

# An Introduction to SOLIBAM



## The Producers Conference Jan 2011



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# What is SOLIBAM?

**S**trategies for  
**O**rganic and  
**L**ow input  
**I**ntegrated  
**B**reeding  
**A**nd  
**M**anagement



**Funded by the EU for 4.5 years (2010-2015)**



# Who is involved?



**Collaboration between  
EU researchers, crop  
breeding companies &  
small scale farms in Africa**

# Why do we need SOLIBAM?

## Challenges

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- **More extreme weather patterns put greater pressure on crops. We need resilient plants that are able to adapt.**
- **Optimal production cannot be achieved by breeding alone. We need to integrate breeding with the most appropriate management practices.**
- **Legal protection of seed is based on pure-line bred plants. We need changes in current systems to accommodate diverse seed populations and mixtures.**

# How can SOLIBAM help?

**Genetic Diversity** links all these challenges

**SOLIBAM will develop breeding strategies & management practices which exploit this genetic diversity under a wide range of agro-climatic conditions.**

**Scope ranges from initial traits of interest to organic and low-input growers through to taste characteristics and factors that affect adoption.**



# What approaches will be taken?

## Identify Crop Traits

- Specifically adapted to low-input & organic systems

## Trial Genetically Diverse Plant Populations

- In a range of agro-climatic conditions to stabilise yield & quality

## Molecular Tools

- To monitor accuracy of breeding & selection processes

## Comparison of Breeding Strategies & Assessment of Crop Quality

- In organic, low-input systems.

## Evaluate Socio-economic & Environmental Impacts

- Of breeding innovations to assess factors influencing their adoption

## Disseminate Knowledge to Key Stakeholders

- Farmers & extension services, seed companies, registration offices, policy makers, food industry & consumers

# What crops are included?



## **Cereals:**

**Winter wheat, barley, einkorn, emmer, durum wheat**

## **Vegetables:**

**Common bean, broccoli, cabbage, maize & tomato**

# What will this mean to producers?

## Better crop performance

- Improved quality, stability & resilience in face of unpredictable weather patterns .

## Benefits for marketing

- Impact on nutritional and end-use quality.
- Definition of consumer preferences.

## Assessment of legal and economic aspects

- Policy recommendations for seed certification & legal protection
- Economic appraisal of innovations on individual and sector as a whole.

# Thank you

**Updates will be publicised as trial results become available.**

**More information can be found on the project website:**

**<http://www.solibam.eu/>**

**And also The Organic Research Centre Bulletin**

**<http://www.organicresearchcentre.com>**

SOLIBAM was selected by the European Commission as part of the Foods, Fisheries, Agriculture and Biotechnologies theme. It is funded under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development. For more information, and a full list of partners, see the website.