

THIS ISSUE

- **Conferences:** EGF and MSCA Satellite Event
- **Secondments:** Goldcrop, Cotswold Seeds and FarmED
- **Field updates:** Zurich, Reading, Denmark, Poland

Between Conferences and Field Work: EGF and MSCA Satellite Event



Despite a highly busy field season, some of the Doctoral Researchers had the chance to attend different events this June.

Ellen recently attended the [European Grassland Federation 2024 General Meeting](#) (EGF 2024) held in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands. The increasing pressure on Europe's grasslands over the past decade due to urbanization, agricultural conversion to arable land, and other factors, has led to a debate about the role of animals in food security. Therefore, the general topic of this year's meeting was "Why Grasslands?". The conference featured presentations on the role of grasslands in food security, methods for monitoring, managing, and evaluating grasslands, and their contribution to ecosystem services, along with other related and interesting topics. It provided valuable insights and strategies for preserving and improving these important landscapes.

In parallel, Meret had the opportunity to attend this year's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action's (MSCA) Satellite event of the EuroScience Open Forum, organized by the European Commission in Katowice, Poland on 10-11 June 2024. This was a great chance to connect with brilliant researchers from many different fields and get some insights into the funding LegumeLegacy receives. There were different interesting break-out sessions about Greening research practices, the connection between academia and industry as well as the impact of AI on research. The participants also received some transferable skills training about holding presentations and communication of science to different stakeholders. All in all it was a very enriching experience for Meret!

It is clear to say that the Doctoral Researchers are on the move, motivated to engage with and contribute to the world of research.

Meret Kaspereit, Rouven Lattner

OUR FIRST SECONDMENTS

Summer, Soil and Seeds

Secondments at Goldcrop

Die and Emery are staying at [Goldcrop](#), Ireland for one month in June to do their industry secondment. They are assigned to construct a database for customer contacts under the supervision of Dr. Patrick Cashman. Apart from the work at Goldcrop they are also attending events and meetings. They have already attended the seed trade meeting hosted by Teagasc where they learned about seed industries, the variety trial open day hosted by Goldcrop which showed the trails of crops, and the Irish Plant Scientists Association (IPSAM2024) Conference for the latest botanical research.

Linn Huser



Secondments at Cotswold Seeds and FarmED

Another one of the LegumeLegacy partners is Cotswold Seeds based in England. [Cotswold Seeds](#) specializes in seed mixtures personalized to a farmer's needs, and has an educational farm called [FarmED](#) where they exhibit and experiment with different seed mixtures. For four weeks, Ellen and Linn are on industry secondment there, to learn about running a seed company, to get hands-on experience from a farm and how to share knowledge at FarmED with the public through open public farm tours. They have also attended the [Groundswell Festival](#) to learn about regenerative agriculture and to share the knowledge from their own work on plant-soil interactions and legacy effect, and biodiversity on a genetic level.

Linn Huser

Zurich, Reading, AU Viborg

Progress From the Field Experiments

Prasanth is conducting his field experiment in Zurich, Switzerland, where they carried out the second harvest late May followed by trampling stress the next day. In the coming harvest they will take root measurements.

In Reading, UK, where Raniel is based they are currently on the third harvest for the simulated grazing cut and the second harvest for the conservation cut. Raniel is exploring the effect of drought on the plots, and they can now see some visual differences between well-watered plots and drought plots in terms of biomass regrowth after the first harvest.

In Denmark the field season is used to its limits for all kinds of measurements. The second harvest was just conducted in the end of June, including the 15N labelled subplots to determine nitrogen fixation. Between harvests, the species composition is being monitored with drone and handheld camera pictures of the plots. Different functional traits, such as the plant height and the phenological development are measured regularly. At each harvest, leaf samples are taken for further leaf trait analyses. In June, root samples have just been successfully taken with a specifically prepared machinery.

In Poland there are two experimental sites. The second harvest in this growing season has just finished. Because the two year and one year ley are currently in the same field on one site, it makes for a nice comparison to witness changes in species proportion in the sward.

It is very exciting to see all the planned samplings turning into reality. Everyone is excited to see the results!

Linn Huser, Meret Kaspereit





LegumeLegacy is an MSCA Doctoral Network

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

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