

Welcome to the 34th edition of ENDURE News, the electronic newsletter from ENDURE. Please feel free to share this newsletter with colleagues.

- **DiverIMPACTS: Conference and videos**

The DiverIMPACTS project (Diversification through Rotation, Intercropping, Multiple Cropping, Promoted with Actors and value-Chains Towards Sustainability) is to hold a conference next year. The event, being held on 29 March 2022 in Brussels, Belgium, will focus on 'Learning from systems approaches implemented in DiverIMPACTS to support the agro-ecological transition of agri-food systems'.



- **Going bananas - in the Netherlands!**

When we think of banana production, the Netherlands might not be the first country to come to mind. But bananas were indeed harvested in the country in November, the first crop from the Neder Banaan greenhouse in the town of Ede, central Netherlands. The greenhouse is the result of a collaboration with researchers from Wageningen University and Research (WUR) and is using new cultivation methods and banana varieties that will contribute to more sustainable banana cultivation worldwide.



- **New agroecology publications available**

Freely available new publications in the field of agroecology include a review of agroecological transitions, with a particular focus on deterministic and open-ended perspectives, while the '26th dossier d'Agropolis' is devoted to research and partnerships in agroecology with a focus on the partnership between France and the CGIAR. In addition, in early December The Global Alliance for the Future of Food released a new compendium titled 'The Politics of Knowledge: Understanding the Evidence for Agroecology, Regenerative Approaches, and Indigenous Foodways'.



- **LegValue: Legume success stories**

The LegValue project (Legume Innovation Network) has added a rake of new resources to its website and YouTube channel. These include an examination of the European Union markets for key legumes (faba bean, soya bean, chickpea, lentil and field pea), examples of the successful introduction of legumes into rotations by farmers and the addition of new videos.



- **EuroBlight: Recommendations to combat disease**

EuroBlight, a potato late blight network for Europe, celebrates 25 years of existence this year and has set out a series of recommendations to continue the work to combat the disease, which comes with a huge cost worldwide in terms of its control and crop losses.



- **IPM Decisions: DSS on track for next year**

IPM Decisions is on track to provide access to 17 Decision Support Systems (DSS) through its online platform early in 2022. Scheduled for the first release are DSS dealing with common diseases such as late blight in potato, early blight in tomato and downy mildew in lettuce, alongside invertebrate pests such as carrot rust fly, cabbage moth and cabbage root fly.



- **Rarer crops to return to European fields**

Six 'forgotten' arable crops will be making a comeback in European fields over the next four years, driven by a new project called CROPDIVA (Climate Resilient Orphan croPs for increased DIVERsity in Agriculture). The crops concerned are oats, triticale, buckwheat, faba beans, lupins and hull-less barley.



- **'Potential gold-mine' for wheat breeders**

Scientists at Rothamsted Research have made a series of unexpected discoveries within the wheat genome which they say should lead to new wheat varieties over the coming years. These varieties could include improved traits such as greater disease resistance and better adaptation to climate change.



- **AgriLink: Take the course, explore the abstracts**

Following its final online conference, the AgriLink project officially came to an end in November, leaving behind a legacy of useful tools and information. The project, dedicated to 'Linking farmers, advisers and researchers to boost innovation', has produced 86 practice abstracts, with another 12 due to come, and also offers a free online course for advisers focused on creating innovative agricultural advisory services through a Living Lab.



- **ReMIX: Play the game!**

A range of resources is now available from the ReMIX website. The latest addition to the project's website is a serious game called Interplay, which is designed to help players explore the ecosystem services provided by cereal-legume intercropping options.



- **New Phoma-causing fungus variant in Europe**

A new threat to oilseed rape (OSR) crops has been identified for the first time in Europe. The UK's Rothamsted Research reports that a variant of a fungus that causes Phoma in OSR and other brassicas has been identified in southern England and Northern Ireland.



- **Plants for the Future: report available**

Experts have identified three principles to help the transition towards more sustainable agricultural systems which meet the goals of the European Union's Green Deal in a report which envisions how agriculture will be likely to evolve in the short, medium and long term.



- **Potato developments at James Hutton Institute**

There have been major developments in potato research at Scotland's James Hutton Institute (JHI). A team working with international colleagues has identified 'previously unexplored ways' *Phytophthora infestans*, responsible for several European potato famines, breaks through plant cell walls. In addition, JHI scientists have unveiled plans for a 'Potato Innovation and Translation Hub: a centre of excellence to translate innovation and research into solutions for the potato industry'.



- **French boost for crop adaptation**

France is stepping up its capacity to adapt crops to climate change with the opening of two major facilities in the southern city of Montpellier. The €10.4 million Agropolis Resource Centre for Crop Conservation, Adaptation and Diversity (ARCAD), hosted by ENDURE partner INRAE, is France's first crop conservation 'bank', while CIRAD's €3 million AbioPhen greenhouses make it possible to simulate future climate conditions.



- **New focus on emerging viral diseases**

A new Horizon 2020 project is underway to address viral diseases responsible for major crop losses in tomatoes and cucurbits in Europe and beyond. Called 'VIRTIGATION - Emerging viral diseases in tomatoes and cucurbits: Implementation of mitigation strategies for durable disease management', the project includes INRAE, one of ENDURE's French partners, Germany's Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) and Wageningen University (WU) and Stichting Wageningen Research (WR) from the Netherlands.



- **New project to tackle Scotland's PCN threat**

Scotland's James Hutton Institute is to play a central role in a project to tackle potato cyst nematodes (PCN), a pest threatening the viability of the country's valuable seed potato and bulb production sectors.



- **New stations to boost practical relevance**

Agroscope, ENDURE's Swiss partner, is launching four new experimental stations as part of its strategy to strengthen research and its practical relevance. "The aim of the experimental stations is to answer applied research questions in their respective geographic contexts, in



close cooperation with the agricultural sector and with partners in education and training as well as extension," explains Agroscope.

- **[ABIM 2021: Catch up online](#)**

If you could not attend October's Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting (ABIM), either in person or online, you can catch up with some of the key events via ABIM's YouTube channel. These include the meeting's keynote addresses, a TV-style panel discussion and the Bernard Blum Award for biocontrol innovation.



- **[Deadlines for EWRS Symposium](#)**

Organisers of the 19th European Weed Research Society Symposium are hopeful the event will finally go ahead in June 2022, a year later than originally planned. The event, 'Lighting the future of weed science', is scheduled for 20-23 June 2022 at The Eugenides Foundation (commonly known as the planetarium) in Athens, Greece.



- **[Agricology: Resilience and systems approaches](#)**

The latest edition of the Agricology newsletter focuses on "building resilience through growing more diverse, alternative crops, genetic diversity, working with nature to control weeds, varietal testing, and integrating trees into the farming system". Agricology is an organisation which believes in "practical sustainable farming regardless of labels".



- **[Events calendar: Updates for 2022](#)**

The Events calendar is looking better than it has done for some time, with the rescheduling of events from the past 18 months in 2022, alongside newly planned conferences etc. No-one is taking things for granted, though, with some events going hybrid with a mix of online and in-person attendees and others remaining online.



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