

ISSUE 03 | February 2024

THIS ISSUE

- April event coming closer
- Political decisions and developments across Europe
- LegumeLegacy team now complete

Updates from the LegumeLegacy Network

After the successful second event in November 2023, LegumeLegacy is already in the planning process for the first 2024 training. In April, the DRs, PIs, and the rest of the LegumeLegacy research team will come together in Zurich, Switzerland, for a collaborative week of learning. Hosted by the Swiss team members at ETH Zurich and Agroscope, the week will feature: general meetings and updates across the project, introductions to plant breeding and molecular genetics and the intersection with Data Science, a field excursion on mixtures assessment and the transition from research to farm scale applications. Our DRs will even have the opportunity to extract DNA from leaf samples and analyse the genetic compositions. We are eagerly looking forward to an informative and socially engaging week!

Linn Huser

Don't miss out!

Follow us on social media:

@LegumeLegacy

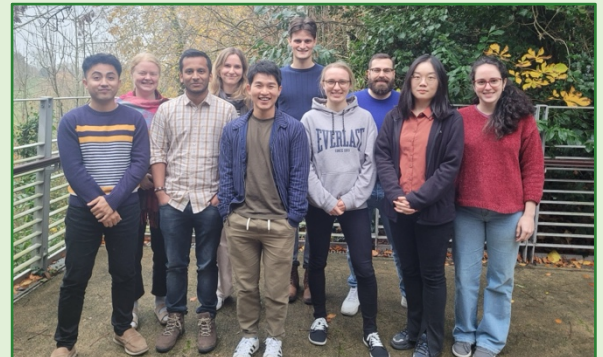


Additionally, our Instagram will be launched In April!

Next training event:

April 15th - 19th 2024 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Don't miss updates on the blog, which you can find on our [website](#).



Doctoral Researcher Team Now Complete

We are pleased to introduce our newest and final member of the LegumeLegacy network: Julian Nyaga. Julian is a doctoral researcher at the Department of Agroecology at Aarhus University in Denmark. She holds a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in biotechnology from universities in Kenya. For more information about Julian and her role in LegumeLegacy, please visit our [website](#). Additionally, explore Julian's journey of moving from Kenya to Denmark and her first encounter with a Danish winter in our latest [blog post](#).

Rouven Lattner

FROM ACROSS EUROPE

Farmers Protests across Europe

Recently, farmers have been protesting across Europe, blocking roads and the EU parliament. The reasons for their discontent are diverse. Rising costs for fertilizer, transport and energy while having decreasing prices at the same time are leading to a low financial reward for the producers. In Germany and France, the plans to reduce the relief on agricultural vehicles and diesel tax was one of the main reasons to spark the protests. Also, the ongoing plans of the EU-MERCOSUR trade deal is concerning for many farmers, who fear the competition with cheap imported products from South America, where production costs are lower and EU regulations do not apply. Similarly, the increased grain imports from Ukraine as the EU dropped customs following the war with Russia, increased the competition for many Polish farmers, which is a reason for protests there. At the same time, the EU Green deal as well as regulations on national scales aiming for a more sustainable agricultural production, imply stronger environmental regulations for farmers, which is further increasing discontent. Finally, climate change keeps challenging agricultural production.

These recent events show the importance of easily applicable and rewarding strategies that enable sustainable intensification of farming systems. Henceforth, the research of LegumeLegacy about the benefits of integrating diverse grasslands into crop rotations may be of vital importance for future production.

Meret Kaspereit

LegacyNet Conference 2024

We want to use this opportunity and make you aware of the LegacyNet conference which took place in Dublin early March 2024. LegacyNet is a voluntary network of experimental sites aimed at investigating the benefits of multispecies grassland leys and their legacy effects on crop rotations. This initiative is closely linked to the LegumeLegacy project, and the researchers involved in LegumeLegacy will explore the multispecies benefits in collaboration with both networks. For more information about LegacyNet, visit their website [here](#).

Rouven Lattner

New EU Regulations on Genomic Plant Breeding

In the beginning of February this year the members of the European Parliament voted on new regulations for New Genomic Technologies (NGT) in plant breeding. The European Commission proposed to distinguish between NGT cultivars that are equivalent to conventional plants and NGT cultivars that are regarded as genetically modified organisms (GMO). This would allow for the genetic breeding of climate change resistant plants producing higher yields with lower input of fertilisers and pesticides. However, the EU member states failed to finalise the proposal on February 7, 2024.

Linn Huser



LegumeLegacy is an MSCA Doctoral Network

<https://legumelegacy.scss.tcd.ie/>



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