



**ENDURE NEWS, Issue 33, June 2021**

**Welcome to the 33rd edition of ENDURE News, the electronic newsletter from ENDURE. Please feel free to share this newsletter with colleagues.**

- **Weed threat 'greater than ever'**

A combination of factors means that crops are now more vulnerable to weeds than before the introduction of herbicides, according to a UK study. Researchers have exploited data from the world's longest-running agricultural experiment, Rothamsted Research's Broadbalk wheat trial, to highlight the threat posed by weeds.



- **New international group to tackle weeds**

An international consortium of scientists and industry professionals has been formed to harness new genomic techniques to address the growing threat that weeds pose to crops. Called the International Weed Genomics Consortium, the group is being led by the USA's Colorado State University (CSU) and includes the UK's Rothamsted Research.



- **Red flag raised for banana crops**

Researchers from ENDURE partners Wageningen University & Research (WUR) and CIRAD are among those contributing to a new study which shows that fungicides are losing their effectiveness against Black Sigatoka (Black Leaf Streak Disease or BLS), a devastating disease in banana crops.



- **New focus on mixed farming systems**

A couple of relatively new Horizon 2020 projects are now up and running and paving the way for more resilient, efficient and sustainable agriculture in Europe. As its name suggests, the MIXED project is exploring different types of mixed agricultural systems, such as agroforestry, in the belief that these approaches offer many benefits. Meanwhile, AGROMIX is bringing together researchers, farmers and policymakers to explore the transition towards resilient farming, efficient land use, and sustainable agricultural value chains in Europe.\*



- **How grapevine downy mildew travelled the world**

Hopes have been raised of efficient breeding for grapevines resistant to downy mildew, alongside the better design of quarantine regulations, following the work of French scientists who have unpicked the arrival of the North American disease in Europe and its subsequent spread around the world.



- **Agroecology 'helps tackle zoonoses'**

In addition to its better known advantages, taking an agroecological approach to crop protection can reduce the risk of the emergence of viral zoonoses, according to a study published by CIRAD researchers in the Science of the Total Environment journal.



- **CABI launches new invasives website**

CABI has launched a new easy-to-use website dedicated to taking action against invasive species. The website is designed to help users learn more about the "devastating economic, environmental and social impacts invasive species have and what we can do to manage them".



- **Focus on rarer arable crops**

Agroscope, ENDURE's Swiss partner, is to lead a work package dedicated to diversified cropping systems as part of the €6 million Horizon 2020 project CROPDIVA. CROPDIVA, whose name is derived from 'Climate Resilient Orphan crops for increased DIVERSity in Agriculture', is to examine arable crops that are currently rarely grown compared to wheat and potatoes.



- **France seeks to drive innovation in plant genetics**

Some 28 of France's leading public and private research organisations involved in plant science, plant breeding and connected technologies have come together to form PlantAlliance, a consortium designed to boost the pace of innovation in genetics, genomics and the breeding of new varieties.



- **Positive diversification in Spain**

Four years after the launch of the Diverfarming project, its Spanish team has been able to analyse the first results of their trials, encompassing the introduction of a number of innovative diversification measures and sustainable farming practices over the course of three years.



- **BreedingValue launches berry calls**

BreedingValue has launched the first of its Open Calls for proposals, a mechanism through which it is seeking to transfer funding and knowledge from the project to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the field of berry breeding.



- **COCOREADO website goes live**

The COCOREADO website has now gone live, giving internet users the opportunity to learn more about the Horizon 2020 project which will be "connecting consumers and producers to rebalance farmers' position".



- **DiverIMPACTS: Catch up with latest videos!**

The DiverIMPACTS project has recently added two new videos to its YouTube channel, bringing the total number available to 15. One video focuses on organic and soil conservation farmers who are working together in the Wallonia region of Belgium, while the other focuses on crop grazing with sheep in the same area, for the benefit of both arable producers and livestock farmers.



- **Online conference: Landscape 2021**

Landscape 2021 - Diversity for Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture is an online conference being held from September 20 to 22 this year. Registration for participation in the conference, including the possibility of signing up for a series of masterclasses, opened on May 1 this year.



- **Healthy interest in innovation vouchers**

Wageningen University & Research (WUR) has reported healthy interest in its innovation voucher system, a scheme which provides applicants with the possibility of testing an innovation or new technology for circular agriculture through WUR's Farm of the Future agroecological research project.



- **Catch up with the James Hutton Institute**

The latest issue of Hutton Highlights, the quarterly review from the James Hutton Institute, is now available. The review is designed to show "how Hutton science is driving the sustainable use of land and natural resources", with the June edition being published on what would have been James Hutton's 295th birthday.



- **Plant BioProTech returns in 2022**

Plant BioProTech returns to France in 2022 for its third edition. The symposium will run from June 28 to July 1, 2022, in Reims in the country's Grand Est region. The organisers are expecting more than 300 visitors and 60 speakers in an event focused on 'The path to a more sustainable agriculture'.



- **Diverfarming: Latest newsletter now available**

The latest newsletter from the Horizon 2020 Diverfarming project is now available. The project is seeking a major shift in European agriculture through crop diversification and a rational use of resources and, accordingly, the newsletter brings readers up to date with the concrete steps taken in some of its work across six countries.



- **2021 Joint Call: Circularity and climate change**

A total of around €16 million has been provisionally reserved for the 2021 Joint Call from four ERA-NETs. ERA-NETs aim to increase substantially the share of funding that Member States dedicate jointly to challenge-driven research and innovation agendas and this year's call addresses "Circularity in mixed crops and livestock farming systems with emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation".



- **Online intercropping event attracts 150+**

More than 150 delegates from research and farming across Europe and beyond attended the virtual conference on 'Intercropping for Sustainability' in January. The event was organised by the DIVERSify and ReMIX projects, working hand in hand with the Association of Applied Biologists.



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