FACCE SURPLUS (Sustainable and Resilient agriculture for food and non-food systems) is an ERA-NET Cofund, formed in collaboration between the European Commission and a partnership of 15 countries in the frame of the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI).

FACCE SURPLUS is committed to improve collaboration across the European Research Area in the range of diverse, but integrated, food and non-food biomass production and transformation systems, including biorefining. Among other things, the ERA-NET Cofund aims to support innovation and value creation from biomass and biorefineries and organises joint calls between funding bodies from Member States and the European Commission.

It contributes to the strategic objective of FACCE-JPI to build a European Research Area in the domain of agriculture, food security and climate change as well as to the scientific objective of enhancing resilience in agricultural production systems. In turn, this will contribute to tackling the Grand Challenge of ensuring food security and agricultural production in the face of climate change.

FACCE SURPLUS First call and Second call
The first call for transnational research projects was launched in January 2015 with an indicative total available budget amounted to 17M€. In November 2015, 14 projects were selected to receive funding in the frame of FACCE SURPLUS.

Recognising that other initiatives are considering the scope and application of large-scale biorefineries in the EU context, the second call of FACCE SURPLUS focuses on the small-scale biorefinery concepts and their potential role in enhancing the sustainability and productivity of EU agriculture, as well as their scope to benefit the rural economy. 10 partners joined this call for transnational research projects with an indicative budget of 6.25M€. The deadline for submission of pre-proposals was March 7, 2017, while the deadline for full proposal submission is July 17, 2017.

For further information please visit faccesurplus.org and faccejpi.com

Subscribe to the FACCE SURPLUS newsletter on faccesurplus.org and stay updated on the latest news from the ERA-NET Cofund.

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BarPLUS

Modifying canopy architecture and photosynthesis to maximize barley biomass and yield for different end-uses

Barley is a major crop worldwide, with Europe producing the greatest share. Beside grains barley plants produce an almost equivalent amount of straw that in the past was considered as a secondary product of minimal value.

Nevertheless, the increasing demand for renewable materials makes straw, and especially barley straw characterised by the largest content of carbohydrates among cereals, a valuable product for its potential conversion into biofuels and other products.

Given this perspective, the current barley plant architecture, together with photosynthesis performance and nitrogen use efficiency, should be revised to maximise the farmer income (grain value plus straw value).

Taking advantage of the unique resources of mutants and exome-resequencing data available for barley, the research project BarPLUS, funded within the frame of FACCE SURPLUS, will deliver knowledge and tools to develop new plant ideotypes.

Based on modelling evaluation aimed at identifying the most promising combinations of morpho-physiological traits over long term period, and under contrasting agro-climatic conditions, these ideotypes will provide farmers with 5-to-10 % more biomass per hectare without compromising grain yield.

Coordinator
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Project partners: Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura e l’analisi dell’economia agraria (CRA), Italy, University of Lleida, Spain, University of Potsdam, Germany and University of Silesia, Poland.

Total funding: 920,000 €

Project period: 2016-2019

For more information, please visit: barplus.wordpress.com