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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 second SolACE newsletter with you, and look forward to sharing more news with you soon. Enjoy!

SolACE is keeping pace with its aims after its first birthday party in Italy



The SolACE project has achieved a lot since it started, one and a half years ago. SolACE organized its first Annual Meeting in Foggia, Italy in Mid-May 2018. Results of the first completed experiments were presented and partners had the opportunity to visit large panels of durum wheat genotypes in the CREA field trials. Parallel to the Durum Days, a second SolACE Stakeholder Event took place, offering a unique opportunity for stakeholders to learn about and challenge the SolACE innovations.

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Selection of subsets of genotypes of bread wheat and durum wheat



Eighty genotypes of wheat (40 bread wheat and 40 durum wheat) were selected to be analysed in greater detail in the upcoming phenotyping platform trials and semi-controlled field trials. The genotype selection was an important step in order to ensure a large amplitude of response variation, within the subsets of genotypes, under combined limitation of water and nitrogen.

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Updates from the ARVALIS farmers' network in Provence, France



Although it is still early in the project for the SolACE farmers' network activities, Stéphane Jézéquel of ARVALIS in France has a head start. Stéphane has been working with a group of very committed farmers practising conservation agriculture for several years and some of this group will participate in on-farm trials with SolACE innovations. The farmers are looking for ways to improve their conservation agriculture systems and will consider innovations like cover cropping and living mulches, as well as varietal mixtures in durum wheat, to reduce reliance on pesticides while at the same time building soil health and improving the resilience of their systems to climate change.

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SolACE Field Experiments



The SolACE project is managing an international field trial network which aims to test various innovative agricultural practices for bread wheat, durum wheat and potato.

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Assessing the potential impact of SolACE cropping innovations



How do we assess the potential impact of SolACE cropping innovations being trialled through the farm networks? To achieve this we will use an integrated assessment model that is able to evaluate both the economic performance and the environmental impacts of the innovations, compared to typical on-farm practices.

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Take part in the SolACE questionnaire for agricultural stakeholders

This questionnaire is carried out in the framework of work packages 5 and 6. The goal is to understand what people think about the proposed agricultural innovations in

and more.

SolACE Partner Solynta is a leading potato seed breeding company which has developed an innovative technology for targeted breeding of potatoes.

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Upcoming events of relevance to the SolACE project

5-8 March 2019
Kassel, Germany
[Wissenschaftstagung Ökologischer Landbau 2019](#)

24 - 26 March 2019 Budapest, Hungary
[3rd Agriculture and Climate Change Conference](#)

7-11 July 2019
Saskatoon, Canada
[Rhizosphere 5](#)

18-21 September 2019
Budapest, Hungary
[European Congress on Crop Diversification](#)

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