



Transition paths to sustainable legume-based systems in Europe

Use your network for successful product development the case of legume-based flours for gluten-free baked goods

A food network is typically centred round a lead organisation, which coordinates the knowledge exchange and supports relationship building among the network participants. These initiatives can be extremely useful to local entrepreneurs willing to develop a new product.

For example, a local food innovation network rooted in Denmark was involved in promoting and supporting product development with the specific aim of using more legumes. A local food entrepreneur (a baker) wanted to develop new recipes for a new gluten-free cake using legume-based flour but had no experience in sourcing suitable suppliers.

The network proved its value by first identifying possible types of legume-based flours; and secondly by providing the baker with the contact details of potential suppliers. The baker could then start developing the new gluten-free cakes: brownies made with faba bean flour and dark chocolate. To test consumers' responses, the network invited the baker to showcase his products at a workshop on legume-based product development. This collaborative approach proved to be a win-win-win strategy for the food entrepreneur, the network and the consumers, who all enjoyed the outcome of a successful product development venture.

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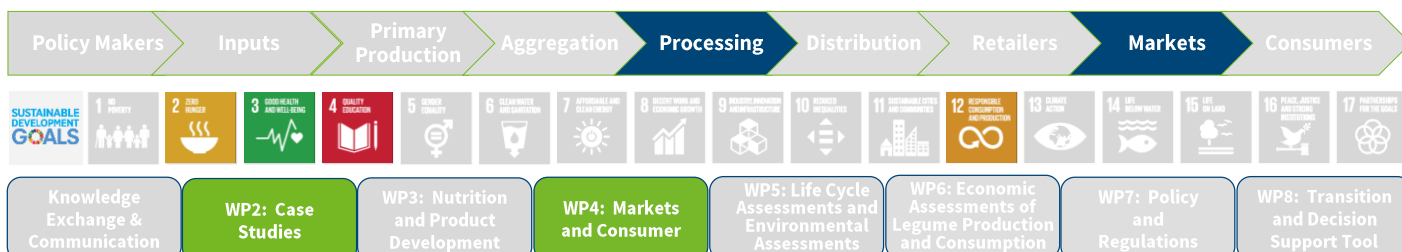
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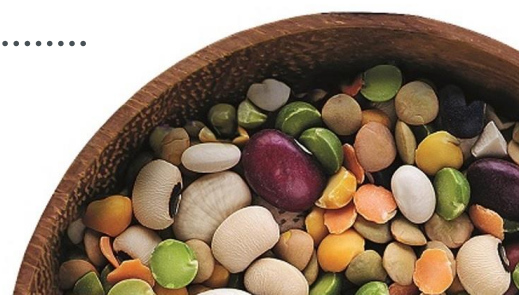
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All Practice Abstracts prepared by the TRUE Project in the EIP-Agri common format can be found here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/en/find-connect/projects/transition-paths-sustainable-legume-based-systems>





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The key learning points for a network are to understand the practical needs of an entrepreneur and to make use of the network's stakeholder relationships. As for the entrepreneur the learnings are centred around being very specific in identifying in what way the network could be of use. This example demonstrates how collaboration with a food network can help a food entrepreneur. The learnings highlighted here are, however, applicable to other agri-food sectors and to networks in general.



Photo: Mariana Duarte



About TRUE

The EU funded project "TRansition paths to sUustainable legume based systems in Europe" (TRUE) is a balanced practice-research partnership of 24 institutions, which aims to identify the best routes, or "transition paths" to **increase sustainable legume cultivation and consumption across Europe** and includes the entire legume feed and food value chains.

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