



Transition paths to sustainable legume-based systems in Europe

## Opportunities of stakeholders for legume-based innovation. The case of Hungary

In Hungary, the harvested area of beans, peas and lentils were the largest in 1989 within the whole arable land area (3.5%). However, since the 1990s, this has been declining continuously, now accounting for only 0.5% with production most likely occurring in farms below 1 hectare.

During the same period of time, the harvested area of soybeans has doubled, mainly cultivated in large scale farm holdings. These production trends reflect the relatively weak profitability of legumes, the volatility of yields, and the small demand at the national level.

Key stakeholders along the Hungarian legume value chain identified four significant opportunities to overcome the downward spiral of legume production-consumption:

- Research & Development: national funds for R&D activities could be increased through strategic partnerships (e.g. Danube Soy) and EU based research projects.
- Production: GMO-free production is guaranteed at the national level which can result in price premiums. Area-based compensation and greening measures could be applied at a larger scale. Including a wide array of different varieties in production could also benefit climate change adaptation and contribute to new product development.

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All Practice Abstracts prepared by the TRUE Project in the EIP-Agri common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/transition-paths-sustainable-legume-based-systems>





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- Processing: Increasing demand in the healthy, vegetarian and vegan food market segments allowing for innovative product development.
- Consumption: legumes could be given a more substantial role in public food catering as a cheap and sustainable alternative to meat consumption



Figure 1. Various legumes and pulses . Photo credits ©: Mariana Duarte



### About TRUE

The EU funded project "TRansition paths to sUustainable legume based systems in Europe" (TRUE) is a balanced practice-research partnership of 24 institutions, which aims to identify the best routes, or "transition paths" to **increase sustainable legume cultivation and consumption across Europe** and includes the entire legume feed and food value chains.

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