

Working Group 4:
Redesigning cropping systems for
zero chemical pesticide use
based on functional biodiversity
and agroecological principles

Prof Riccardo Bommarco
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

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Mutual impacts agriculture \Leftrightarrow climate

Agriculture adds 34% of all GHG

Mainly from fertilisers and methane in
the primary production

Climatic conditions explain 1/3 crop
production variability

Crippa et al Nature food 2021
Lobell et al 2011 Science
Ray et al 2015 Nature comm.
IPCC 2022

Strategies for sustainable agriculture

Redesign the crop ecosystem
(including the landscape)



Substitute
damaging
inputs



Improve
resource
use
efficiency



Cropping systems redesign aims to

Work *with* biodiversity (not replace it eg with pesticides and mineral fertilisers)

...strengthen ecological functions

...raise capture and use efficiency of on-farm resources

...increase autonomy in production

...maintain yields and environmental impact

...reduce risk and enhance stability

e.g. Bommarco et al 2013, Titonell 2014, Liebman & Davis 1999, Maeder et al 2002, Wezel et al 2014, Duru et al 2015...



Relay
cropping



Agroforestry



Biological pest control
(eg push-pull)



Reduce
disturbance



Integrated
crop-livestock



Cover the ground



Diversified crop and
weed management



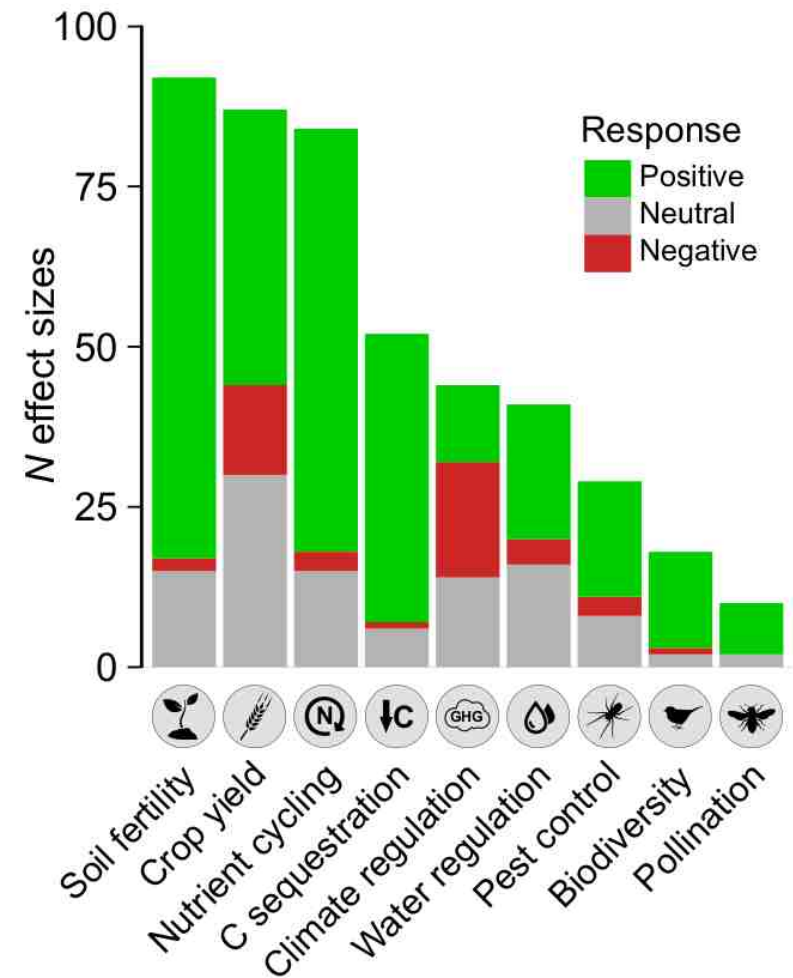
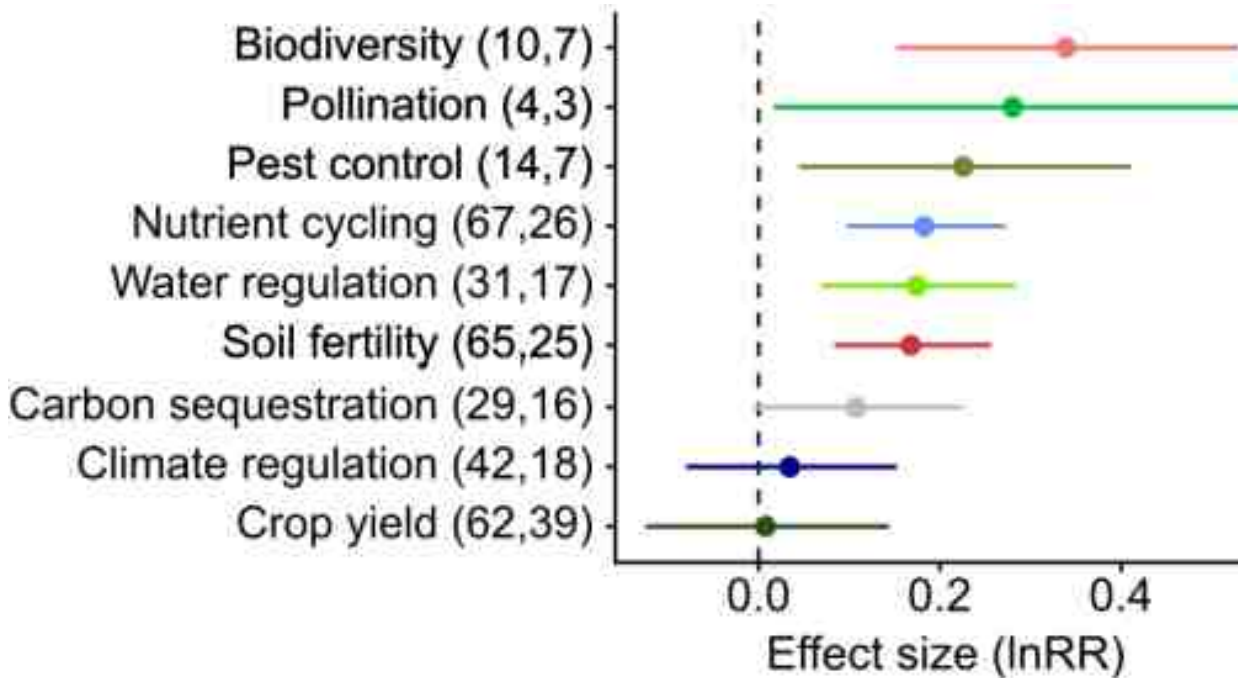
Diversified crop
genetics

Landscape redesign

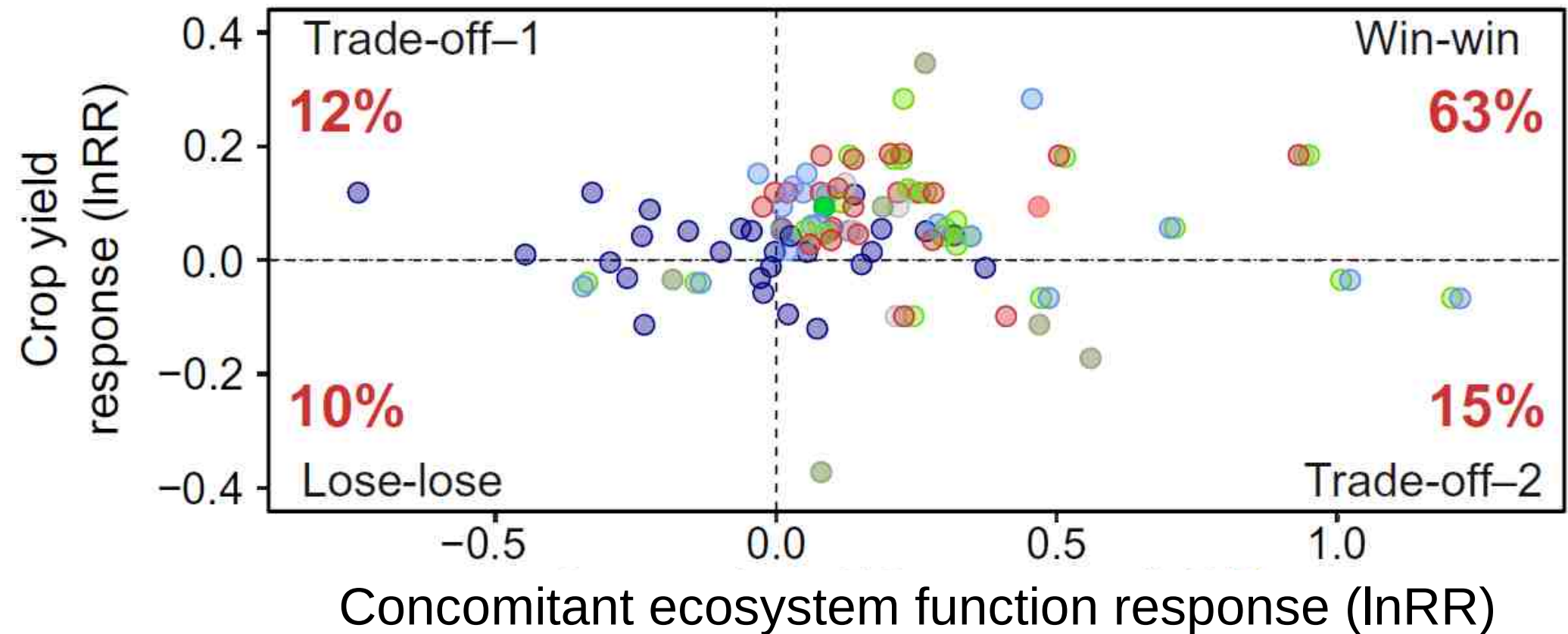


Diversification gives multifunctional crop ecosystems

Meta-study based on ~42000 comparisons



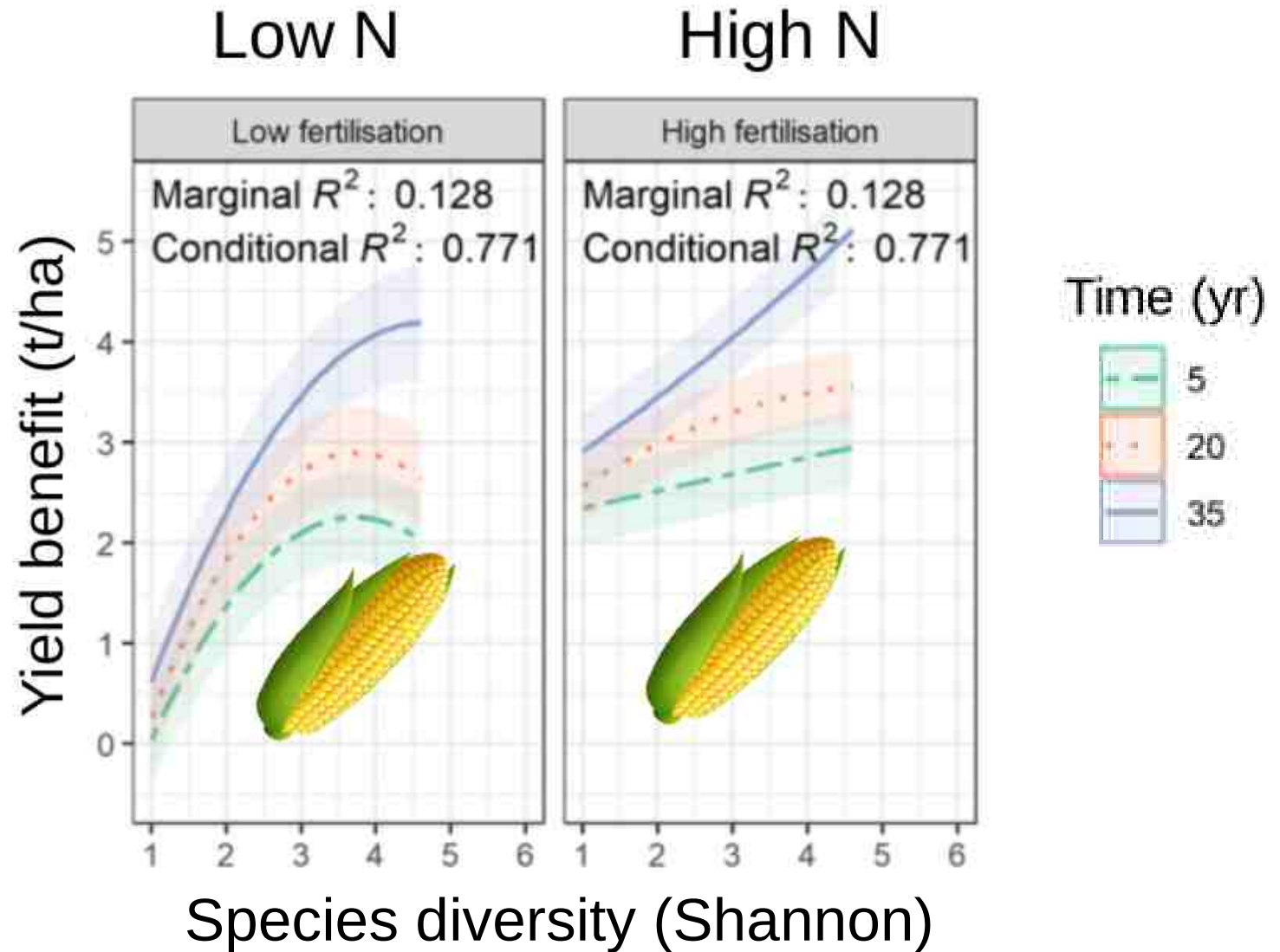
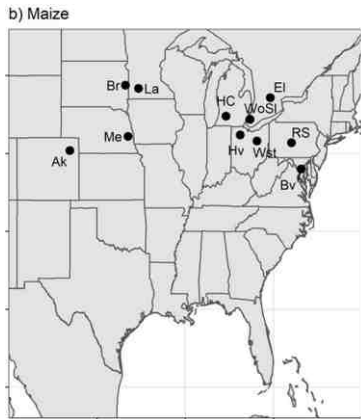
Diversification-crop yield can trade-off but win-wins dominate



Diversified crop rotations

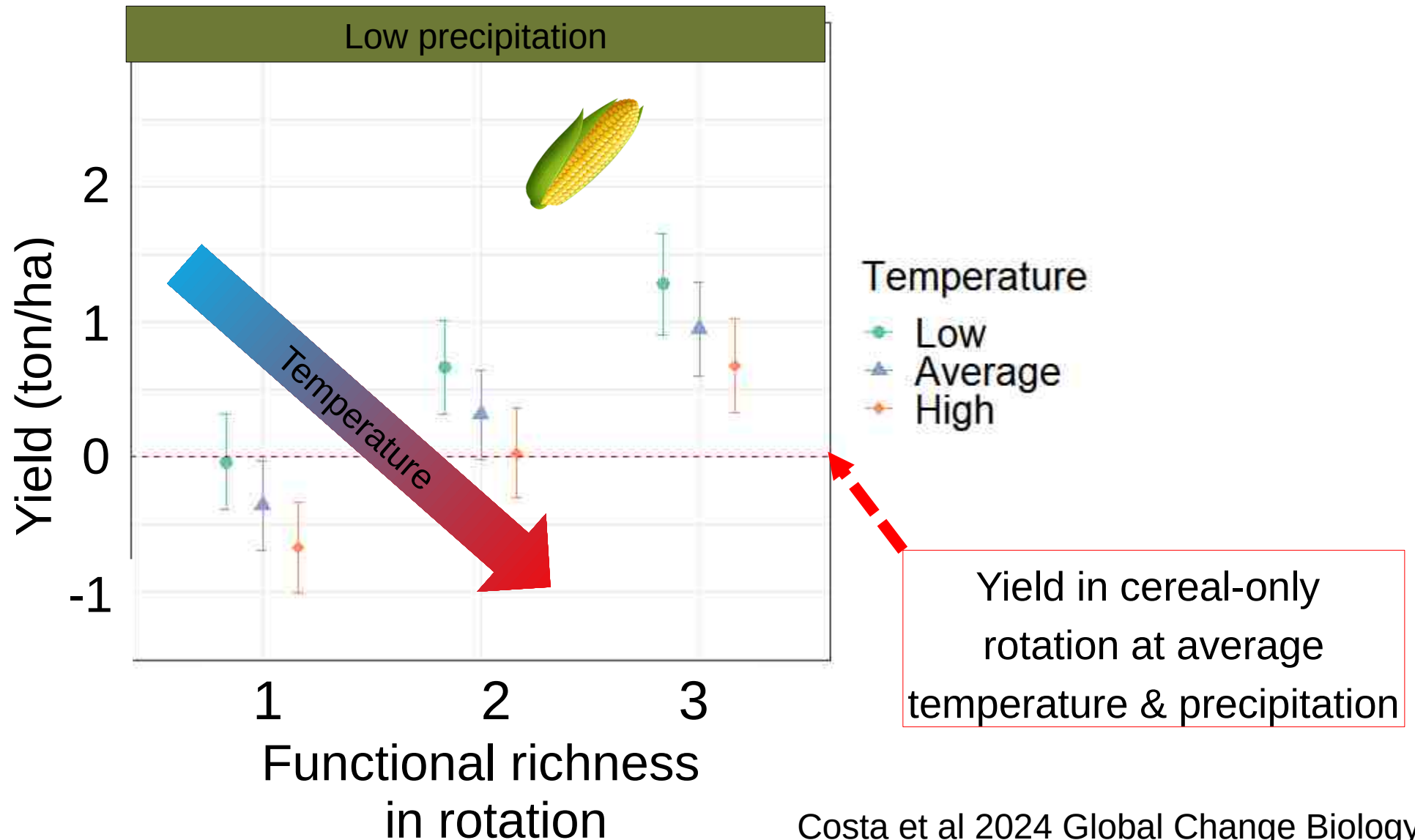


Crop rotational diversity benefits cereal yield



Smith et al 2023 Comm Earth Environ
 See also Maclaren et al 2022 Nature Sust
 Bowles et al 2020 One Earth

Crop rotational diversity over-compensates yield losses under adverse climatic conditions

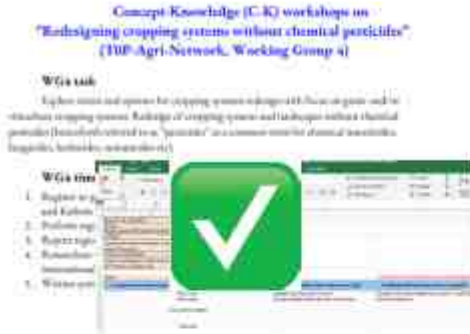


WG4 Focus topic

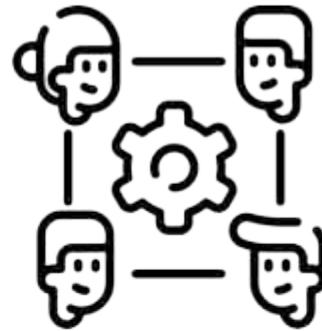
Redesign requirements of annual grain and viticulture farming systems under a zero pesticide scenario

- 1) Identify redesign options for cropping systems in the case of no access to chemical pesticides using a common methodology
- 2) Focus on grain and viticulture cropping systems
- 3) Collect this information from a representative sample of regions and agricultural contexts and from the literature
- 4) Collect material for future common scientific publications

WG4 Activities



Protocol developed



National workshops
grain or viticulture



Summarising national
workshop outcomes



Workshop with
workshop leaders



Writing report and
publication

WG4 Activities

- Regional Concept-knowledge (C-K) workshop April-November 2024 - with non-academic partners and end-users with broad knowledge on the chosen cropping system, e.g. advisors, farmer representatives, agricultural scientists and farming specialists.
- International C-K Workshop 3-5 February 2025, Germany
- Synthesis paper late 2025 (Deliverable 4.1)
- Short Term Scientific Missions 2025 (STSM)
- Training school in 2025

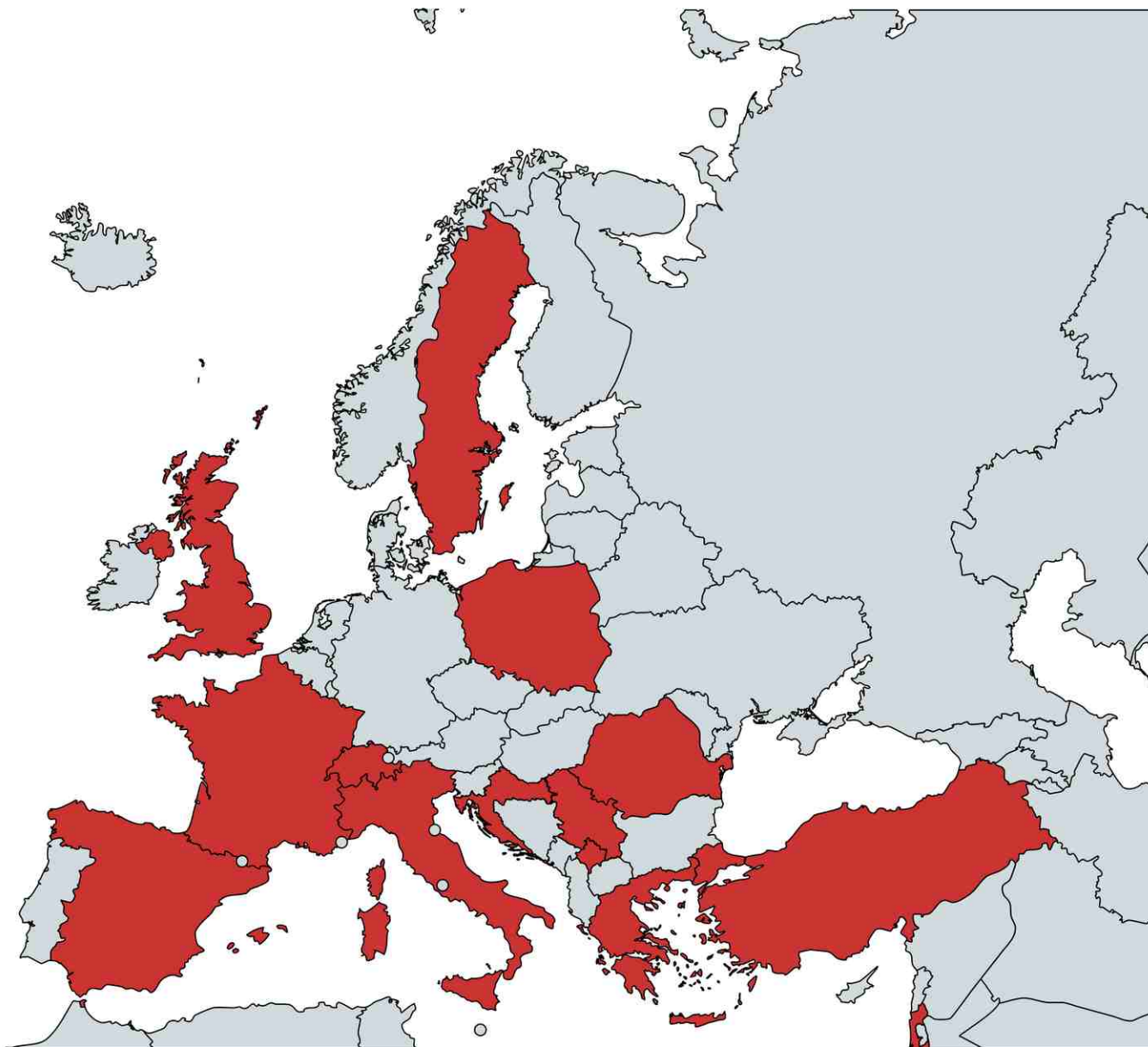
24 Regional C-K workshops

#	Country	Lead	Mail	Cropping system
1	Kosova	Arben Mehmeti	"Arben Mehmeti" <arben.mehmeti@uni-pr.edu>	Viticulture
2	Poland	Agnieszka Synowiec	"Agnieszka Synowiec - UR Krakow" <agnieszka.synowiec@urk.edu.pl>	Grain
3	Poland	Agnieszka Synowiec	"Agnieszka Synowiec - UR Krakow" <agnieszka.synowiec@urk.edu.pl>	Grain
4	Israel	Murad Ghanim	"Murad Ghanim" <ghanim@volcani.agri.gov.il>	Grain
5	Israel	Murad Ghanim	"Murad Ghanim" <ghanim@volcani.agri.gov.il>	Viticulture
6	Serbia	Antonije Žunić	"Antonije Žunić" <antonije.zunic@polj.uns.ac.rs>	Grain
7	Serbia	Antonije Žunić	"Antonije Žunić" <antonije.zunic@polj.uns.ac.rs>	Viticulture
8	Turkey	Ersin Atay	Ersin ATAY <ersinatay@mehmetakif.edu.tr>	Viticulture
9	Spain	Jose V. Ros	Jose V. Ros <J.Vicente.Ros@uv.es>	Viticulture
10	Sweden	Anna Berlin	Anna.Berlin@slu.se	Grain
11	Greece	Maria Tsiafouli	"tsiafoul@bio.auth.gr" <tsiafoul@bio.auth.gr>	Viticulture
12	Italy	Daniele Antichi	daniele.antichi@unipi.it	Grain
13	Italy	Daniele Antichi	daniele.antichi@unipi.it	Viticulture
14	Switzerland	Mark Jennifer	Mark Jennifer <jennifer.mark@fibl.org>	Viticulture
15	Switzerland	Mark Jennifer	Mark Jennifer <jennifer.mark@fibl.org>	Grain
16	Croatia	Renata Bažok	Renata Bažok <rbazok@agr.hr>	Grain
17	Croatia	Renata Bažok	Renata Bažok <rbazok@agr.hr>	Viticulture
18	UK	Roy Kennedy	Roy Kennedy <rkennedy@warwickshire.ac.uk>	Grain
19	Romania	Ionel Mugurel Jit	mjitea@usamvcluj.ro	Viticulture
20	New Zealand	Virginia Marroni	Virginia Marroni <Virginia.Marroni@plantandfood.co.nz>	Grain
21	Serbia	Dragana Božić	dbozic@agrif.bg.ac.rs	Grain
22	Serbia	Dragana Božić	dbozic@agrif.bg.ac.rs	Viticulture
23	France	Thibaut Malausa	Thibaut Malausa <thibaut.malausa@inrae.fr>	Grain
24	France	Thibaut Malausa	Thibaut Malausa <thibaut.malausa@inrae.fr>	Viticulture

Workshops in 16 countries

+NZ

1



Regional C-K workshops

- More registrations are welcome
- Deadline for registration **15 June 2024**
- Financial support of 1500 Euro can be granted (for 9 workshops)
- CKW organisers are asked to send invitation and programme to Riccardo and Kathrin (OK in original language)
- Reporting early autumn is encouraged

International C-K workshop

- 3-5 February 2025 central Germany
- 3rd travel, 4th full and 5th half workday
- Max two organisers per Regional CKW are invited to participate (~30 persons)
- Synthesis paper based on these exchanges and literature review in 2025



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Agricultural Sciences

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