



FORK-TO-FARM AGENT-BASED SIMULATION TOOL AUGMENTING BIODIVERSITY IN THE AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

1st Press Release BioValue Kick-off Meeting

BioValue is a research and innovation (RIA) project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the topic: "SFS-01-2018-2019-2020 - Biodiversity in action: across farmland and the value chain" with grant agreement number 101000499.

The main aim of the BioValue project is to develop a dynamic and modular agent-based simulation tool that will analyse the link among biodiversity, the agri-food value chain, the environment, consumer's preferences and health. The idea is to introduce and spread the use of underutilized, genetically diverse crops and their final marketable products to the consumer's plates adopting a demand-driven approach (fork to farm). The ultimate outcome of the project are novel food dish recipes and processed food products from the underutilized, genetically diverse crops which will result from the extensive breeding programme foreseen within the project. In particular, 7 pilot cases in 12 countries are planned for the cultivation of underutilized crops serving as well as a data source for the definition of specific key performance indicators for policy impact assessment, environmental assessment and ensuring compliance with regulations and standards for the inclusion of underutilized, genetically diverse crops to the agri-food value chain.



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BioValue

The Kick-off Meeting of BioValue was organized by our coordinator, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, on the 14-15th of October 2021 at the premises of the «Mediterranean Palace» in Thessaloniki, Greece. 17 partners from 12 countries (Greece, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Estonia, Norway, Hungary, Romania, Cyprus, Georgia, Turkey) met in order to discuss the mission and the objectives of BioValue- each presenting their unique role within the project.

During the Kick-off Meeting, the importance of plant biodiversity in the agri-food value chain, the environment, consumer preferences and human health were analysed, and the roles and actions of each partner were defined.

For the successful implementation of the BioValue concept 17 partners are joining forces

building on their specific scientific knowhow and expertise. The consortium is well balanced between academia and industry including 6 universities (AUTH, CUT, EMU, JLU, EGE, UNIBO), 6 research institutions/associations (NIBO, Ecozept; GFA, CAGRI, MAICH, Bioland), 2 non-profit organizations (Ecosensus, CAPNUTRA) and 3 SMEs (SOL, IDENER, AXIA) with a rich background on agricultural research.

The BioValue consortium is looking forward towards a strong collaboration for the successful achievement of the project s ambition.



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