



# Seed Sector Roadmap for EU protein

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# Main challenges in the production of European protein plant *(source EU protein report 22.11.2018)*

- Some difficulties to the development of the EU plant protein sector have already been identified;
  - the agronomic conditions in Europe, not optimal for large-scale production of plant proteins;
  - the economic profitability of these crops in Europe;
  - the competitiveness of EU protein crops compared to imported plant proteins;
  - competition over the use of arable land;
  - a lack of research on breeding, agronomic practices and different uses.
- Revision of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), EU Green Deal, the Farm-to-Fork strategy, European Protein plan as well as several national initiative acknowledge those difficulties and aim to support European agriculture to address those challenges.



European breeders position paper to propose expertise and contribution in order to increase the quality and quantity of local plant protein supply in Europe

## Need for a long-term European strategy

The decrease of EU dependency on protein can only be achieved by a **long term, clear strategy at European level, along which EU countries will act.**

The Common Agricultural Policy and its reorientation, also considering the Green Deal and its related strategies (F2F, Biodiversity), provide good opportunities to strengthen domestic protein crop production. The options to cultivate protein crops should be used within the framework of environmental measures and on set-aside land

There is no unique solution to protein deficit so solution will come by both increasing protein content in existing crops and increasing production of emerging and new protein crops.

Breeders are already strongly engaged in contributing to consumers' demand for more local, traceable sustainable and secure protein production, also addressing farmers' needs for higher and more stable yields, increased pest resistance, and new qualities. Proposing improved seeds on all those criteria requires significant investments on long term

## Value chain Competitiveness

Competitiveness of EU agriculture is linked to its capacity of innovation and access to the most advanced technics for breeding and crop protection (best-in-class solutions)

A value chain becomes sustainable only if it is competitive all over its actors.

**Significant investments will be required** by the upstream part of the value chain. This also applies to cultivation, where investment is also needed in technology and know-how. These investments should **be supported by governments through appropriate measures**

EU breeders showed in past experience their ability to enable success of value chain (eg biodiesel)

**Breeders' need financial support** for investments towards new crops or to breed more intensively on protein, not neglecting other criteria critical for a sustainable production

## Support to local innovation

The local adaptation of crop and varieties require local strong investment that need incentives.

It already exists in other geographies in competition with Europe – eg canola Canada

It also require to access the most modern breeding tools to compete with products coming from other geographies

Need for an EU harmonized registration system promoting protein content and quality for relevant crops

EU bodies to support the education and reconnection of consumers with local agriculture, with Benefits of plant protein crops for protein-based food.

Highlight local efforts for the reduction of agricultural impact on climate and environment, providing traceable and safe food and feed

Educate on the diverse source of proteins for different uses (tradition protein crops, rapeseed, forage...) and their benefits



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