



## Stakeholder innovations and approaches with plant teams

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DIVERSify has worked to identify traditional knowledge, on-farm innovations, and current best practice in intercropping systems. At the beginning of the project, between June 2017 and February 2018, 15 participatory stakeholder workshops were conducted in 11 countries throughout the different pedo-climatic zones of the EU as well as Kenya and Palestine. The workshops were attended by 567 individuals in total, 65% of which were farmers alongside agronomists, researchers, plant breeders, seed/processing companies, policy makers.

52% of workshop attendees were either currently growing or had previously grown plant teams. Attendees were asked to identify what had worked (or not) and it emerged that stakeholders felt that plant teams were a good thing, even by those who were not currently growing them. However, attendees in some workshops might not have been comfortable in discussing cropping failures or negative aspects given the context. Nevertheless, both pros and cons of plant teams were identified.

Plant teams being used, or that have been used, included German farmers working with lupin-cereal systems, Italians with bread wheat and faba bean, Austrians using *Phaseolus coccineus* with maize or sorghum as a supporting crop. In the UK, the use of a strip-till to simultaneously sow both cereal and oilseed crops and clover in strips was identified, as was undersowing of spring barley with clovers (and rye) which was found to be more reliable in spring than autumn. In Sweden, farmers identified that growing grass/clover forage mixtures was very common and the Kenyans identified a host of approaches already being used such as 'push-pull' technology and intercropping of maize, beans, millet, cassava and other crops.

Stakeholders were forthcoming with innovations in plant team combinations and 130 different plant team combinations (of two or more crops) were identified. These included 71 with cereals as the main crop, 17 with pseudo grains as the main crop, 5 forage/grass mixtures, 22 for vegetables, 8 agroforestry and 6 other systems. Although a long list, it is by no means exhaustive, but it gives a good indication of the range of plant teams that are currently being utilised across partner countries and the potential for scaling out of this practice more broadly.

> Find out more, including references, at: [plant-teams.org](http://plant-teams.org)