

3rd virtual meeting of the EUCLEG project 14th – 15th September 2020

Pandemia COVID-19 and the quarantine are indeed a challenge for EUCLEG that effects the field trials as well as the laboratory work. The 3rd virtual meeting was turned completely on the online form and was arranged in a very efficient combination of plenary sessions and species parallel sessions.



The virtual form enabled to invite experts who framed the broad perspective of the EUCLEG projects. Christina Lehermeier (RAGT) discussed the marker-assisted selection on soybean, Dario Fé (DLF) discussed the marker assisted selection on perennial ryegrass. The director of Agriculture sector at INRAE Christian Huyghe indicated the social and policy context and consequences of the COVID-19 related to bioeconomy, nitrogen and protein supply and the long-term sustainability of the agriculture production. He reminded the new aspect embedded in the European Green Deal and related strategies, primarily the Farm to fork strategy – the need to look at the value chains.

EUCLEG projects will deliver new improved tools for breeders, farmers and agriculture practice and hereby support the sustainability of the agriculture production. Past three years brought a lot of data that are being uploaded to a common database handled by PROGENO software and will be processed for better knowledge on the genetic control of breeding traits, to provide breeders with improved methodologies and eventually the agriculture practisers with tailored-made legume varieties for the concrete climate conditions.

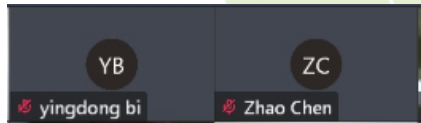
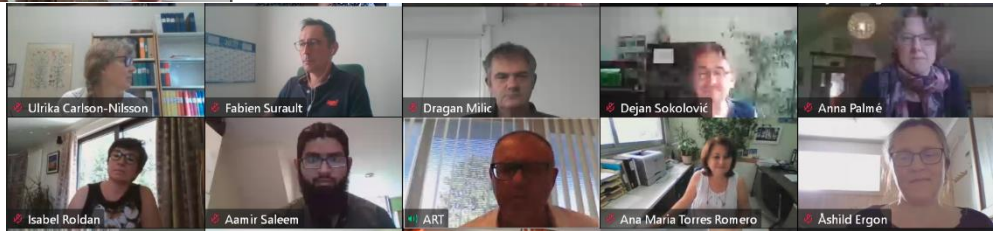
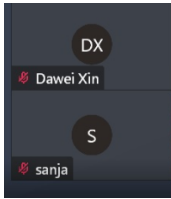
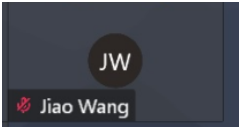
Three members of the Advisory board participated and gave their feedback. Beat Boller (past president of EUCARPIA, former breeding at Agroscope) acknowledged the project progress, precisely the data provided to the PROGENO database and first GWAS results, at the same time he accentuate the need of more intensive cooperation between European and Chinese partners. Torben Asp (Aarhus University) acknowledged the dissemination and cooperation plans on the publication especially in the red clover and said this could be a role model for other species. He highlighted the afterlife, in particular the exploitation of the PROGENO database. Catherine Langat (EUROSEEDS) mentioned the big challenge of new knowledge from EUCLEG project for more effective future breeding programmes. They all honoured the effective organisation of the meeting.

Everybody hopes to be able to meet face to face next year on the final project meeting.



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