



SHOWCASE celebrates one year of achievements

One year of SHOWCASing synergies between agriculture, biodiversity and Ecosystem services to help farmers capitalising on native biodiversity



SHOWCASE investigates synergies to help farmers capitalise on native biodiversity

SHOWCASE just published its brand new animated video titled "Making biodiversity an essential ingredient of farming". The video demonstrates the essence of biodiversity and how important it is for optimal functioning of the ecosystem. Often threatened by conventional farming, biodiversity suffers due to the abuse of pesticides, climate change and more.



The video presents how SHOWCASE researchers will work in experimental biodiversity areas to improve the synergies between sustainable farming practices and biodiversity.

The video is published in the brand new [YouTube channel](#) of SHOWCASE.

[Watch the video](#)

This is where we started:

In the next five years the project aims to deliver new insight and innovative tools facilitating the agricultural sector's transition towards more sustainable farming, and thus help meet wider societal needs. Leading scientists in the field of agro-ecology and socioeconomics join forces with farmer and citizen science networks, and organisations working in nature conservation.



The project's kick-off meeting took place online on 2-4 December 2020. Representatives of the 21 partner organisations from 15 European countries met for the start of the five-year research project. A detailed discussion of actions for the first period of the project framed a plan for the achievement of results.

[Read more](#)

With the first year of SHOWCASE starts the first research too!

SHOWCASE research kicks off with first EBA samplings



Researcher sampling native bee pollinators in stone fruit orchards. Credit: Curro Molina (CSIC).

The first samplings in the Spanish experimental biodiversity area (EBA) took place in the Guadalquivir valley. Researchers are currently monitoring which pollinators visit fruit trees in different farms. The motive for this monitoring activity is to find out what the biodiversity status quo in the EBA is by the time the project begins, and before any actions and measures have been implemented.

The outcome of the initial measurement aims to provide a baseline for further investigation in biodiversity-friendly agriculture. Future research actions will focus on showcasing synergies between economic incentives and biodiversity protection in agriculture.

SHOWCASE events and workshops

SHOWCASE partners hosted a webinar on nature- friendly farming



A webinar titled "Striking the right chord to support nature-friendly farming" took place within [Forum for the Future of Agriculture \(FFA\) 2021 Solutions Week](#). The webinar took place on 9 March, and enjoyed a large number of attendees. SHOWCASE partner from [WWF European policy office \(WWF EPO\)](#) Jabier Ruiz hosted the webinar, and one of the webinar speakers was Lena Luise Schaller from [The University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences \(BOKU\)](#), Vienna.

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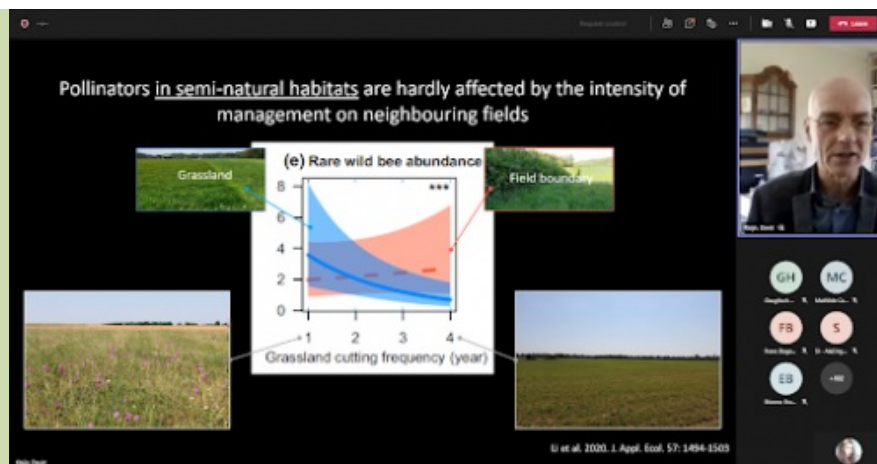
SHOWCASE workshop sets the stage for upcoming research



An online workshop between SHOWCASE project partners set the stage for upcoming large-scale research endeavours, which would be conducted in a number of European countries, featuring farmers from various backgrounds. Throughout the workshop partners coordinated their future actions, and clarified the upcoming actions.

[Read more](#)

SHOWCASE coordinator and experts took part in an EU consultation workshop on actions for pollinators in agricultural landscapes



SHOWCASE coordinator Prof. David Kleijn of [Wageningen University and Research](#) and project partners from the [Spanish National Research Council \(CSIC\)](#), the [Centre for Ecological Research \(Hungary\)](#), and the [University of Reading](#) took part in a recently conducted Expert consultation workshop on EU actions for pollinators in agricultural landscapes.

The main aim of the workshop was to provide expert insight of the possible actions for wild pollinator protection within the perspective of EU agriculture. The results from the workshop's discussions are going to be a part of the policy considerations of the EU within the EU Pollinators Initiative.

[Read more](#)

SHOWCASE partners met up for the first annual project meeting



Project members and representatives of the SHOWCASE experimental biodiversity areas (EBAs) met up between 15 and 17 November 2021.

The four-day meeting was marked by insightful presentations, vivid discussions and an overview of the project's developments and future initiatives. The 2021 SHOWCASE annual general meeting was hosted by project partners from [Universität für Bodenkultur Wien \(BOKU\)](#) in Vienna, Austria. A special hybrid conference environment provided for the meeting proved to be extremely efficient in facilitating dialogues and discussions between partners on site and online.

[Read more](#)

NEXT STEPS

Field work in all EBAs is starting



SHOWCASE's network of EBAs is setting off at full speed. Researchers from the Estonia, France, Hungary, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom will start measuring the impacts of biodiversity intervention. Benefiting soil biodiversity, improving soil fertility, breaking plague cycle and better understanding the underlying ecological mechanisms are just some of the goals of the SHOWCASE EBAs. Stay tuned for more information in 2022.

Farmer interviews in and beyond EBAs



In early 2022, SHOWCASE will conduct interviews with EBA farmers and agricultural stakeholders. We will explore how farmers feel about biodiversity management, what incentives and regulatory frameworks they see as potentials and barriers, how they experience the challenges of integrating biodiversity management into their business design. Moreover, the interviews will specifically address the roles played by extension services, consumers and local communities, farm-input providers, food-chain operators and the public.

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SHOWCASE_H2020

This project receives funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 862480.

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