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FORK-TO-FARM AGENT-BASED SIMULATION TOOL AUGMENTING BIODIVERSITY IN THE AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN



BIOVALUE

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Bio Value

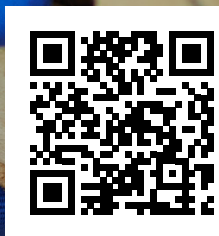
6 Universities
(AUTH, CUT, EMU, JLU, EGE, UNIBO)

3 SMEs
(SOL, IDENER, AXIA)

6 Research Institutions/Associations
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2 Non-Profit Organisations
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PROJECT DETAILS
Start date: October 2021
Duration: 4 YEARS
EU contribution: 6M EURO



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BioValue



Scope

The main aim of the BIOVALUE project is to develop a dynamic and customisable tool that will analyse the link among biodiversity, the agri-food value chain, the environment and consumer's preferences and health. This tool will help to introduce, model, produce, and spread underutilised, genetically diverse crops and final marketable products produced from them. To this aim, a demand driven approach (fork-to-farm) is adopted. The final outcome of the project includes complete novel food dishes and novel processed food products that successfully incorporate underutilised, genetically diverse crops and pave the way for their introduction to the market and therefore enter agricultural production.



The Challenge

Biodiversity for food and agriculture is the foundation of our food systems and is key to integrating highly productive agriculture, nutritious diets, and environmental sustainability. Although Biodiversity plays a crucial role in food security and nutrition, a decrease in diversity of production systems is reported worldwide. In particular, out of thousands of species, less than 200 plant actually contribute to global food production and only 9 of them represent the 66% of the total crop production. This poses a serious risk to global food security and makes agriculture less resilient to climate change, pests, and diseases. BIOVALUE aims to tackle this challenge by analysing and optimising the agri-food value chains since sustainable and dynamic value chains combined with fulfilling dietary human needs can finally determine and maintain biodiversity in European farming systems.



Impact

It is crucial to build knowledge on agrobiodiversity and share information about its use readily available across various sectors, including governments, breeders, the agri-food sector, farms, households, and rural communities. Within BIOVALUE an extensive breeding programme is foreseen to expand the knowledge base for the cultivation and exploitation of genetically diverse crops. Our ultimate vision within this project is to generate recurring and spreading effects, such as landscape transformation, diverse food supply chains and mainly "diverse" food dishes. The whole picture of the European plains will start changing from oligo-cultural systems to poly-cultural ones, with unprecedented benefits for the environment and consumers' health.