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Dear reader,

In SolACE – Solutions for improving Agroecosystem and Crop Efficiency for water and nutrient use – we strive to help European agriculture face major challenges, notably increased rainfall variability and reduced use of nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers. The project is funded under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Research and Innovation programme.

We are pleased to share the first SolACE newsletter with you, and look forward to sharing more news with you soon. Enjoy!

Interview with SolACE coordinator Philippe Hinsinger



We spoke with Philippe Hinsinger, the SolACE coordinator, to hear his thoughts about the project. We discussed the aims of the project, the focus crops, why it is needed, what makes SolACE different, the major challenges for the project, and how others can get involved.

[Read more](#) >

The protocol handbook: Contents and rationale

The SolACE Handbook of Protocols and Methodology is intended for all SolACE project partners. It is intended to be a living handbook describing the standards to use for data collection. This document, generated at the beginning of the project, will be constantly updated throughout the project.

[Read more](#) >

Understanding crop and microbiome responses to combined water and nutrient limitations

Part of the SolACE project analyses crop and microbiome responses to combined water and nutrient limitations. Genetic information from large-scale field and platform trials and physiological information from targeted trials are combined in a modelling framework, which couples Functional Structural Plant Models (FSPM) and crop



models in order to improve our understanding of crop performance under limitations.

[Read more](#) >

Novel agroecosystem management strategies and tools



Part of the SolACE project will test a subset of soil and crop management practices that are prioritized through consultation with partners and stakeholders. These practices will then be developed and tested under combined limitations of water and nitrogen (N) or phosphorus (P), with a special focus on approaches that are expected to promote below-ground interactions.

[Read more](#) >

Novel breeding strategies and tools



Part of the SolACE project aims to develop novel breeding strategies and tools to better adapt crops to combined water and nutrient stresses. The project will develop general strategies that can be exploited in any other condition of combined stresses.

[Read more](#) >

The SolACE farmer network: How does it work and why do we need it?



SolACE aims to develop innovative agroecosystems management practices and genotypes in close collaboration with farmers and other stakeholders. Farmer networks are the foundation for this and essential to the overall success of the project.

[Read more](#) >

Initial list of innovations to test in on-farm trials



In close collaboration with stakeholders, SolACE has developed an initial list of novel crop genotypes and agroecosystem management innovations. The initial list of novel crop genotypes and agroecosystem innovations will be tested within SolACE farmer networks throughout Europe.

[Read more](#)



How scientists learn from stakeholders: Research beyond ivory towers



To promote effective stakeholder dialogue, SolACE will hold three stakeholder events, the first of which already took place in 2017. These events will be used to facilitate two-way information exchange between stakeholders and representatives of conventional and organic farming.

[Read more](#)



Project dissemination



An important aspect of the SolACE project is dissemination of the work done and the results achieved. As such, the project makes use of a wide range of dissemination tools to create a SolACE community, promote stakeholder awareness, and ensure access to and uptake of information, materials and results.

[Read more](#)



SolACE Stakeholder Event



On the 16th of May, 2018, SolACE and our Italian partners at CREA (the Council for Agricultural Research and Analysis of Agricultural Economics) will host a stakeholder event, as part of the SolACE annual meeting. This will take place in Foggia, Italy.

[Read more](#)



Proceedings from the
first Stakeholder Event

Join the SolACE
Stakeholder Forum

The proceedings from the first stakeholder event in Montpellier, France in June, 2017 are now available on Zenodo. The proceedings provide details about the programme and opening speeches, as well as an overview of the group work sessions, which addressed five important themes.

[Read more](#) >

The SolACE Stakeholder Forum includes representatives from key sectors. The forum is engaged in active dialogue and provides expertise to the project in order to address key issues.

Please express your interest in joining the stakeholder forum via the link below.

[Read more](#) >

SolACE project flyer

The SolACE project, which will identify and test novel solutions for improving agroecosystem and crop efficiency for water and nutrient uses, is explained in the new project flyer.

[Read more](#) >

SolACE Poster in English

A poster about SolACE is now available in English and can be downloaded from the SolACE repository on ZENODO.

[Read more](#) >

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