



CropBooster-P summary progress year 2

Introduction

In the second year of the project, good progress has been made in all work packages, despite the negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the international restrictions on travel and on organizing life events, all planned workshops and meetings had to be cancelled and were replaced by online-alternatives. In this way, most milestones and deliverables planned for the second year of the project still could be reached with only moderate delays.

WP1

All task for work package 1 were already completed in the first year of the project and resulted, amongst others, in a database with scientific and technical options to increase plant yield, nutritional quality and sustainability. In year 2, however, additional work was carried out in this work package to build a more user-friendly interface for this database, allowing a more easy query and analysis of retrieved results. This new interface now is almost ready and a new version of the database with a better user-interface will be launched in June 2021.

WP2

The main objective of work package 2 is to assess the economic, social, and environmental impact of the strategies developed by work packages 1. For this, a number of online mini-focus groups was organized which were supported by an additional on-line survey. The basis for these mini-focus groups was the "impact expert panel protocol" which already was developed as basis for the workshops. Using this protocol, the online mini-focus groups were successfully organized and the feedback on the outcome by stakeholders was collected.

In addition, the added extra online-survey has known a very good response rate with approx. 300 participants and has aided the robustness of the outcomes of the mini-focus groups significantly. The results of the focus groups and of the survey were reported in a series of 3 reports; the Agricultural Production Impact Working Paper (Deliverable 2.1), the Business Impact Working Paper (Deliverable 2.2) and the Consumer Impact Working Paper (Deliverable 2.3).

WP3

Together with WP4 & 5, work package 3 is focussed on developing an implementation strategy and roadmap for future-proofing our food system by involving social actors – academia/researchers, end-users/citizens, policy makers, industry/businesses, and agriculture/farming communities.

In the second year of the project, a first drafted outline of the communication strategy to interact with a non-expert audience was elaborated by the WP3-team. In addition, to present the key findings on the technologies from WP1 the description of the



technologies were summarized and made more easy to read for non-experts. Next, in a series of online consultations, the outcome of WP1 and the communication strategy developed in WP3 were discussed with international stakeholders. This was done by conducting online interviews and questionnaires in Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. The results of this was reported in the Consultation Report on the First Consultation Step (Deliverable 3.1).

WP4

The task of work package 4 in CropBooster-P is to strengthen international research cooperation by mapping, connecting and involving the plant research community in Europe, with the ultimate goal to define a pan-European consortium to execute the CropBooster-P Research Plan.

For this, the WP4 team has carried out a large scale mapping of the European network of plant scientists and organizations researching aspects of plant yield, quality and sustainability. This involved the analysis of more than 25.000 scientific publications and was carried out in close cooperation with experts in the field. The end-product, the Network Map of Research Networks (Deliverable 4.1), gives a thorough and comprehensive overview of scientific cooperation in the field of plant research in Europe. Next, in WP4 expert panels were assembled to define scientific and technical strategies. These panels produced a number of draft review papers and research visions which will be further discussed in the so-called Versailles meeting, organized in June 2021.

WP5

As part of the final roadmap to be produced by CropBooster-P, a layout will be drafted by work package 5 of the organization of a future research consortium that will be required to execute the research program defined in the roadmap. Such a large, pan-European consortium will need a strict modus operandi to effectively carry out a very large research program, and at the same time foster and maintain a strong relation with society in order to guarantee the successful uptake of the research outcome by, and in, society. In WP5 therefor, a number of documents have been prepared in the current reporting describing specific elements of this modus operandi: A report describing the form in which the results of research will be made available to industry (Deliverable 5.1), a report describing the intellectual property management framework (Deliverable 5.2) and a report describing the communication policy for the program (Deliverable 5.5).