


STRIP CROPPING


STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT 2019


In 2019 farmers were consulted and invited to the field trails of the strip cropping experiments of the Sureveg project in different countries. Most farmers were interested in and positive about the strip cropping system. However, there were also still some doubts and questions about the practical aspects such as machinery, strip width etc.


The attending farmers gave input and suggestions for further research, such as testing different crops, mixtures of crops or wider strips. Below we give an short summary per country with key points taken from the farmers feedback.





 DK: Farmers are interested in strip- and inter-cropping in vegetable production for natural pest management, but the implementation is not yet seen to be substantial. Farmers' interest in soil fertility and the role of fertilizer strategies is major.

 BE: Strip cropping can add to resilience of the total cropping system. It is important to combine compatible crops and to weigh the benefits against the extra effort needed to make a strip cropping system work

 NL: For implementing a strip cropping system it is important to choose suitable varieties of crops. For example, branching pumpkin is not recommended as it will grow into the adjacent strips. Moreover, combine crops with more or less the same demand of water, as a lot of farmers do not have an irrigation system per strip but per plot.

 IT: To implement the strip cropping, the used bed-by bed approach was identified as the best practice to be applied in field, instead of the row-by-row. The most economically valuable crops should be considered in order to make this diversification feasibly for farmers' revenue. In addition, the possibility to easily manage fertilization and irrigation in field needs to be guaranteed.

 FI: Correct timing is essential in vegetable cropping systems, also in relation to strip cropping and pest control. Row intercropping might provide the largest benefits for productivity, but its practical feasibility raises questions. Annual strips for supporting beneficial arthropods can be embedded into field edges, irrigation lines and areas less suited to vegetable growing, which is a relatively easy way to diversify vegetable cropping. Weeds can be problematic at strip edges.

 LV: In general, farmers were positive about implementing the strip cropping approach in vegetable farming (especially in organic production). However, weed control issues need to be solved. It was strongly advised to continue research on different crop combinations. Organic farmers stressed the necessity to continue also research on biological nitrogen fixation in vegetable rotations.

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DK: Field day in the SureVeg field experiment 27. June 2019 at AU-Aarslev for farmers, advisors and other stakeholders.



PhD student Sindhuja Shanmugam from Aarhus University presents the SureVeg field design of intercropping of beetroot and white cabbage and three fertilizer strategies, one plant-based, one animal-based and one mixed at the field day 27. June 2019.



2019



2018/
2019



Discussion in the workshop without field visit.



Visiting the field during the workshop.



2018



2018/
2019



FI: Field day at Sureveg experiment in Mikkeli in summer 2018. Photo: Hanna Kumela, Luke.



Mixture of faba bean, common vetch and phacelia were used as strips in organic cabbage fields in 2020 based on workshop discussions. Photo: Pirjo Kivijärvi, Luke.



2018/
2019



2018

Photos provided from SureVeg partners.