



Gap Analysis - Gaps in the EU plant protein value chain

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Problem Statement

While there is a growing demand for plant-based protein, challenges along the value chain from inputs to consumption mean that this demand is not currently being met by European farmers and food companies. Moreover, addressing challenges at one point in the chain does not necessarily lead to success. There is a need to integrate knowledge from research and practice to identify these gaps along the whole value chain.

Solution

To address this challenge, a value-chain framework was developed which considered five value-chain stages (farm inputs, cultivation & production, processing & packaging, marketing & distribution, sales & retail) along with the institutional context. Challenges at each stage were identified based on a literature review (including policy and strategic sectoral documents and reports) complimented by virtual expert interviews and an in-person stakeholder workshop. To ensure that key messages from the analysis were easily communicated, a story map was developed and made [publicly available](#).

Benefits

A significant amount of knowledge was gathered from across European stakeholders with key messages effectively distilled and communicated. Focusing on high-value protein crops grown in the EU like peas, lupins, chickpeas, fava beans, soybeans, and lentils, the insights aim to empower stakeholders involved in strategic planning, business case development, and transformative initiatives within the European food system.

Practical recommendations

Expert and practitioner knowledge needs to be integrated in a more efficient manner. Online platforms can facilitate this; however, in-person workshops are also a very important intervention to support knowledge transfer.

Environmental Impact

Legumes can offer many environmental benefits such as the ability to reduce inorganic nitrogen use, improve soil texture and increase the levels of biodiversity compared to cereal crops. By addressing the challenges identified in this GAP analysis a more supportive environment for legume production, processing and consumption can be established within Europe.

Weblinks

<https://arcg.is/15Wb5T0>

<https://valpropath.eu/>

About this practice abstract and VALPRO Path

This practice abstract is elaborated in the VALPRO Path project based on the EIP AGRI abstract format. VALPRO Path, a Horizon Europe project, spanning 4 years, from September 2022 until August 2026. With the participation of 22 partners from 9 countries, VALPRO Path is developing fresh possibilities, validating and showcasing ways to enhance plant protein production for food and feed in the EU.



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Project website: <https://valpropath.eu/>