



EU Project Promotes Cultivation of Pulses in Europe

IGV GmbH engages in research project "TRUE" towards 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 (TRAnsition paths to sUustainable legume-based systems in Europe), 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 IGV GmbH will contribute to the research project with:

- Analytic capacity especially with analysis of proteins, protein composition and the quality for human nutrition
- Preparation and processing of the seeds, like cleaning, sorting, dehulling and milling
- Increase of the protein content of the milled product by micronization and classification
- Product development by extrusion (snacks, meat-analogues, pasta, baked goods)

IGV is keen to serve the TRUE Project aims, following its motto "Your partner in food technology, for a healthy future".

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

IGV GmbH 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" (TRansition paths to sUstainable legume-based systems in Europe) 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](https://www.facebook.com/TrueLegumes) or contact info@true-project.eu



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