# Sustainable agri-food systems need you:

## the puzzle and paradox of legume-based agri-food systems in Europe



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### TRansition paths to sUstainable legume-based systems in Europe (TRUE) Project

Paradox and puzzle: Legume-supported agri-food systems are sustainable, and European agrifood systems are heavily legume-reliant. However, these legumes are not home-grown; why is this?

**Aim:** Identify and enable *transition paths* to help realise more sustainable legume-supported agrifood systems in Europe.

**Approach:** Nine strategic Work Packages (WP) pool data and analyses combined with expert knowledge from stakeholders across the entire supply chain.

**Partners:** 24 academics and non-academics spanning the agri-food system across 11 countries.

WP1: Knowledge Exchange & Communication

WP3: Nutrition WP2: Case and Product Studies Development

Inputs

WP4: Markets **WP5:** and Consumers Environment

WP6: Economic

WP7: Policy and Governance

**WP8: Transition** Pathways



Aggregation

fully aware of legumes

Processing

#### Legume Innovation and Network (ELIN) workshops

Held across Europe to engage a wide diversity of actors from across the agri-food system to identify factors that enable legume-supported agri-food systems. **Economics** & → Urgent need for tailored education of Environment actors throughout society to help ensure that all consumers are

### • Early (Life Cycle Analysis) data confirm the high nutritional provision and low environmental

impact of legume-based foods and feeds

• The LCA and economics-based approaches are providing indicators of the environmental-, humanhealth and economic potential of legume-based agri-food systems.

#### **New Products Development**

- Novel processing to deliver novel legume-based foods (for humans) and feeds (for animals, fish and shell-fish).
- Novel legume-based meals in catering units to improve human health and well-being.







**TRUE works objectively** to identify and enable the transition paths to more-sustainable home-grown legume-supported agri-food systems

#### **Markets and Consumers**

Study of the public and private food procurement highlighted that wholesalers are the key 'bottle-neck' for the

### **Decision Support System (DSS)**

Distribution

#### **Preliminary DSS has been conceived to test sustainable**

systems using legume-supported food systems as a model. The approach uses legume-focused sustainable development indicators of economics-, societal- and environmentalwellbeing.

**Policy &** Governance

- Policies to increase home-grown protein production and consumption exist only rarely across the EU states. • Health and nutrition are new focal points of consumer policy and are gaining increasing
- acknowledgment.
- **Trade policy** is creating a marked governance framework.

 $\rightarrow$  Policies for legumes are incoherent



movement of legumes into the food service markets.





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## www.true-project.eu

