

EU CAP Network Focus Group 'Production of protein crops under climate change'

Flash report

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Innovation and Knowledge exchange | EIP-AGRI



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In Berlin and Sevilla, 19 experts from 12 EU countries and the UK discussed how to increase European plant protein self-sufficiency through the sustainable production of protein crops in different value chains and regions, taking climate change into account.

The production and value chains of protein crops in the EU are highly diverse and complex. Climate change brings new opportunities and challenges for farmers and their value chain.

Mini Paper discussion and ideas for Operational Groups (OG)

The results of the five thematic Mini Papers prepared by Focus Group experts show that many protein crops are suitable for cultivation in the EU. The Mini Papers present best practices by creating a growers guide, showcasing on-farm processing and more, all related to protein crop production in the context of climate change. The experts recommend increased networking between local initiatives, and sharing best practices. Based on the identified challenges, the experts identified ideas for OGs, including:

- testing integrated solutions for pest control in protein crop production
- farm tests and production of seeds of minor protein crops like lentils, chickpea, dry beans
- exploring ways to add value to protein crops through processing and marketing

Field trip to the Agroquivir Cooperative

The Agroquivir farmers' cooperative produces alfalfa and processes this into protein feed for the Spanish, Asian and Middle Eastern markets. Farmers experience the effects of climate change first-hand, either due to a lack of water or heavy rain. Farmers switch to other crops like ryegrass, olives, sunflower and even vegetables like tomato and cabbage. The process plant has to buy alfalfa from elsewhere to fulfil the demand.

Key messages and takeaways

- Protein crop value chains are diverse. Solutions to increase production must be value-chain specific, with the participation of all stakeholders.
- The huge diversity of protein crops must be made available to farmers, who require information about cultivars and seed availability.
- Affordable technical solutions for processing protein crops are needed at all levels, from the farm to the factory.
- The effects of climate change are largely unpredictable and must be considered at multiple levels.



[Find out more on the event webpage](#)