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MEMBER


Legumes Hungary Living Lab

Living Lab Legumes Hungary Living Lab | Hungary



LIVING LAB

Legumes Hungary



Legumes Hungary Living Lab, coordinated by Agri Kulti Nonprofit Ltd., is a pioneering platform in Hungary devoted to legume crops. Aimed at the promoting of the cultivation and consumption of legumes, it connects various actors of the legumes value chain from seed to fork: members and associated stakeholders are, amongst others, arable and horticultural farmers, scientists, seed breeders, processors, chefs, public bodies, and consumer NGOs.

On-farm trials, seed-procurement support, and hands-on training allow growers to test chickpea, lentil, faba bean, cowpea and other neglected or under-utilised species, enhancing biodiversity and farmer incomes.

Parallel outreach with restaurants, caterers and awareness campaigns normalises legume dishes for consumers, shortening supply chains and closing the loop between field and fork.

Aim

The overall aim of the Legumes Hungary Living Lab is to promote the cultivation and consumption of pulses in Hungary. It aims to assist farmers from seed procurement to information on cultivation technology and product marketing; to encourage chefs and consumers to use pulses more often; and to connect the different actors on a regular basis, including through the organisation of events and meetings, as well as the co-creation of innovative knowledge.

Background information

In recent years, within the framework of Agri Kulti's legume-focused European projects (TRUE, DIVINFOOD, LegumES), we have built a network of farmers and other relevant actors - restaurants, chefs, food bloggers, seed traders and breeders, consumer organisations, caterers - that now functions as a Living Lab connecting actors across the legumes value chain in Hungary.

Funding structure

Legumes Hungary Living Lab's activities are currently funded by ongoing European projects, namely DIVINFOOD and LegumES.

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Activities

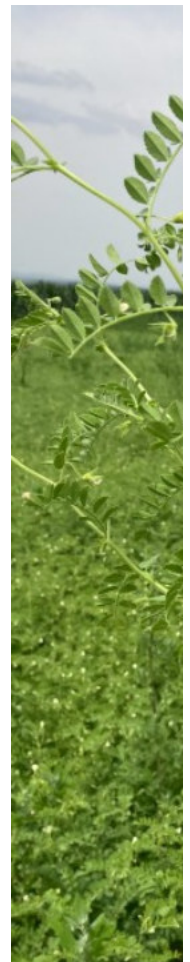
- On-farm trials, real-life settings where various legume varieties are experimented with by the farmer partners in the LL.
- Farmers are brought together at various events.
- Training sessions are organized to facilitate knowledge transfer to and among farmers, and to support co-creation of knowledge.
- Seed procurement for farmers, experimentation with various seed sources.
- Awareness-raising around legumes for consumers, consumer research.
- Recipe creation by chefs and gastro bloggers.
- Involving processors and sellers to improve the short value chain of legumes in Hungary. →
- Connections built with [Soil Hub Hungary](#) and influencing policy decisions.



Development of new recipes with various legumes. Source: Hétköznapiok., Budapest



Popularization of yellow split peas in new ways of cooking, farmers' market event, May 2024. Source: Agri Kulti



On-farm ci LL member Ji





Workshop with farmers and other legume value chain stakeholders, September 2024.
Source: Agri Kulti



Thematic legumes dinner organized by Agri Kulti, Farm2Fork and farmers of the Living Lab,
March 2025. Source: Agri Kulti)

Methods, stakeholder engagements and tools

The stakeholder engagement methods include the on-farm trials, regular contact with farmers, regular online meetings, yearly Living Lab meeting at one of the participating farms, meetings between various stakeholders to exchange experiences and co-create solutions. Facebook group of the Living Lab farmers is very active where knowledge is exchanged regularly between the members.

Achievements

- Legume cultivation within the framework of the Living Lab on cca. 74 hectares in 2025.
- Numerous recipes tested and created with various underutilized legumes.
- Joining of larger industry actors.
- Products from Living Lab farmers present in online shops (e.g. Farm2Fork).
- Consumer engagement at various gastronomy events.
- Hello Legumes! Challenge with consumers organized together with the Association of Conscious Consumers.
- Improvement of cultivation technology and related training sessions organized.

Publications

Two Practice Abstracts (from the DIVINFOOD project) that are results of the Living Lab's activities:



- [Practice_Abstract_Selecting-the-right-sowing-time-in-arable-cultivation-of-cowpea-vigna-unguiculata.pdf](#)
- [Practice_Abstract_Weed-control-in-organic-chickpea-production.pdf](#)

Contact





Some members of the Legumes Hungary Living Lab at the annual meeting of the LL in September 2024. Source: Agri Kulti

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