

INTERCROPPING TO BOOST AGROECOLOGY IN EUROPE

ONLINE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The European Technology Platform TP Organics and IFOAM Organics Europe are disseminating information about the Conference [Intercropping to boost agroecology in European Agriculture](#), which will take place on 23 March 2021 online.

The Conference is jointly organized by the EU Horizon 2020 projects [ReMIX](#) and [Diversify](#) to boost the adoption of intercropping and delivery of its ecosystem services in Europe. [The Programme of the Conference](#) includes presentations from experts in the field and two panel debates will shine a light on the role of intercropping in the EU's agri-food chains and agroecology.

Species mixtures increase productivity while reducing external inputs and nutrient losses. Furthermore, they can ensure high food quality and farmers' income. The Conference will provide an opportunity to discuss how species mixtures contribute to the shift to more sustainable food systems and preserve ecosystems, which are major goals of the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Founded by the EU Horizon 2020 Programme, the ReMIX project *Redesigning European systems based on species MIXtures* started in 2017 and was coordinated by the [French National Research Institute for Agriculture INRAE](#), involving 24 partners in 11 EU countries, Switzerland and China.

[The ReMIX website highlights the great potential of species mixtures](#), also known as *intercrops, crop associations or plant teams*, which are different plant species growing simultaneously on the same field for a significant part of their growth cycle. Species mixtures can enhance water and nutrient use efficiency and improve the control of pests, diseases and weeds, while increasing crop productivity and resilience to biotic and abiotic stresses, including those triggered by climate change. Furthermore, species mixtures can lead to a reduced use of fossil energy and chemical inputs and enhance production of ecosystem services.

The ReMIX project has focused on studying three types of species mixtures:

- Cereal-grain vegetable bi-specific cash crops (eg wheat-pea), harvested at the same time, and producing grains of high nutritional quality for both human consumption and animal feed.
- Cereal cash crops associated with non-harvested "companion" species (eg, mixture of clover, fenugreek and vetch), which can substitute for chemical inputs (nitrogen release, weed control, etc.).
- Relay intercrops, involving the under-sowing of annual or perennial vegetables (eg clover) into a cereal crop (eg wheat) to create / win growing time for the legume without cereal competition.

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

ReMIX-DIVERSify Joint conference
Intercropping to boost agroecology in Europe

23 March 2021, 9:15-16:45 (CET), Online

2 Themes:

- Ecosystem services provided by intercropping
- Boosting adoption of intercrops in EU

2 Policy debates:

- Would intercropping become a pillar of agroecology in EU?
- Is intercropping compatible with the current EU Agrifood chains?

www.remix-intercrops.eu - Twitter: @RemixIntercrops - Facebook: Intercrops Remix

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During the Conference, the main results of the Remix-Intercrops and the Diversify Plants Teams projects will be capitalized to design new strategies for using intercropping as a pillar to boost new agri-food chains and agroecology in European Agriculture.

[The results of the studies and practical experiences](#) conducted in the framework of these projects and available in their websites, can also be of great interest to actors engaged in other contexts to develop agroecological practices using the ecosystem services provided by intercropping to reduce the nutrient losses, fertilizers needs and the use of pesticides.

To know more

[Programme of the Conference](#)

[Registration](#)

[Remix-Intercrops.eu Project website](#)

[RemixIntercrops in Facebook](#)

[Remix-intercrops brochure](#)

[Diversify Plant Teams.eu website](#)

[Diversify Plants Team in Facebook](#)

[Conference in IFOAM Organics Europe website](#)

[TP Organics website](#)

[Horizon Europe 2021 - 2027](#)

