


# DIVERSICROP NEWSLETTER

## -CA22146-

Diversity is good for nature and for our well-being. Agriculture is dominated by few crop species, and local specialization further depletes diversity at national and local levels. DIVERSICROP addresses this, enabling future engagement with crops such as rye, chickpeas and peas by understanding their ancient history, existing germplasm and limitations, nutrition importance and policy aspects.

# 1.

## CONFERENCE (4-5 MAY 2026) “CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS: INTERDISCIPLINARY INSIGHTS FROM DIVERSICROP, RECROP AND PANGEOS”



DIVERSICROP, in collaboration with two other COST Actions (PANGEOS and RECROP), will host a conference from 4-6 May 2026 at the Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

Local organiser- Prof. David Honys

Sessions:

1- Resilience; 2- Sustainability; 3- Biodiversity; 4- One Health.  
Round table discussion on future EU opportunities.

Apply here - <https://forms.gle/Gj2oJn6fifCHCF4f9->

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026

See the PANGEOS website page with provisional program at <https://pangeos.eu/prague-czech-republic-4-6-may-2026/>.

After screening of applicants from the three Actions, selected participants will be required to officially register to the conference website (in preparation).

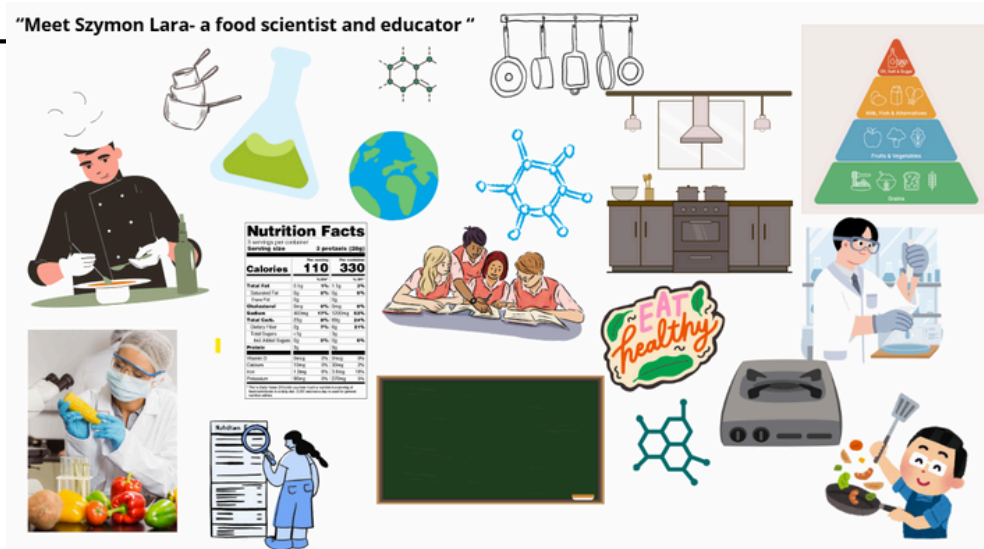
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW... PLEASE REGISTER YOUR  
INTEREST AND APPLY TO ATTEND OUR CONFERENCE!!!!

# 2.

## DIVERSICROP- ANIMATION VIDEOS

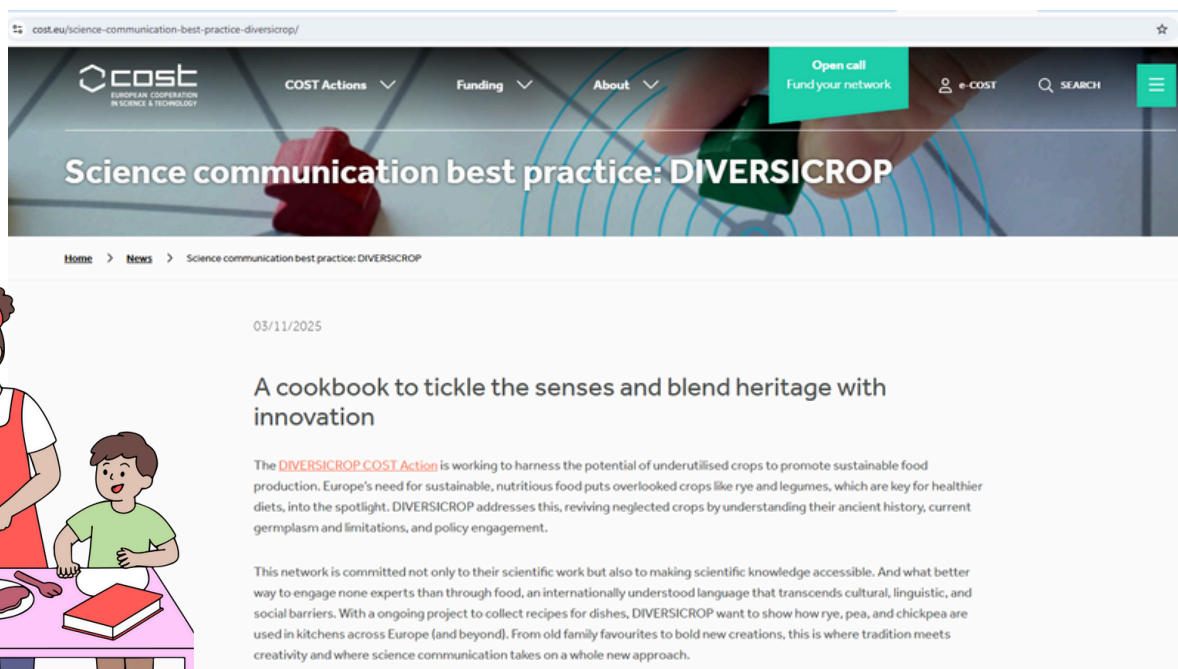
DIVERSICROP is developing a series of six animated videos for release in early 2026. Designed for a general audience, these videos seeks to raise public awareness about the importance of crop diversity. By turning complex scientific research into accessible, storytelling-driven content, our videos will connect the lab with the living room and inspire a deeper appreciation for agricultural variety.

“Meet Szymon Lara- a food scientist and educator ”



OUR COOKING BOOK WAS SELECTED AS  
BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLE BY THE COST  
SCIENCE COMMUNICATION OFFICE

# 3.



4.

# MORE DIVERSICROP PAPERS ARE OUT!

RESEARCH

Our new paper paper, entitled “Rye (*Secale cereale* L.) revisited—nutritional composition, functional benefits, and role in sustainable diets” by Zadeike D et al. has been published in *Frontiers in Nutrition* as an open-source article.

Here, the authors provide an updated synthesis on rye’s role in human health, food security, and sustainability. Specifically, this paper emphasizes novel evidence on rye’s functional properties, its potential contributions to plant-based dietary strategies, and its economic and social relevance.

frontiers | Frontiers in Nutrition

TYPE REVIEW  
PUBLISHED 27 October 2025  
DOI: 10.3389/fnut.2025.1666455

Check for updates

## OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY  
Uday Chand Jha,  
Indian Institute of Pulses Research  
(ICAR), IndiaREVIEWED BY  
Seydi Yilmaz,  
Namik Kemal University, Türkiye  
Rahul Kumar Maurya,  
Washington University in St. Louis,  
United States\*CORRESPONDENCE  
Daiva Zadeike  
✉ daiva.zadeike@kit.eduRECEIVED 15 July 2025  
ACCEPTED 01 October 2025  
PUBLISHED 27 October 2025

## CITATION

Zadeike D, Copperstone C, Aleksandrova O,  
Ünal DO, Savkin K, Zivkovic J, Güzel M, Kalkan  
Yildirim H, Künlü İE, İnanova T, Özmen O,  
Knez M (2025) Rye (*Secale cereale* L.)  
revisited—nutritional composition, functional  
benefits, and role in sustainable diets.  
Front. Nutr. 12:1666455.  
doi: 10.3389/fnut.2025.1666455

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Ünal, Savkin, Zivkovic, Güzel, Kalkan, Yıldirim,  
Künlü, İnanova, Özmen, Banis, Milešević,  
Negro and Knez. This is an  
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## Rye (*Secale cereale* L.) revisited—nutritional composition, functional benefits, and role in sustainable diets

Daiva Zadeike<sup>1\*</sup>, Claire Copperstone<sup>2</sup>, Otha Aleksandrova<sup>3</sup>,  
Derya Özalp Ünal<sup>4</sup>, Katarina Šavikin<sup>5</sup>, Jelena Živković<sup>6</sup>,  
Mustafa Güzel<sup>6</sup>, Hatice Kalkan Yıldırım<sup>7</sup>, Ibrahim Ender Künlü<sup>8</sup>,  
Teodora Ivanova<sup>9</sup>, Özge Özmen<sup>10</sup>, Filippos Bantis<sup>11</sup>,  
Jelena Milešević<sup>12</sup>, Bálint Balázs<sup>13</sup>, Sónia Negrão<sup>14</sup> and  
Marija Knez<sup>12</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Food Science and Technology, Faculty of Chemical Technology, Kaunas University of  
Technology, Kaunas, Lithuania, <sup>2</sup>Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty of  
Health Sciences, University of Malta, Msida, Malta, <sup>3</sup>Chair of Rural Economy and Economics, Institute  
of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Tartu, Estonia,  
<sup>4</sup>Department of Quality Control, Field Crops Central Research Institute, Ankara, Türkiye, <sup>5</sup>Department  
for Pharmaceutical Research and Development, Institute for Medicinal Plants Research “Dr Josif  
Pancic”, Belgrade, Serbia, <sup>6</sup>Department of Food Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Hiss University,  
Izmir, Türkiye, <sup>7</sup>Department of Food Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Hiss University,  
Izmir, Türkiye, <sup>8</sup>Department of Fishing and Fish Processing Technology, Faculty of Marine Sciences and  
Technology, Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Canakkale, Türkiye, <sup>9</sup>Department of Plant and Fungal  
Diversity and Resources, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research - Bulgarian Academy of  
Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, <sup>10</sup>Department of Food Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Adana Alparistan  
Institute for Medical Research, National Institute of Research Excellence in Nutrition and Metabolism,  
Belgrade, Serbia, <sup>11</sup>Environmental Social Science Research Group (ESSRG) Nonprofit Ltd., Budapest,  
Hungary, <sup>12</sup>School of Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

frontiers | Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems

TYPE REVIEW  
PUBLISHED 30 October 2025  
DOI: 10.3389/fstfs.2025.1672634

Check for updates

## OPEN ACCESS

EDITED BY  
Prof Rajendra Kumar,  
Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR),  
IndiaREVIEWED BY  
Sanjosh Kumar Gupta,  
ICAR-Indian Institute of Millers Research  
(IIMR), India  
Nandan Kumar,  
Kansas State University, United States  
Md Al-Mamun,  
Bangladesh Jute Research Institute,  
Bangladesh\*CORRESPONDENCE  
Claire Copperstone  
✉ claire.copperstone@um.edu.mtRECEIVED 24 July 2025  
ACCEPTED 02 October 2025  
PUBLISHED 30 October 2025

## CITATION

Copperstone C, Jones P, Aydın B, Zivkovic J,  
Can Ayar E, Kalkan Yıldırım H, Çujic Nikolic N,  
Künlü İE, Yilmaz E, Tirpanci Sivri G, Seylan  
Kuşçular A, Özalp Ünal D, Bratovicic A,  
Özmen O, Gunduz S, Savkin K, Sirbu A, Rimac  
Brncic S, Banis F, İnanova T, Chervenkova M,  
Orahovac A, Balázs B, Dilgen MN,  
Negrão S and Knez M (2025) Beyond  
hummus—an up-to-date scientific review of  
chickpeas, health, and environmental impact.  
Front. Sustain. Food Syst. 9:1672634.  
doi: 10.3389/fstfs.2025.1672634

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Ünal, Bratovicic, Özmen, Gunduz, Savkin,  
Sirbu, Rimac Brncic, Banis, İvanova,  
Chervenkova, Orahovac, Balázs, Dilgen,  
Negrão and Knez. This is an open-access  
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## Beyond hummus—an up-to-date scientific review of chickpeas, health, and environmental impact

Claire Copperstone<sup>1\*</sup>, Petra Jones<sup>2</sup>, Betül Aydın<sup>3</sup>,  
Jelena Živković<sup>4</sup>, Erdi Can Ayar<sup>5</sup>, Hatice Kalkan Yıldırım<sup>6</sup>,  
Nada Çujic Nikolic<sup>7</sup>, Ibrahim Ender Künlü<sup>8</sup>, Ebru Yilmaz<sup>9</sup>,  
Göksele Tirpanci Sivri<sup>10</sup>, Aylin Seylan Kuşçular<sup>11</sup>,  
Derya Özalp Ünal<sup>12</sup>, Amra Bratovicic<sup>13</sup>, Özge Özmen<sup>14</sup>,  
Selin Gunduz<sup>15</sup>, Katarina Šavikin<sup>16</sup>, Alexandrina Sirbu<sup>17</sup>,  
Suzana Rimac Brncic<sup>18</sup>, Filippos Bantis<sup>19</sup>, Teodora Ivanova<sup>20</sup>,  
Mihail Chervenkova<sup>21,22</sup>, Amil Orahovac<sup>23</sup>, Balint Balazs<sup>24</sup>,  
Mevlûde Nur Dilgen<sup>25</sup>, Sónia Negrão<sup>26</sup> and Marija Knez<sup>22</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta,  
Msida, Malta, <sup>2</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Gazi University, Ankara, Türkiye, <sup>3</sup>Institute  
for Medicinal Plants Research “Dr. Josif Pancic”, Belgrade, Serbia, <sup>4</sup>Department of Horticulture, Faculty  
of Agriculture, Ustak University, Usk, Türkiye, <sup>5</sup>Department of Food Engineering, Faculty of  
Engineering, Ege University, Izmir, Türkiye, <sup>6</sup>Faculty of Marine Sciences and Technology, Canakkale  
Onsekiz Mart University, Canakkale, Türkiye, <sup>7</sup>Bloodoğan Vocational School, Aydın Adnan Menderes  
University, Aydın, Türkiye, <sup>8</sup>Food Engineering Department, Faculty of Agriculture, Tekirdag Namik  
Kemal University, Tekirdag, Türkiye, <sup>9</sup>Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty of Health  
Sciences, Istanbul Okan University, Istanbul, Türkiye, <sup>10</sup>Phytosau of Field Crops Central Research,  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ankara, Türkiye, <sup>11</sup>Department of Physical Chemistry and  
Electrochemistry, Faculty of Technology, University of Tuzla, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
<sup>12</sup>Department of Food Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Adana Alparistan Turkey Science and  
Technology University, Adana, Türkiye, <sup>13</sup>IMMAG, Ramnicu Valcea, Coresanin Brancoveanu University  
of Pilesti, Ramnicu Valcea, Romania, <sup>14</sup>Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of  
Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia, <sup>15</sup>School of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Agriculture, University of  
Western Macedonia, Florina, Greece, <sup>16</sup>Department of Plant and Fungal Diversity and Resources,  
Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria,  
<sup>17</sup>Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Forestry, Sofia, Bulgaria, <sup>18</sup>Department of Plant  
and Fungal Diversity and Resources, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy  
of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria, <sup>19</sup>Faculty of Food Technology, Food Safety and Ecology, University of  
Dorota Gortica, Podgorica, Montenegro, <sup>20</sup>ESSRG Nonprofit Ltd., Budapest, Hungary, <sup>21</sup>School of  
Biology and Environmental Science, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, <sup>22</sup>Centre of Research  
Excellence in Nutrition and Metabolism, Group for Nutrition and Metabolism, Institute for Medical  
Research, National Institute of Republic of Serbia, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Another paper was published by WG3, entitled “Beyond hummus—an up-to-date scientific review of chickpeas, health, and environmental impact” by Copperstone C et al. has been published in *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* as an open-source article.

Here, the authors re-examine the nutritional profile for the two main chickpea types, the ‘kabuli’ and ‘desi’ types, presenting the limitations of their antinutritional factors, and exploring techniques to mitigate these compounds. This paper also address socio-cultural and economic limitations faced by farmers as well as successful strategies that have been used to improved chickpeas’ yields.



# 5.

## YEAR 3- EVENTS SUMMARY

Our third Action has officially kicked off. We have organised three Training School events:

1. Data mapping and visualization from 17/03/2026 to 18/03/2026 in Alicante (Spain), led by David Gil and Meriel McClatchie.
2. Science & Policy Training School from 08/06/2026 until 10/06/2026 in Budapest (Hungary), led by Bálint Balázs, Aparajita Banerjee and Ivana Radic
3. Cooking classes Training School, coming in early July....

Follow the link below for upcoming events:  
<https://diversicrop.eu/>



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Wishing you a 2026 full of  
diverse opportunities and  
sustainable crops!!

COST ACTION CA22146

We wish everyone happy  
holidays to you and your  
family.

May we all have a prosperous  
New Year of 2026 full of  
health and success!

**HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS**

## MORE TO FOLLOW...

<https://www.diversicrop.eu>