



CROPDIVA and LEGENDARY present the 2nd International Symposium on Agrobiodiversity along the Value Chain

<https://www.agrobiodiversityalongthevaluechain.eu/>

The 2nd International Symposium on Agrobiodiversity along the Value Chain was hosted by the [CROPDIVA](#) and [LEGENDARY](#) project groups at [IRTA](#) in Lleida, Spain, from May 20th – 22nd, 2025.

As the name suggests, the symposium included talks and posters covering various topics related to agrobiodiversity, including genetics, food and feed technology, cropping systems, ecosystem services, and socio-economic factors. Participants could also choose between visiting the food labs at IRTA or touring the research fields.

The CROPDIVA project focusses on six crops underutilized in Europe, including oats. Because of this, there were quite a number of talks and posters (including flash talks) that discussed oats.

Talks:

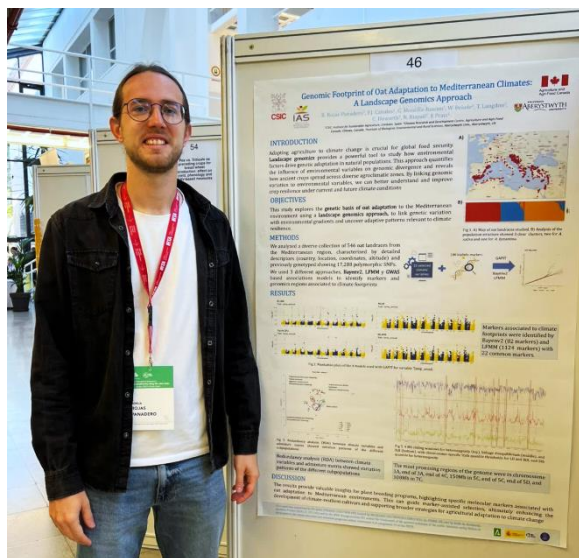
- Yannik Schlup (Switzerland): “In-depth evaluation of provisioning ecosystem services in diverse pulses-oats mixed cropping systems”
- Takashi Tanaka (Denmark): “Impact of nitrogen and planting patterns on oat-faba bean intercropping”
- Fabiola Vilaseca (Spain): “From waste to resource: transforming plant-based drink by-products into fibre-based packaging materials”
- Catherine Howarth (UK): “Autumn seeding of spring oats to improve yield and quality”

Posters (flash talks):

- Selma Schurack (Germany): “Can cleistogamy contribute to drought stress tolerance in oats?”
- Charlene Wight (Canada): “Wild oat species as a source of rust resistance genes for cultivated oats”
- Adriana Dantas (Spain): “Innovative plant-based drinks: physical, microbial, and sensory properties”
- Davide Emide (Italy): “Biochemical perspectives on agrobiodiversity: unlocking minor crops’ potentials”
- Ashley Roberts (UK): “Oat intercropping: addressing key challenges in pea production sustainability”
- Sylvia Kalli (The Netherlands): “Strip cropping of faba beans: enhancing food safety in biodiversity-positive systems”
- Borja Rojas-Panadero (Spain): “Genomic footprint of oat adaptation to Mediterranean climates: a landscape genomics approach”



- Philippa von Nathusius (Switzerland): “*Fusarium* infection of cereals in mixed cropping with lentils and lupins”
- Radivoje Jevtić (Serbia): “Spring oat and hull-less barley-pea intercropping potentials under Pannonian climate”
- Vesna Župunski (Serbia): “Seed protein content of spring oat and hull-less barley-pea intercrops in Serbia”
- Vladimir Acín (Serbia): “Effects of cereal-legume cropping systems on soil fertility in extreme weather conditions”



Borja Rojas-Panadero with his poster on the genomics of oat diversity around the Mediterranean

Catherine Howarth presenting her talk on autumn sowing of spring oats in the UK (with Matthias Herrmann and Geert Haesaert chairing the session)





The weather in Spain had been relatively damp for the region, so the crops seen on the field tour looked very healthy. One of the sponsors of the consortium was [Hiphen](#), which produces field imaging equipment. There was a demonstration of their equipment in the field, as well as one from IRTA staff on using drones for phenotyping.



A demo of Hiphen's phenotyping system and a discussion on drones, led by Adrian Gracia Romero (shown with Fabio Fania and Marta Da Silva Lopes)



A mixed intercropping experiment with oats and lentils. The lentils were a bit shaded out by the oats. On the right are the two crops grown in monoculture (being examined and discussed by Steffen Beuch, Marta Da Silva Lopes, and Filippo Carmenati)



As the focus of the conference was agrobiodiversity, it was fitting that wild oats of undetermined species could be seen in both the fields and the city itself.



Wild oats in the city and in the field

Some images from the food lab tour can be seen in [this video](#) about the meetings. An article about the symposium can be read [here](#) (in Catalan).

Many thanks to Marta Da Silva Lopes and Pere Gou from IRTA and Geert Haesaert, Els Vermeulen, and the rest of the CROPDIVA and LEGENDARY teams for the wonderful meeting!



(Photo courtesy of IRTA)