



Training in organic breeding

Module 3: Breeding methods fundamentals

Unit 3.2: Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

**Authors: Pedro Mendes Moreira (PUC-ESAC, PT), Adrian
Rodríguez-Burruezo (UPV), Barbara Pipan (KIS)**

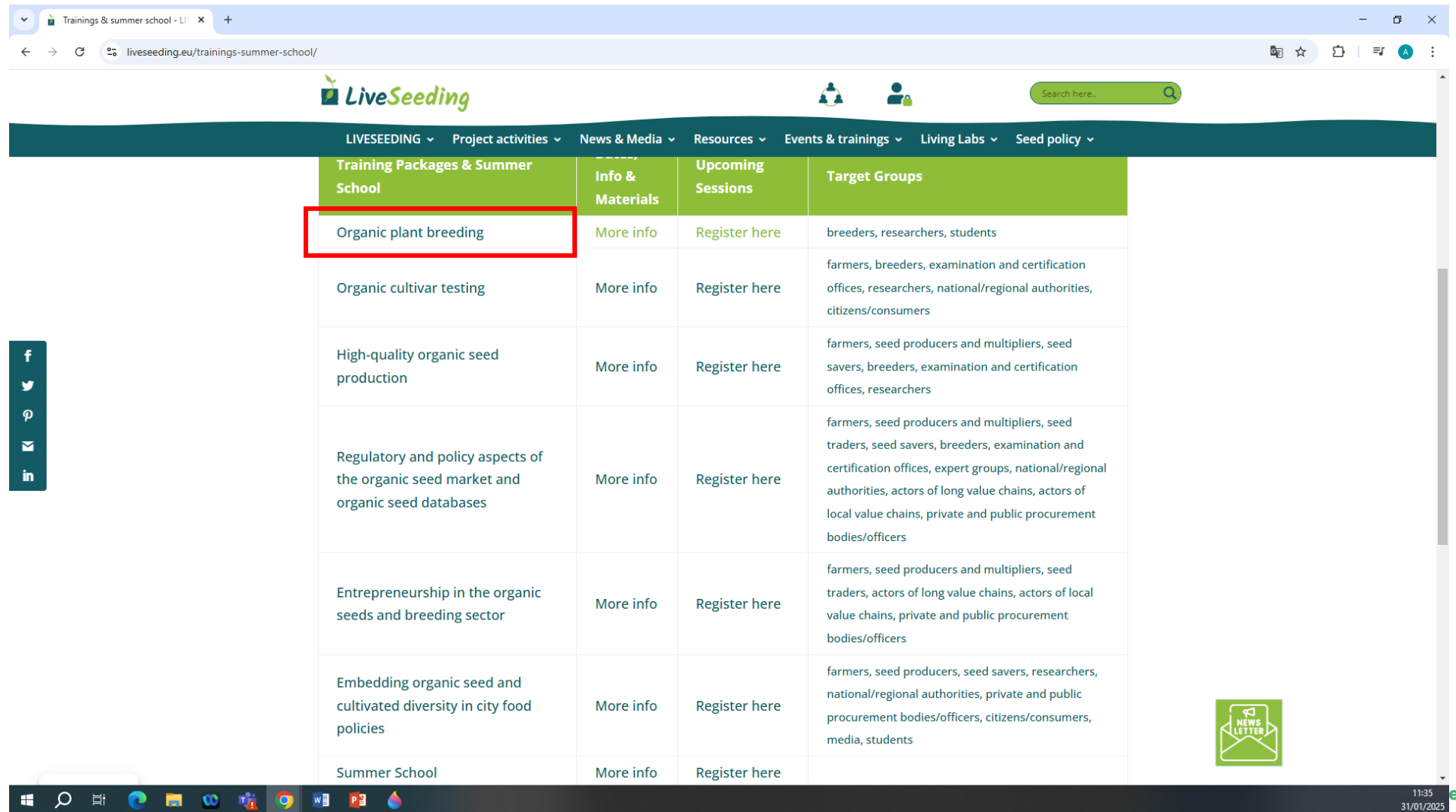


Funded by the European Union, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).



CONTEXT: Training in LIVESEEDING project

<https://liveseeding.eu/trainings-summer-school/>



The screenshot displays the 'Trainings & summer school' page on the LiveSeeding website. The page has a dark green header with the 'LiveSeeding' logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation bar with categories: LIVESEEDING, Project activities, News & Media, Resources, Events & trainings, Living Labs, and Seed policy. The main content area is a table with four columns: Training Packages & Summer School, Info & Materials, Upcoming Sessions, and Target Groups. The 'Organic plant breeding' package is highlighted with a red box. To the left of the table is a vertical sidebar with social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Email, and LinkedIn. At the bottom right of the table is a 'NEWS LETTER' button.

Training Packages & Summer School	Info & Materials	Upcoming Sessions	Target Groups
Organic plant breeding	More info	Register here	breeders, researchers, students
Organic cultivar testing	More info	Register here	farmers, breeders, examination and certification offices, researchers, national/regional authorities, citizens/consumers
High-quality organic seed production	More info	Register here	farmers, seed producers and multipliers, seed savers, breeders, examination and certification offices, researchers
Regulatory and policy aspects of the organic seed market and organic seed databases	More info	Register here	farmers, seed producers and multipliers, seed traders, seed savers, breeders, examination and certification offices, expert groups, national/regional authorities, actors of long value chains, actors of local value chains, private and public procurement bodies/officers
Entrepreneurship in the organic seeds and breeding sector	More info	Register here	farmers, seed producers and multipliers, seed traders, actors of long value chains, actors of local value chains, private and public procurement bodies/officers
Embedding organic seed and cultivated diversity in city food policies	More info	Register here	farmers, seed producers, seed savers, researchers, national/regional authorities, private and public procurement bodies/officers, citizens/consumers, media, students
Summer School	More info	Register here	

Training in organic breeding organized in 5 Modules

1. **Module 1** - Plant Genetic Resources (PGRs): collection, conservation and exchange to support the increase of agrobiodiversity in farming systems
2. **Module 2** - Phenomics: approaches and tools for genetic resources and breeding material characterisation - FEBRUARY 3rd 2025, 9:00 to 17:30 CET
3. **Module 3** - Breeding methods fundamentals - FEBRUARY 13th 2025, 9:00 to 18:00 CET
4. **Module 4** - Development and application of molecular methods in organic breeding - MARCH 4th 2025, 9:00 to 18:00 CET
5. **Module 5** - Organic heterogeneous material (OHM) design and development - MARCH 7th 2025, 9:00 to 18:00 CET



February 13th 2025 - 9:00 to 18:00 CET



 Unit 3.1: Generation of new diversity

- 9:00-10:30 - UPV (Adrián Rodríguez-Burruezo, Neus Ortega Albero)
- 10:30-11:00 Break

 Unit 3.2: Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

- 11:00-13:00 - IPC (Pedro Mendes Moreira) + UPV (Adrian Rodríguez-Burruezo) + KIS (Barbara Pipan)
- 13:00-14:30 Lunch Break

 Unit 3.3: Calculation and evaluation of key breeding parameters

- 14:30-16:00 - UPV (Adrian Rodríguez-Burruezo) + KIS (Barbara Pipan)
- 16:00-16:30 Break

 Unit 3.4: Fundamentals in Participatory Plant Breeding

- 16:30-18:00 - IPC (Pedro Mendes Moreira) + INRAe (Véronique Chable)

M3 – U2 Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

Planned for today

DYNAMIC MIXTURE OF:

1. *Presentations about main topics on **Common methods and strategies on organic breeding**, i.e. basics and practical examples on 3 crops (90 min):*
 - *Basics – A. Rodríguez-Burruezo (UPV, Spain)*
 - *Maize (allogamous) – Pedro Mendes Moreira (IPC, Portugal)*
 - *Beans (autogamous grain crop) – Barbara Pipan (KIS, Slovenia)*
1. Fast quiz (about 10-15 min) ***
2. Debate, Wrap up & Proposed homework (about 10-15 min) ***
3. QUESTIONS: THROUGH THE CHAT (Petra Jelincic will manage)

*** = IMPORTANT for CERTIFICATES (ALL THE UNITS!!!!)

M3 – U2 Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

Basics on methods and strategies. Fast review

REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM defines the genetic structure of the populations.

- Autogamous equilibrium: homocigous (inbred lines mixtures)
- Allogamous equilibrium: mixtures of homocigous and heterozygous individuals (Hardy-Weinberg's law)
- Vegetatively reproduced: clones (one variety can be a unique clone or a mixture of clones)

Implications on inbreeding depression: No problem in autogamous Quite usual in allogamous

Self-compatibility: Usual in autogamous Difficulties in allogamous (different mechanisms)

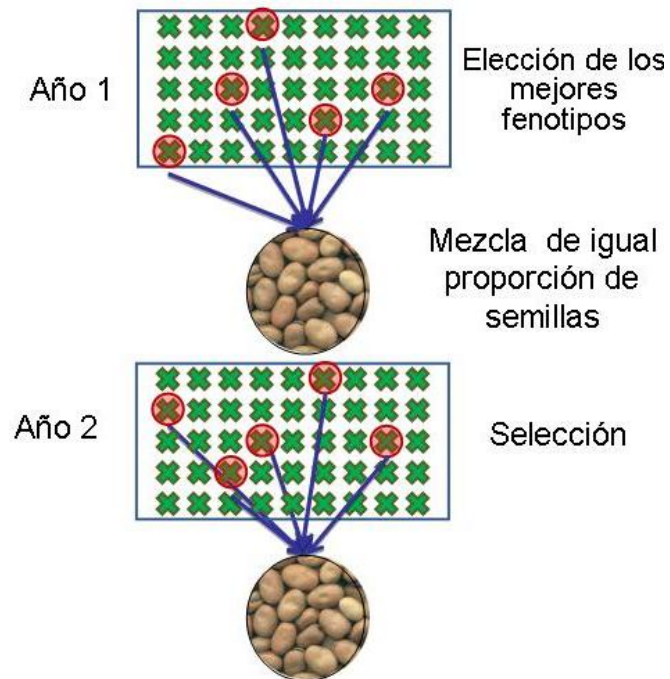
Flower biology essential to decide the breeding method (in some cases, hybrids are not economically viable)

M3 – U2 Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

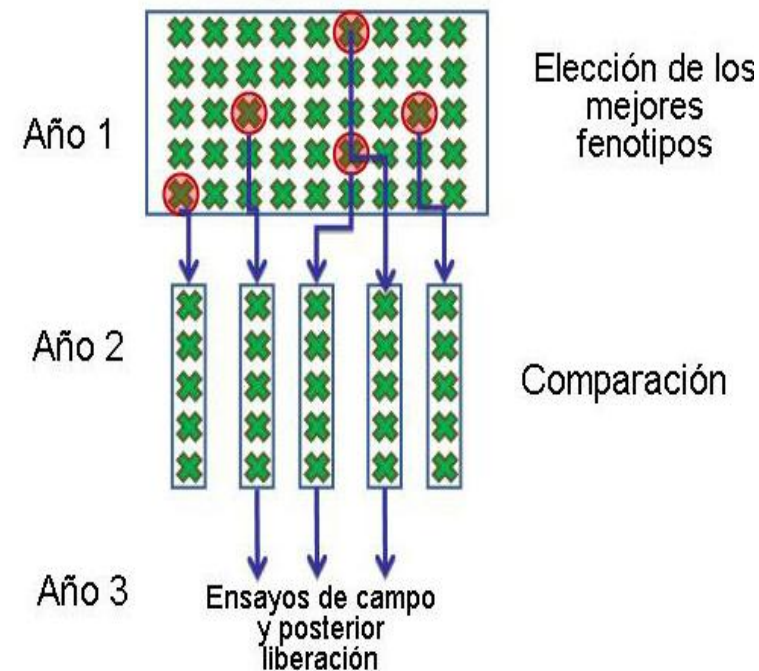
Basics on methods and strategies. Fast review

When the starting population is heterogeneous

Mass selection



Individual selection

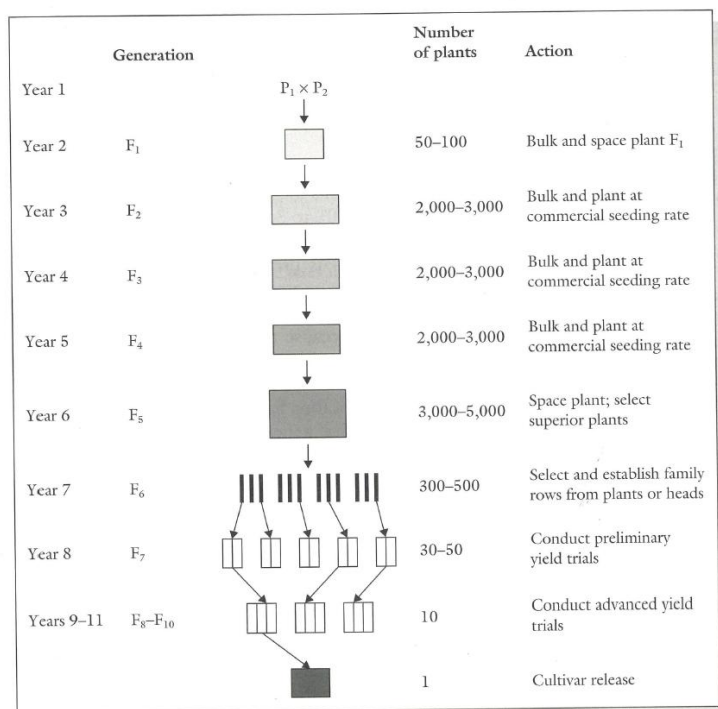


M3 – U2 Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

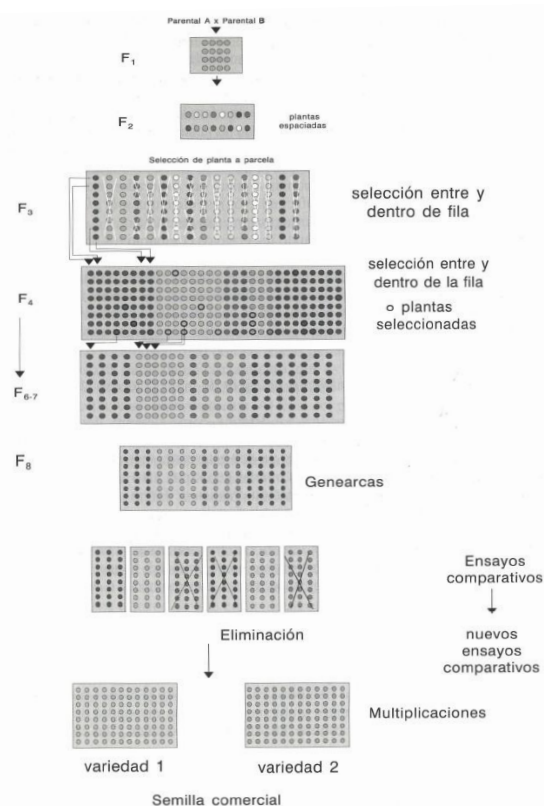
Basics on methods and strategies. Fast review

Creating diversity at the beginning by hybridization

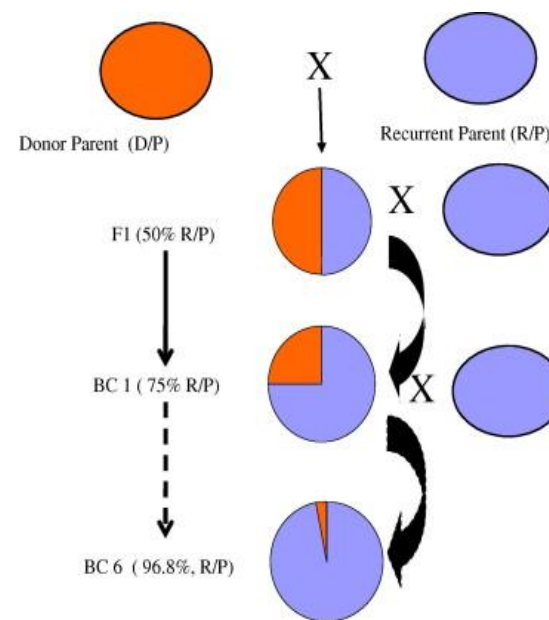
Mass selection



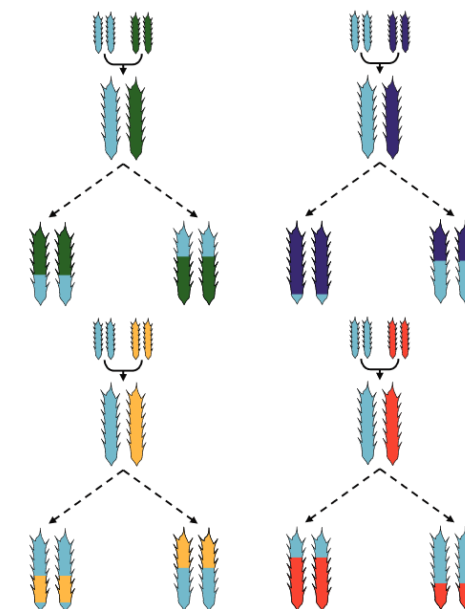
Pedigree method



Backcross method



CCPs



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Basics on methods and strategies. Fast review

As said.... The reproductive system determines the most accurate breeding method

In autogamous no problem on using selfing profusely

In allogamous selfings are limited

M3 – U2 Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

Practical example: Maize (allogamous crop)

Pedro Mendes Moreira (IPC, Portugal)



Module 3 - Breeding methods fundamentals – Allogamic species

Allogamic plants = allogamous or cross-pollinating plants

Species that primarily reproduce through **cross-fertilization** rather than self-fertilization. This reproductive strategy is characterized by the **exchange of genetic material between different individuals**, which **enhances genetic diversity within populations**.

The genetic variability resulting from allogamous reproduction is crucial for the **adaptability and resilience** of plant species in changing environments.

Some facts that we need to know about the plant we are working in

male inflorescence, the **tassel**, produces **25 million pollen grains**

a pair of male spikelets with three anthers dangling from the upper floret in the pedicelled spikelet

a single style, called silk, with adhering pollen grains, extending from one of the pistils in a female spikelet

a pair of young female spikelets and associated cupule

numerous styles forming the silks

female inflorescence, the ear on the tip of a side branch with up to 1000 ovules (i.e., potential kernels)

Leaves of side branch forming husks

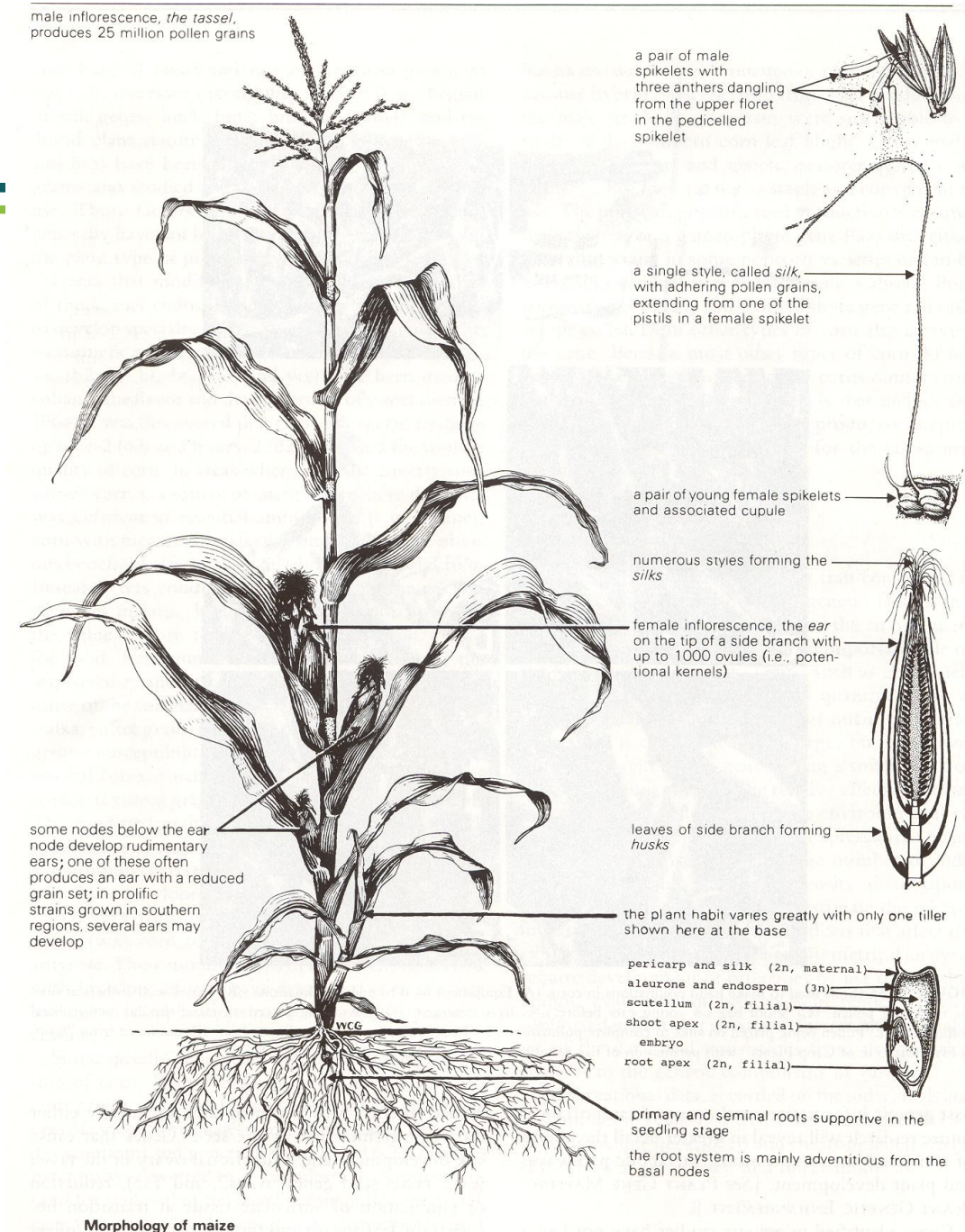


FIGURE 1 Morphology of the corn plant showing the physical structure of the corn plant and the placement of the male (tassel) and female (silk) flowers. (Drawing was by Walter G. Galinat and reproduced with his permission).

Some facts that we need to know about the plant we are working in - Morphology of maize

The plant habit varies greatly with only one tiller shown here at the base

pericarp and silk (2n, maternal aleurone and endosperm (3n) scutellum (2n, filial).

shoot apex (2n, filial)

embryo root apex (2n, filial)

some nodes below the ear node develop rudimentary ears; one of these often produces an ear with a reduced grain set; in prolific strains grown in southern regions, several ears may develop

primary and seminal roots supportive in the seedling stage

the root system is mainly adventitious from the basal nodes

FIGURE 1. plant showing the physical structure of the corn plant and the placement of the male (tassel) female (silk) flowers.

(Drawing was by Walter G. Galinat).

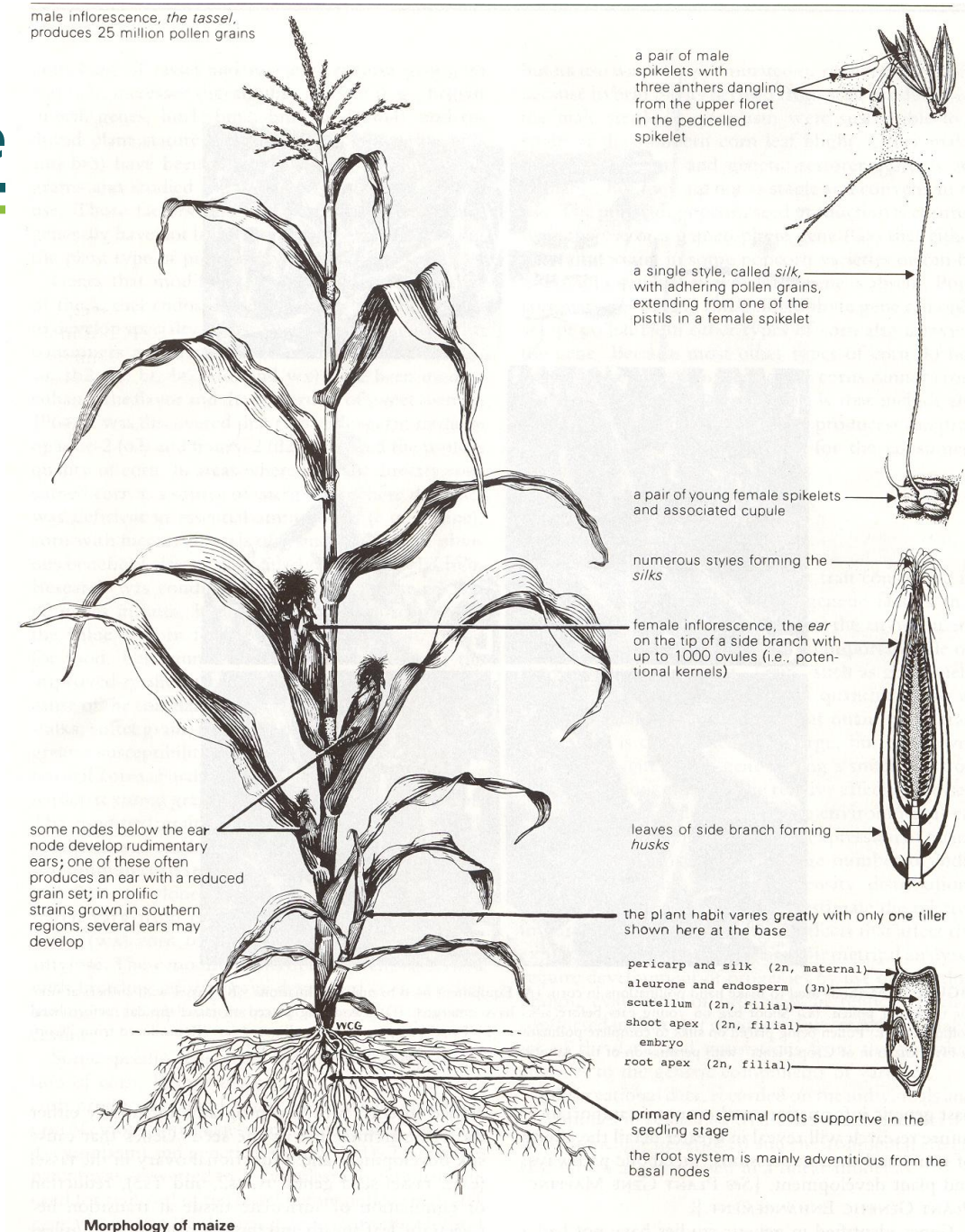


FIGURE 1 Morphology of the corn plant showing the physical structure of the corn plant and the placement of the male (tassel) and female (silk) flowers. (Drawing was by Walter G. Galinat and reproduced with his permission).

Flowering implications



Flowering allows us to know and classify the type of cycle. Early or late?

The homogeneity of the population

Studying possible diallel. Do we need to sow on separate dates?



Stratified mass
selection trials

On-farm trials

Selection

Varieties

Farmer'
germplasm

Given
germplasm

Germplasm

Cycles of
selection

The ABC of phenotypic recurrent selection

Two parental control mass selection:

in the field

- before pollen shedding

- before harvesting

- at the storing facilities

A. Antes da floração

Olhe para as plantas! - Desbandeira as "doentes e anormais"



B. À colheita (ou uma semana antes)

1º Produção - Olhe para a espiga!

- a) Tamanho
- b) Mais que uma? (Prolífica)

2º Sanidade - Olhe para as folhas e cale e...pontapé!

- a) Doenças (fungos)
- b) Pragas (insetos)
- c) Raiz

3º Arquitetura - Olhe para as plantas

- a) Altura
- b) Inserção da espiga
- c) Encamisamento
- d) Ângulo das folhas

use dois sacos: 

C. No espigueiro (Armazém)

Olhe para a espiga!

- 1º Comprimento
- 2º Carreiras de grão
- 3º Sanidade - (observa as bases do carolo!)
- 4º Determinada vs indeterminada



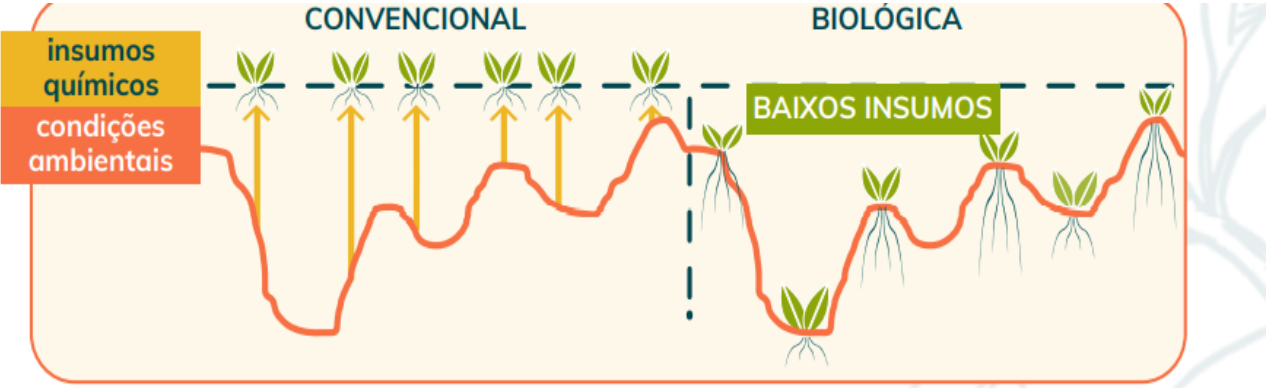
5º Elimine os dois extremos

Figura 3. Esquema de duas seleções de controle parental no campo, Fase A e B ao que se segue a Fase C no espigueiro ou armazém.

What context and requests?

What is stratified selection?
What traits did you define to target?(e.g. Ear height, stand)

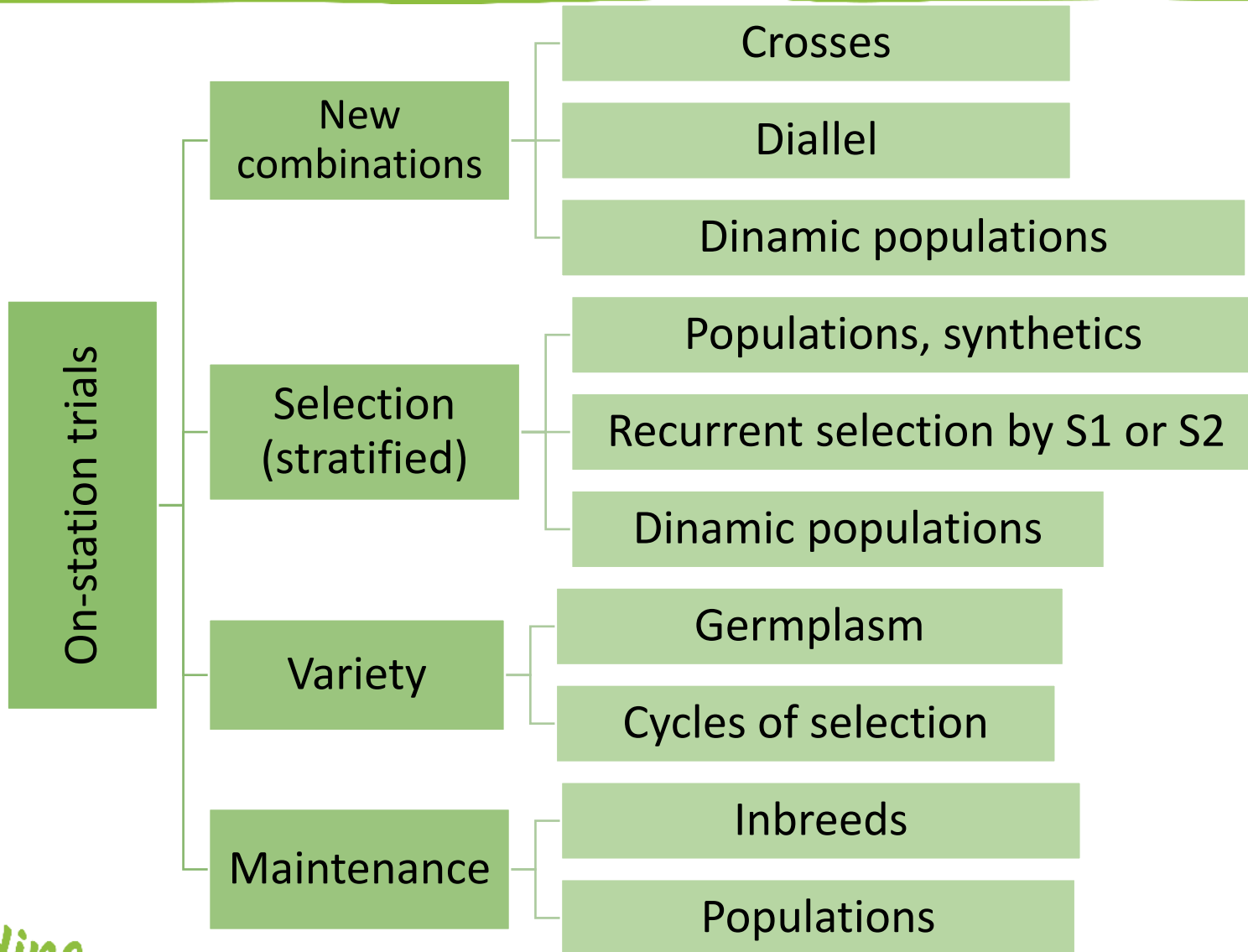
Bordadura	Bordadura	Bordadura	Bordadura	Bordadura
Bordadura	Var 1	Var 2	Var 3	Bordadura
Bordadura	Var2	Var4	Var5	Bordadura
Bordadura	Var 3	Var 5	Var 1	Bordadura
Bordadura	Var 4	Var 3	Var 4	Bordadura
Bordadura	Var 5	Var 1	Var 2	Bordadura
Bordadura	Bordadura	Bordadura	Bordadura	Bordadura



Trials



On-station



Preparation for Pollinations





Pollinations









Story of a synthetic population,

76 yellow elite inbred lines (dent and flint; 20% Portuguese and 80% North American

1	2		76
76	...	2	1

“NUTICA” – 1975-78

1983 - North Carolina Design 1 matting design (1 male crossed with 5 females)

‘Fandango’- on farm introduction and mass selection until today

And other Populations

‘FANDANGO’: LONG TERM ADAPTATION OF EXOTIC GERMPLASM TO A PORTUGUESE ON-FARM-CONSERVATION AND BREEDING PROJECT

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³ Estação Agronómica Nacional, Instituto Nacional de Recursos Biológicos, Portugal

⁴ Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto, DEI, Portugal

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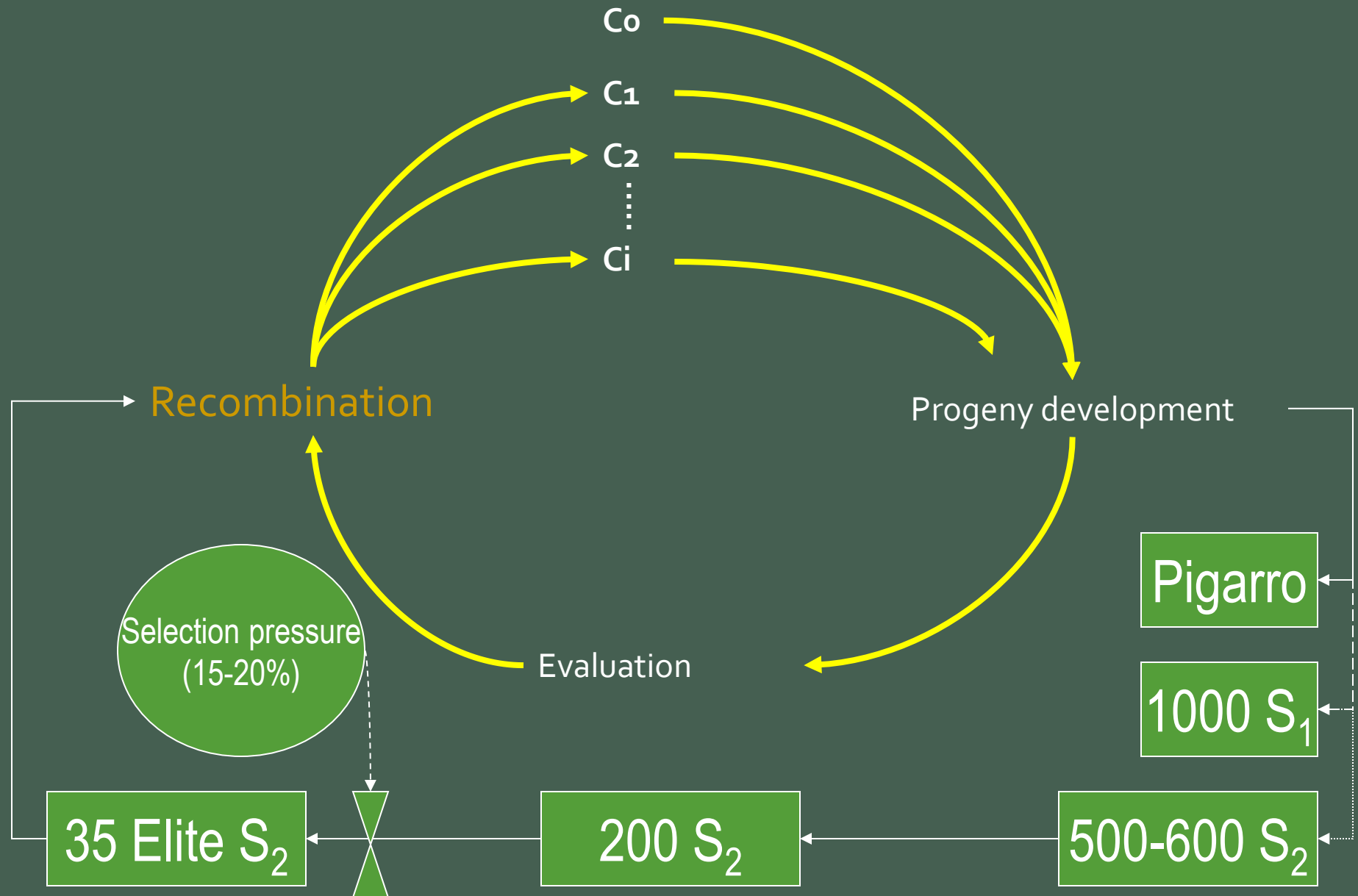
⁹ Zea+, Portugal

Received July 6, 2009

ABSTRACT - Climatic change emphasize the importance of biodiversity maintenance, suggesting that germplasm across cycles was done by the breeder (until cycle 5) and farmer (before cycle 11 till present). ANOVA and regression

[Mendes-Moreira, P. M. M., Patto, M. V., Mota, M., Moreira, J. P. C. L. M., Santos, J. P. N., Santos, J. P. P., ... & Pego, S. E. \(2009\). " Fandango": long term adaptation of exotic germplasm to a Portuguese on-farm-conservation and breeding project.](#)

POPULATION C_0 (SELECTION BY S_2 LINES) PIGARRO





Our varieties are Irreverent!

In this photo you can see mostly hybrid maize and below our traditional varieties that have different vegetation habits.

Foto por Felipe Hanower

Module 3 - Breeding methods fundamentals

Broad diversity? Prebreeding Work

The HUNTERS (Hight, Uniformity, aNgle, Tassel, Ear, Root lodging and Stalk lodging) analysis was developed as a method of evaluation

1–9 scale (1: very low, 2: very low to low, 3: low, 4: low to intermedium, 5: intermedium, 6: intermedium to high, 7: high, 8: high to very high and 9: very high) defining an average value per plot ([Vaz Patto et al., 2007](#); [Mendes Moreira et al., 2008](#))

H: Plant high (m) from the stalk basis to the last leaf insertion before the tassel.

U: Uniformity, complementary to diversity, where 1 is the minimum of uniformity and 9 the maximum. In general 1–4 applies to populations and 5–9 to inbreds.

N: Angle of the adaxial side of the leaf above the ear with the stalk. $<5^\circ$ - angles inferior to 45° and $>5^\circ$, angles higher than 45° . Five = 45° angle.

T: Tassel branching. One - almost absent tassel common in inbreds and hybrids, and 9 a very branched tassel, frequent in populations with abnormal fasciated ears.

E: Ear location. Five indicates that the ear is located in the middle of the plant.

R: Root lodging. It indicates the percentage of lodged plants and is related with the quality of the root system.

S: Stalk lodging. Percentage of broken plants. Is normally related with the quality of the stalk and the stalk damage caused by some insect attack.



Module 3 - Breeding methods fundamentals

Yes! We can easily connect this traits with SEEDLINKED



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Practical example: Common bean (autogamous crop)

Barbara Pipan (KIS, Slovenia)

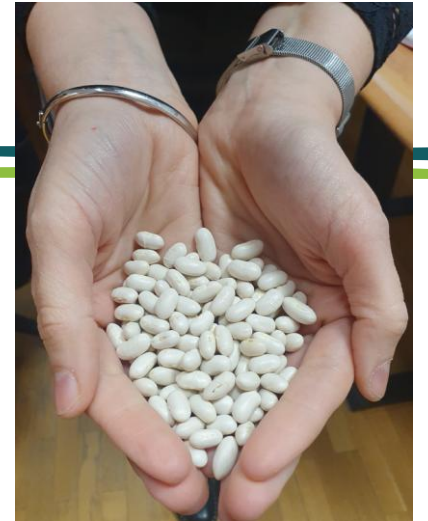


Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.)

- ✿ Is one of the **most important edible legumes** for direct human consumption in the world, as it is a valuable source of **protein, carbohydrates, fibre** and is a rich source of other components with nutritional and health benefits.
- ✿ For the Slovenian production area, **common bean is known as a vegetable** of increasing agronomic interest.
- ✿ In the past, **four different varieties** of common bean (*Zorin*, *Klemen*, *Jabelski pisanec*, *Jabelski stročnik*) were developed at KIS using **individual selection** procedures from **autochthonous populations**.
- ✿ In the last decade we started with **hand cross-pollination** of dwarf and climbing bean for both dry bean and fresh pod consumption.



- ✿ *Recently, we are introducing the organic breeding as well in parallel with conventional breeding*



Plant breeding and ideotype



- ❑ **Plant breeding is the science and art of improving plants to produce desired traits.**
- ❑ This involves selecting plants with favorable characteristics and breeding them to enhance qualities such as yield, disease resistance, drought tolerance, and nutritional value.
- ❑ The **goal is to develop new plant varieties** that are more productive, resilient, and beneficial for agriculture and horticulture.



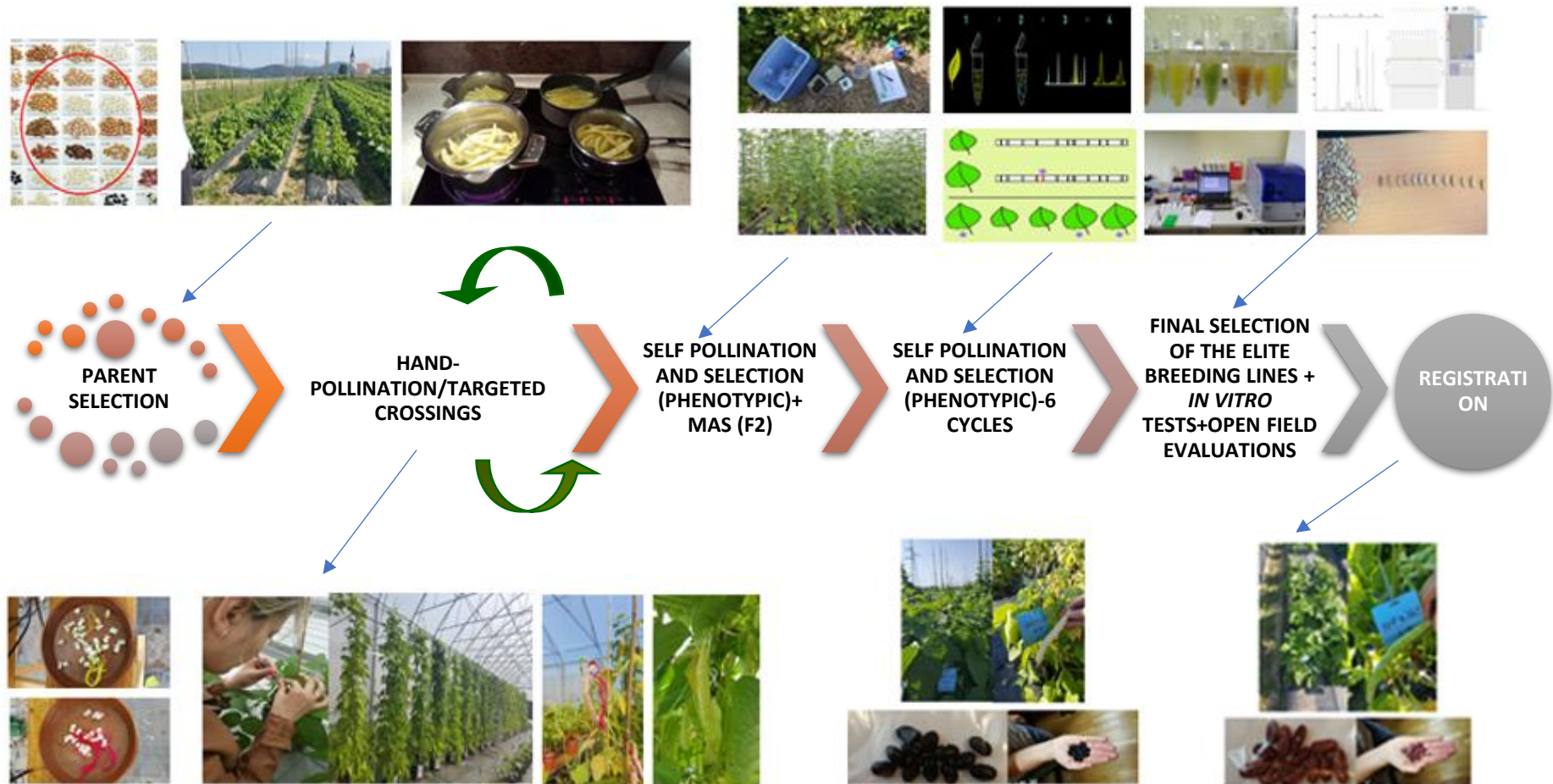
- ❑ An **ideotype** refers to an **idealized model of a plant** that possesses a combination of traits aimed at achieving maximum yield and quality within a specific environment. This concept was first introduced by *Donald in 1968*.
- ❑ When breeding plants, the goal is to develop new varieties with desirable characteristics. **An ideotype serves as a blueprint for these characteristics, guiding breeders in selecting and combining traits.**
- ❑ By targeting these traits, breeders can create plants that are more efficient in utilizing resources and better suited to their growing conditions.

Breeding objectives

- ✿ **Tolerant to biotic** (BMMV/BCMV, CBB, Anthracnose, bruchid) and **abiotic** (high T, water) **stresses**.
- ✿ **Earliness** (flowering before high temperatures occur and induce flower shedding).
- ✿ Tending to develop new „**maslenec**“ type of varieties-> forms yellow/green, long, flat and stringless pods (for climbing types).
- ✿ The **favourable position of the pods on the plant** (for dwarf types).
- ✿ **High-yielding** varieties.
- ✿ **Favourable nutritional composition** (↑proteins, Fe, Zn...; ↓phytic acid).



Breeding workflow



Identification of the parental breeding lines and hand pollination

- Available germplasm
- Characterisation and evaluation of the common bean germplasm on different complementary levels /phenomics:

phenotypic: UPOV, CPVO, IBPGR, Phaselieu, internal

genetics and genomics data: DNA markers, SNPs -> trait-associated

transcriptomics, metabolomics: associated with secondary metabolites, nutritional characteristics

general agronomic performance



- Superior parental lines, with desired traits that we want to transfer on progenies via targeted hand –pollination with regards on the breeding objectives.

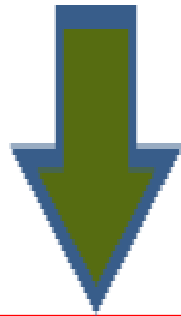


- Hand cross pollination of superior parental genotypes as described by Ivančič (2002).
- Every morning during flowering period of parental genotypes from June until the end of July under protected conditions.
- Each maternal plant was manually cross pollinated with different paternal genotypes.

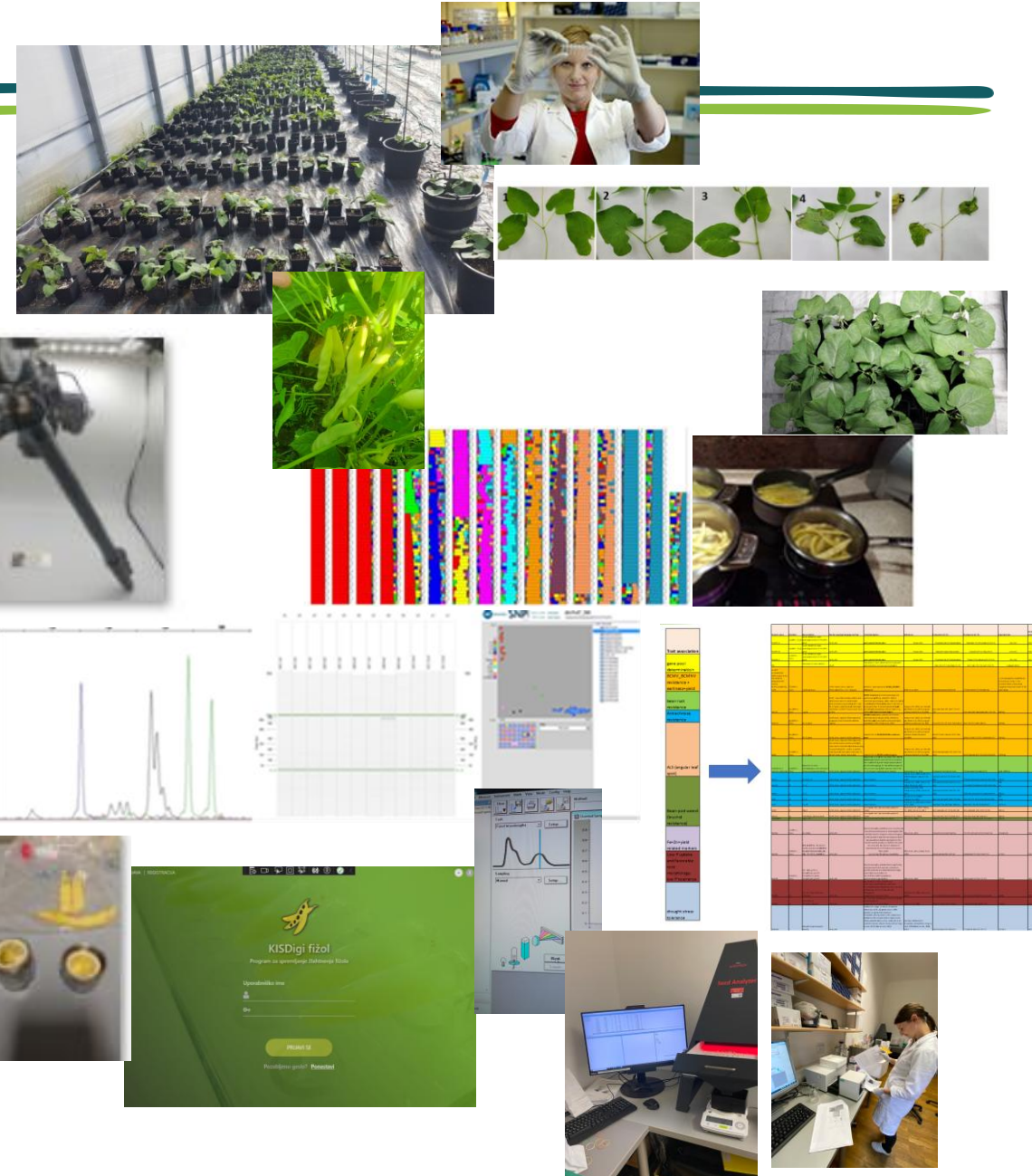


Self-pollination, phenotypic selection, MAS and final selection

- ❑ Under protected conditions, from F1 to F6.
- ❑ Self-pollination and phenotypic selection regarding breeding objectives.
- ❑ MAS in F2 (a panel of 24 trait-related functional DNA markers).
- ❑ Biochemical and nutritional quality assessments (F6) for amino acids, macro/micro elements, fibers, fatty acids, phytic acid, proteins, TI content and activity, sugars (pods)...
- ❑ Organoleptic traits.



Selection of the elite breeding lines for open field performance and *in vitro* tests.



Open-field performance, in vitro tests and registration

- **Randomised blocks**, 3 rep., along with standard varieties /different locations
- ***In vitro* tests** for susceptibility to BCMNV, *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* and *Pseudomonas phaseoli*
- **Final selection**
- **Seed quality testing** (ISTA accredited lab)
- **Submission to CPVO technical protocol:** CPVO/TQ-012/4.



CPVO
Community Plant Variety Office

Application n°A201803780

APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY PLANT VARIETY RIGHT TO THE COMMUNITY PLANT VARIETY OFFICE
APP_FORM
Mandatory fields or sections are marked with an asterisk (*)

I . Breeder's reference: K15452x306

II . Species name: Phaseolus vulgaris L.



CPVO
Community Plant Variety Office

Breeder Ref.

Technical Questionnaire

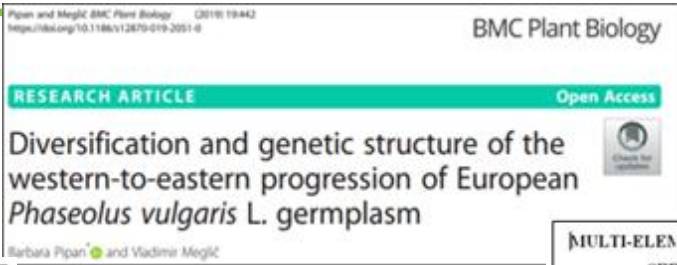
French bean
CPVO/TQ-012/4 27/02/2013
Mandatory fields or sections are marked with an asterisk (*)

Results_New KIS varieties (3) and OHM (2)



Under registration process: 4 (different stages and years of DUS tests)

Results_Scientific publications and additional materials



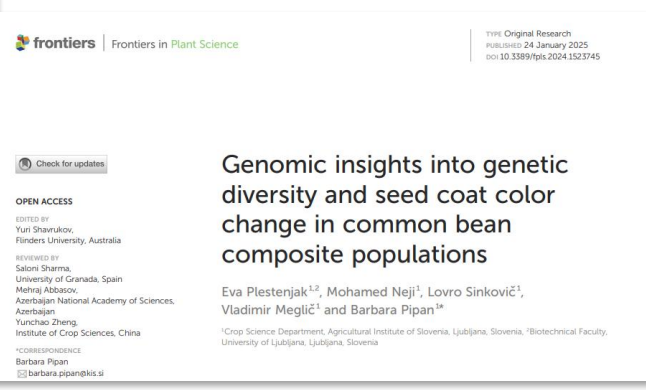
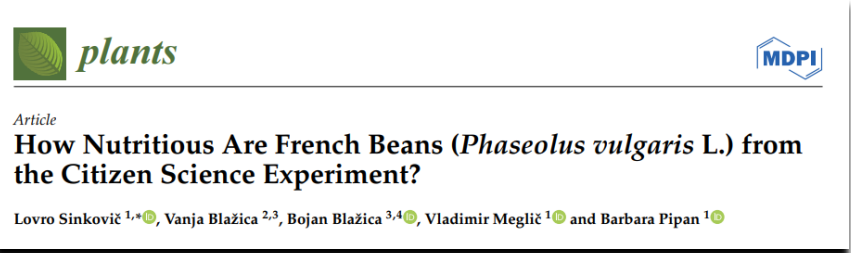
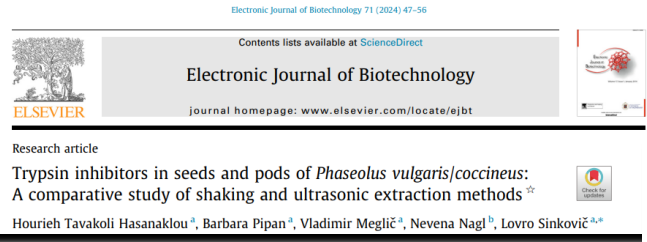
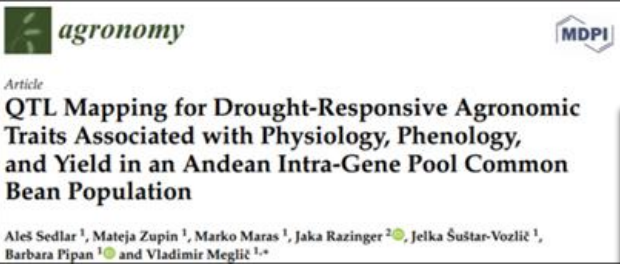
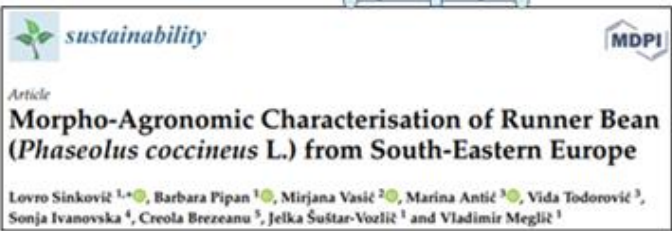
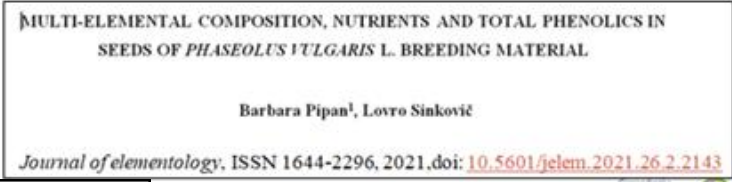
Disease Note

Diseases Caused by Fungi and Fungus-Like Organisms

First Report of *Colletotrichum incanum* Causing Leaf Spots on Common Bean in Europe (Slovenia)

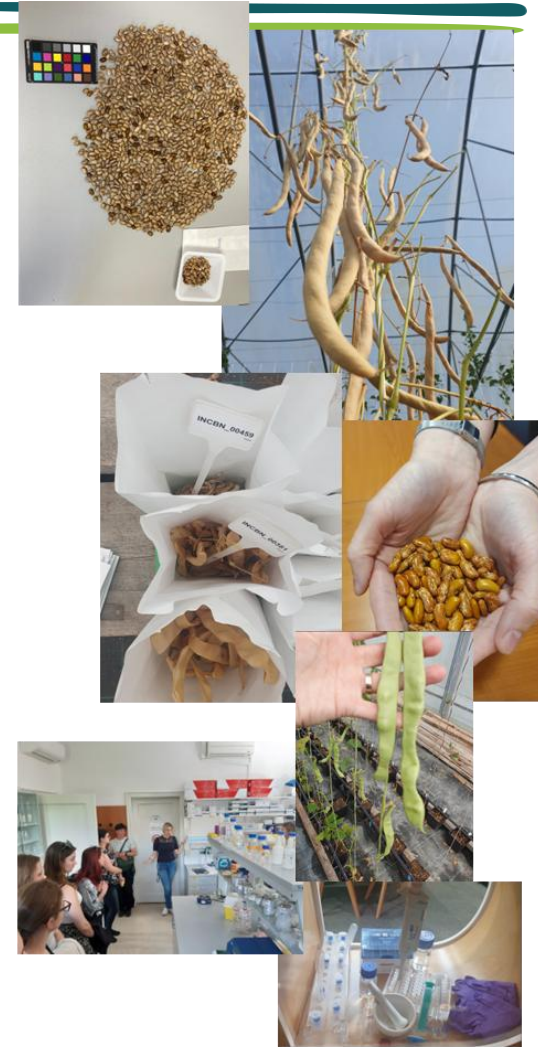
H.-J. Schroers,¹ J. Zajc, B. Pipan, V. Meglič, E. Kovačec,² and M. Žerjav

Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia



Main challenges for the future

- ✿ To find the **elite germplasm** of common bean.
- ✿ To address the **breeding objectives** complementary with the **agroecological changes/conditions**.
- ✿ To employ **new breeding approaches** into the existing breeding programme.
- ✿ To **accelerate** breeding procedure.
- ✿ To **implement the organic breeding** in parallel with conventional breeding programme.
- ✿ To find the **competent human resources**.
- ✿ To implement **citizen science approach**?
- ✿ After registration: **Maintenance** and **marketing** of the developed varieties.



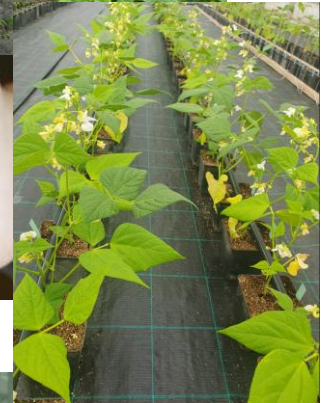
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Irena Mavrič Pleško
Janja Zajc
Janja Lamovšek

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Lovro Sinkovič
Zala Bohar
Živa Jurič
Hourieh Tavakoli
Eva Plestenjak (MR)
Jelka Šuštar Vozlič
Vladimir Meglič
Jernej Korošec
Barbara Pipan



Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency



M3 – U2 Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

COMMON QUIZ

Question 1: Why stratified mass selection is preferably chosen for farmers selection than recurrent selection by S2 lines

☐ More complex/less complex

Question 2: Should I follow the same methodology for conservation of inbreds and maize populations, i.e., by selfing

☐ Yes/no

Question 3: Maize tassel produces circa 25 million grains of pollen

☐ Yes/no

Question 4: Can farmers produce population hybrid seed?

☐ Yes/no

Question 5: What is the official name of the test needed for the registration of a new (common bean) variety?

Question 6: Using the example of common bean, how long does it take on average to develop a new registered variety (using traditional breeding methods allowed for organic breeding)?

Question 7: Are the breeding objectives associated with the traits of interest to be improved through the common bean breeding programme?

COMMON QUIZ



Send to :

adrodbur@doctor.upv.es and petra.jelincic@ips-konzalting.hr

In 15 min



M3 – U2 Common methods and strategies in organic breeding

DEBATE

- ☐ *Revise the quiz in common*
- ☐ *What I know about allogamic plants? And about autogamous?*
- ☐ *Own previous experiences*
- ☐ *Other questions and doubts*

Additional available materials

1. [Mendes-Moreira, P., Satovic, Z., Mendes-Moreira, J., Santos, J. P., Nina Santos, J. P., Pego, S., & Vaz Patto, M. C. \(2017\). Maize participatory breeding in Portugal: Comparison of farmer's and breeder's on-farm selection. *Plant breeding*, 136\(6\), 861-871.](#)
2. [Vaz Patto, M. C., Moreira, P. M., Carvalho, V., & Pego, S. \(2007\). Collecting maize \(*Zea mays* L. convar. *mays*\) with potential technological ability for bread making in Portugal. *Genetic Resources and Crop Evolution*, 54, 1555-1563.](#)
3. [F. Rey, E. Flipon \(Eds.\); P. Riviere, F. Rey, I. Goldringer \(auts\), 2021. Selecting the appropriate methodology for organic on-farm cultivar trials: a technical guide for researchers and facilitators. LIVESEED project](#)
4. J.I. Cubero-Salmerón. 2013. Introducción a la Mejora Genética Vegetal. 3a edición. Libro completo. ISBN 978-84-8476-655-1. Ediciones Mundi-Prensa, Madrid, España. 602 p.
5. [G. Acquaah. 2020. Principles of Plant Genetics and Breeding. 3rd edition. Book. Wiley, West Sussex, UK. FiBL manual on new breeding techniques?](#)
6. [E.T. Lammerts van Bueren and J. Myers \(editors\). 2012. Organic crop breeding. Book. Wiley, West Sussex, UK. 312 p.](#)
7. [M. Messmer, K.P. Wilbois, C. Baier, F. Schäfer, C. Arncken, D. Drexler and I. Hildermann 2015. Plant Breeding Techniques: An assessment for organic farming. ISBN 978-3-03736-286-0. FiBL, Switzerland. 48 p.](#)
8. H. C. Brookfield, Helen Parsons, Muriel Brookfield. 2003. Agrobiodiversity: Learning from farmers across the world. Book. United Nations University Press, New York, USA. 343 p.

WRAP UP



- ☐ *What we have learned today?*
- ☐ *Proposed homework: You have a maize population (allogamic) that you want to maintain. What strategies can you apply to maintain your population from contamination?*

Send to :

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By next thursday 20th february



LiveSeeding

Thanks for your attention!

VI_EUCARPIA CONFERENCE

on breeding to meet environmental &
societal challenges

26th TO 28th

MAY 2025
PORTUGAL

Instituto Politécnico
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