in the future is to make it available not only to organic farmers. Increasing experience is being gathered on testing the performance of heterogeneous material in member states, it is not yet harmonized, but I think it is a good base to work with. The data coming from these temporary experiments will feed future delegated acts on heterogeneous materials in the Organic Regulation.

Ambrogio Costanzo: Heterogeneous materials will probably be limited to the organic sector but many conventional farmers are also interested. Being in the organic framework, we can certify the process and the traceability and this is the most interesting challenge.

Q for Garlich von Essen: Do you believe these niche markets can be a source of job creation through the production and in the processing of new food types?

Garlich von Essen: I don't know, it could be, but it doesn't necessarily have to be. Diversity, as far as food is concerned, is not a value as such; it needs to be valued by someone. Is that going to be the case? I don't know, maybe for certain products, for certain communities. Today, there are communities who are motivated by environmental, ethical, and social considerations, but also people who buy the cheapest organic products and others who are only looking for regional products. Then there are people who don't care at all about the origin or production method of food. It might be a niche or not, but it depends on how convincing it is, for how many people.

Bram Moeskops: I agree that some people don't care where food comes from but they do care if they have food at all. Climate change means more unpredictability in terms of yields. If you work with more diverse crops, they are more resilient to extreme weather events and they perform better than commercial varieties. Perhaps diversity is not a value in itself but it is certainly an answer to the challenges we will face in the future.

Annette Schneegans: It is really important to explore the links between organic and conventional agriculture and test the benefits of more heterogeneous material for the conventional sector too. In any case, we need to have a range of varieties that cater for the needs of both sectors. In the discussions, we saw a lot of attention was paid to consumers. We should also take the needs and roles of retailers

into account and work together across the whole value chain (from farms to citizens). We think that this user-driven approach will be promoted in FP9 activities.

Garlich von Essen: Since the first discussion about organic seeds, we tried to put in place stricter rules for organic seeds, and we failed because the organic movement wanted exceptions and flexibility, e.g. derogations. We need to understand that companies will produce where there are markets and if there is demand for certain material. There is no fundamental opposition by the seed market to producing a certain kind of seed. If there is a market that needs to be supplied, with rules, a company will produce materials for this market. The breeding objectives are not linked to whether the material targets organic or conventional farming. We are breeding for resistance, resilience, for taste, for any product, for organic or conventional farming at the same time.

Riccardo Bocci: There is a misunderstanding concerning the belief that companies will produce what farmers/clients want. If we take the farmers working with us in Italy, they would like to have local varieties, but they can't find any on the market. The legal framework does not promote diversity as such. It is much more complicated than just supply and demand.

Véronique Chable: I will speak on behalf of the planet, we have to change values, putting our survival on this planet first, and for that to happen, we need diversity to make our food system more resilient. We have been working for 15 years on this topic. For me, the future is with diversity.



These transcripts are **based on** notes taken by Charline Ducottet (INRA)

5. Outputs of the Workshop

How can we better embed crop diversity and networking to achieve high quality local food systems?

Objective: To collect inputs for DIVERSIFOOD's final recommendations

Method: an adaptation of the « Town Hall Meeting » method

- A participatory method that organizes the dialogue between many participants. It combines discussion in small groups and a digital plenary session.
- It allows participants to take part in discussions in a small space, while contributing to the collective thinking of a large group.
- For each session, each table produces ideas (1 idea per post-it) and sends them on to the experts when they have been validated by the table.
- The « experts » organise the ideas and show them to the audience on a screen for reaction/validation by the assembly.
- At the end of the session, the ideas produced are listed and each participant is invited to vote for the idea(s) he/she likes the most.

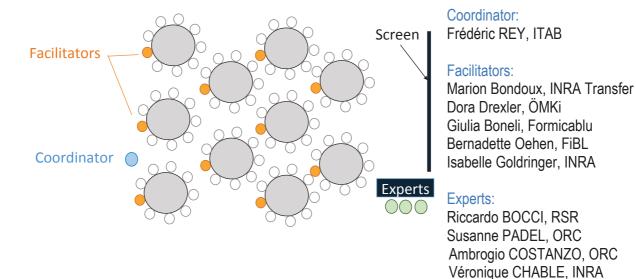


Fig. 1 - Ideal room organisation for a « Town Hall Meeting »

Workshop programme

- Question 1 (40'): « What values does food diversity offer to society? »
- Question 2 (60'): « How can policies and FP9 better support food diversity and the active involvement of communities at the same time? »
- Outputs and feedback
- Conclusion and future outlook

Workshop outputs

Question 1: What values does food diversity offer society?

- 1. Conservation and revival of food culture, heritage and typical food, and an increase in the choice of food
- 2. Food and nutrition security (including stability)
- 3. Healthier diets, healthier animals, healthier people, a healthier environment and protection of the planet
- 4. Fun and pleasure for farmers and for consumers (exploring and experimenting new ways of cooking and eating)
- 5. Strengthening local and fair food systems and promoting new systems
- 6. Cultural exchange and learning across generations
- 7. Empowerment of all actors including small producers involved in the food chain through collective awareness, knowledge and education
- 8. Creating opportunities for marginal areas
- 9. Food democracy through less concentration of power in supply chains and heterogenous communities
- 10. Ethical awareness of consumers
- 11. Aesthetics of diversified landscapes, shapes and colours
- 12. Defending differences against standardisation
- 13. Autonomy in food production
- 14. Adaptability and resilience
- 15. More stable incomes and less risk for farmers

(two statements on education and the need for society to make trade-offs were not included because they were not values)

Question 2: How can policies and FP9 better support food diversity and the active involvement of communities?

Research

- Redistribute funds towards agroecological innovation and away from biotech/high-tech
- Provide incentives for multi-actor and inter/transdisciplinary research projects (also for project reviews)
- Support community led local research and experiments
- Support research for breeding for organic and sustainable agriculture and open-pollinated
- Make it easier for civil society and small organisations to participate in FP 9 (funding for proposal writing, less administration, training in marginal area)
- Improve data management and visualisation in research
- Encourage more public debate about the outcomes of research by involving journalists
- Balance the long-term and short-term impacts of agricultural research using socioenvironmental benefits as criteria
- Communicate EU funding opportunities better in marginal areas of members states

Seed system

- Improve the transparency of origin/breeding methods (including novel breeding techniques) and intellectual property of seeds
- Harmonise seed regulation for diversity by making the seed system more flexible and allowing diversity to become mainstream (also for CAP)
- Provide funding to raise awareness of agrobiodiversity among citizens and for the promotion of agrobiodiversity to consumers (also for CAP)
- Provide support for local seed banks
- Prohibit patenting of plants and animals to enable easy access to genetic resources

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

- Support farmers in creating crop diversity at field level and in producing diverse products (including through green public procurement)
- Raise awareness about and emphasise climate change and environmental issues (e.g. obligatory diverse rotations) in policies
- Involve citizens in the definition of subsidy schemes at regional level
- Provide training for farmers and advisors in agro-biodiversity

Food system

- Rethink labelling strategies for food diversity
- Support local co-operatives and the marketing of diverse crops (also for CAP)
- Improve traceability in the food supply chain, i.e. provide information on the origin of the ingredients

Education

Include local and diverse food production at all levels of education

6. List of participants

Name	First name	Organisation	Country of residence
AKPA	Aristide	CASAD-Benin	Benin
Berges	Regine	agrathaer GmbH	Germany
Bocci	Riccardo	rete Semi Rurali	Italy
Bondoux	Marion	INRA Transfert	France
Bonelli	Giulia	formicablu	Italy
Carrascosa	Maria	RAS	Spain
Chable	Veronique	INRA	France
Christensen	Sune Jin	Central Denmark EU- Office	Belgium
Costanzo	Ambrogio	Organic Research Centre	UK
de santis	giuseppe	rete semi rurali	Italy
Derewnicka	Liliana	Botanic Gardens Conservation International	UK
Deroo	Ignace	Boerenbond	Belgium
Drexler	Dóra	ÖMKi	Hungary
Ducottet	Charline	INRA	France
Escarnot	Emmanuelle	CRA-Wallonia	
Fehér	Judit	ÖMKi	Belgium
Fuhrt	Benjamin	ULB	Belgium
Fuss	Alexandra	IFOAM EU	Belgium
Garre	Beatriz	CeiA3	Spain
Goldringer	Isabelle	INRA	France
GOUTAN	ANNA	GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA	Spain
Janssens	Nils	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Belgium
Jarvis	Katie	British Agriculture Bureau	Belgium
Kaiafa	Maria	Demeter-International e.V. EU Liaison Office	Belgium
Lüdtke	Bettina Susanne	BLE Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung	
Mammana	Ivan	European Coordination Via Campesina	Belgium
Mertens	Andrea	Bayer	Belgium
MESSEAN	Antoine	INRA Eco-Innov	France
Messmer	Monika	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL	Switzerland
Moeskops	Bram	TP Organics	Belgium
Morel	Kevin	UCL	Belgium

NTSHABELE	Boitshoko	SOUTH AFRICA EMBASSY	Belgium
Oehen	Bernadette	FiBL/Diversifood	Switzerland
Padel	Susanne	Organic Research Centre	UK
PEDROL	ROSA MARI	GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA	Spain
Pedross	Pia	FiBL Europe	Belgium
Predic	Marina	European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO)	Belgium
Purnawan	Endar	Local Government of Sanggau Region, Indonesia	Italy
REY	Frederic	ITAB	France
Rossi	Adanella	University of Pisa	Italy
Schneegans	Annette	European Commission, DG Agriculture and Rural Development)	Belgium
Stepman	Francois	Platform for African European Partnership in Agricultural Research for Development	Belgium
Urbanyi	Peter	MFK	
VerleyenSzulc	Malgorzata	Government of Flanders	Belgium
Weber	Thomas	(European Commission, DG Sante	Belgium
Wilson	Kate	Euroseeds	Belgium
Worms	Patrick Alexander	World Agroforestry Centre	