



Agri Kulti Press Release:

EU Project Promotes Cultivation of Pulses in Europe

Agri Kulti Nonprofit Ltd. engages in research project “TRUE” toward sustainable farming systems based on legumes

Legumes: a special crop

Legumes are a very special type of crop, they are characterised as a sustainable source of highly nutritious food and feed. ‘Sustainable’, since legumes require no inorganic nitrogen fertiliser, and this efficiency saving is added to by improvements to soil qualities and total productivity when deployed in a modern crop rotation. The nitrogen demand of legumes is met naturally via a symbiosis with soil bacteria that is contained in legume root nodules.

Despite their benefits, legume based systems have not been adopted in common farming practice, due largely to the fact that their potential profitability is questioned. Pulses only grow on 2-3 per cent of the arable land in the EU. That makes the EU highly dependent on imports of feed-legumes and fossil energy, which is required for the production of inorganic nitrogen fertilisers.

A new, European-wide research project intends to change this. In the project TRUE (**TR**ansition paths to **sU**stainable legume-based systems in **E**urope), 24 project partners from 10 European countries have gotten together to explore and develop sustainable legume-based farming systems and agri-feed and food chains in the EU. The group includes not only researchers from different backgrounds, but also businesses operating in legume commodity production and processing and other actors from the practice.

The Agri Kulti Nonprofit Ltd. will contribute to the research project with a comprehensive case study on how to use **pulses in short food supply chains: from small-scale farms to urban gastronomy**. Agri Kulti aims to examine the possibility of introducing and enhancing traditional legume varieties into urban gastronomy and to reveal the conditions of this from the producers’ and consumers’ perspectives.

During the 4-year projects traditional Hungarian pulse varieties will be tested in production by small and medium-scale farmers, processed into high-quality food products and tested by consumers at various scenes of urban gastronomy: from street food through catering to leading restaurants.

Innovation for more healthy and profitable legume-based products

The whole diversity of available legume species and pedo-climatic conditions across Europe is covered by TRUE, looking at 24 case studies from the production and use of crops such as beans or chickpeas for healthy dishes in Portugal, to the processing of peas into beverages in the UK to the marketing of organic traditional lentils in Germany.

TRUE innovates across the supply chain – from the development of novel farming practices such as the use of pulses as “vegetable fertilisers” or “living manures”, to the testing of new food technologies for improved feed and food formulation. Feed innovations include use of lupins and





faba beans for novel aquaculture feeds. Additionally, there will be sustainability assessments of various legume-based systems.

Project TRUE aims to unite socio-economy and ecology

TRUE wants to harness the environmental and social benefits and potentials of legumes, e.g. reducing environmentally damaging greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution as well as for a healthier nutrition with high value proteins while at the same time increasing the commercial competitiveness of EU grown legume crops. Specific recommendations will be proposed to influence relevant policies, such as the EU's Common Agricultural Policy.

TRUE invites legume stakeholders to connect with the project to build a European network for the promotion of these crops.

Background: Project TRUE – TRansition paths to sUstainable legume-based systems in Europe

Agri Kulti Nonprofit Ltd is part of a wide European consortium that has been successful in receiving a €5 million grant from the EC's Horizon 2020 programme "*Sustainable Food Security (SFS) - Resilient and resource-efficient value chains*". The project with the acronym "TRUE" (*TR*ansition paths to *sU*stainable legume-based systems in *E*urope) involves 24 project partners from 10 European countries – Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain, including scientists, businesses operating in legume commodity production and processing and other actors from the practice.

The consortium is coordinated by Dr. Pietro Iannetta, who is based at the James Hutton Institute (www.hutton.ac.uk) in Scotland, UK.

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For further information about TRUE, please visit the website www.true-project.eu or Facebook under @TrueLegumes or contact info@true-project.eu

*TR*ansition paths to *sU*stainable legume-based systems in *E*urope (TRUE), has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 727973

