

COST Action CA22146

“Harnessing the potential of underutilized crops to promote sustainable food production (DIVERSICROP)”

Continuous call for applications for dissemination conference grants

1. About DIVERSICROP

With population growing rapidly and within the context of agro-climatic changes, there is an increased demand for sustainably produced nutritious food. In Europe, many foods that contribute to health are not widely-grown and consumed despite their suitability to European climates and environments and their viability for sustainable production with lower inputs. Underutilised crops that are stress resilient, such as rye and legumes, have the potential to supply key nutrients and improve diets. Such crops have a long history of cultivation across the continent and are part of the historic food identity of different European countries but are underutilised due to several complex reasons. DIVERSICROP addresses these challenges using an innovative, cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach by analysing the deep history of underutilised crops in Europe, understanding the genetic diversity and adaptation to climate change of crop germplasm, analysing current regional trends in the consumption of food products and by involving national and EU policymakers and key stakeholders to revive diverse crop production and maximise the impact of Europe’s agricultural sustainability. DIVERSICROP aims to harmonise fragmented data and develop strategies for the sustainable cultivation of target crops, striking a balance between agricultural sustainability and human nutritional value. DIVERSICROP brings together a skilled and interdisciplinary network to identify climate-resilient crop lines, and potential nutritional and health benefits of their consumption to rethink our food systems. DIVERSICROP will strengthen the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies under the European Green Deal to contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The objectives of DIVERSICROP are to:

1. reveal the environmental, economic and sociocultural circumstances that led to modern underutilisation of the three target crops;
2. determine the traits and characteristics of these crops that make them viable for sustainable production in a modern context;
3. assess their nutritional value, their potential use in food products and their overall market potential in the future; and
4. to provide a pathway for re-engagement with these crops by facilitating interdisciplinary exchange.

Five working groups (WG) focus on work as follows:

WG1. Ancient History.

The ancient history WG maps the regional deep history for production and consumption of the three selected crops (7000 BC to early modern period) based upon evidence from archaeology, history and ethnobotany.

WG2. Crop Science.

The crop science WG identifies current regional environmental constraints that limit production of the three target crops, examining environmental adaptation of underutilised germplasm.

WG3. Nutrition.

The nutrition WG examines the current regional trends in food consumption for key products containing the three target crops.

WG4. Policy.

The policy WG reviews past policies and incentives, and facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue, with a view to supporting policy development.

WG5. Dissemination, training and events.

The dissemination WG disseminates project results to consolidate Europe as the nexus of promotion for underutilised crops cultivation.

2. What is a dissemination conference grant

A dissemination conference grant supports an oral presentation of the work of the Action by an Action participant at a high-level conference fully organized by a third party, i.e. not organized nor co-organized by the COST Action. This presentation should significantly increase the visibility of the Action in the research community, contribute to increasing visibility of the presenter, and attract additional participants and stakeholders. It must disseminate Action results to relevant end-users at high profile conferences in the field on a topic relevant to the Action.

3. Eligibility

Grant applications can be made by any Action participant who is making an oral presentation of the work done in the Action. Presentations should relate strongly to one or more of the Action's Working Groups.

4. Financial support

The financial support provides a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, insurance costs, conference registration fee, and any publication costs arising.

The financial support is provided in the form of a grant. No invoices are required. The maximum grant amount is 2,000 EUR.

5. The grant awarding process

The supported activity, including reporting and payment, must be carried out entirely within one Grant Period. Each Grant Period runs from the 1 November until the 31 October of the following year.

Each application is reviewed by two (or three in case the outcome is not consistent) MC or WG members who are guided by the Grant Awarding Coordinator. This assessment considers the relevance of the presentation and of the conference to the Action and its dissemination potential. The Grant Awarding Coordinator advises the Action Chair who acts on the advice if the budget allows. Successful grantees receive a grant letter.

The supported activity ends when the payment is recorded. Therefore, applicants should allow time for submitting the report, evaluating it, and processing the payment within the Grant Period. This means that the work of conference participations funded in this call should be complete by 30 September to give adequate time for reporting and grant payment by 31 October.

6. Application procedure

Applicants must have an e-COST profile and applications must be submitted online in e-COST. The applicant encodes a dissemination conference grant application by logging into e-COST and selecting the 'Dissemination Conference' type option. In addition to completing the fields, the following should be uploaded:

1. Copy of the abstract of the accepted oral presentation
2. Acceptance (or invitation) letter from the conference organisers

Documents that cannot be uploaded via the e-COST interface should be sent directly to the Grant Awarding Coordinator (Donal Murphy-Bokem donal@murphy-bokem.com) and the Chair of COST action (Sonia Negrao sonia.negrao@ucd.ie).

7. Submission of the report and payment

The applicant claims the payment of the grant via e-COST when the activity has ended and the report is submitted and accepted. For this, the grantee submits the report using the dissemination conference report template before 15 October. The report should include:

1. A report on the contacts made and potential for future collaborations.
2. The certificate of attendance to the conference.
3. The programme of the conference or book of abstracts / proceedings indicating the oral presentation of the grantee.
4. A copy of the given presentation.

Notes:

Each publication produced with support of a dissemination conference support grant should acknowledge the support of the COST Action and whenever possible use the COST and DIVERSICROP logos (on slides and posters).

Acknowledgement text:

This publication is based on work supported by the COST Action CA22146: Harnessing the potential of underutilized crops to promote sustainable food production (DIVERSICROP).