



Cereal microbiome in monocropping and intercropping



Main results and practical implementation

Our research compared the microbiome composition of spring wheat in monocropping versus intercropping with red clover. The results indicate that intercropping positively altered the wheat microbiome, increasing the presence of bacteria belonging to the *Bacillus* genus. Some of these bacteria species are nitrogen-fixing bacteria, which enhance soil fertility, reduce the need for the nitrogen fertiliser, enhance plant health and contribute to more resilient and productive crops.



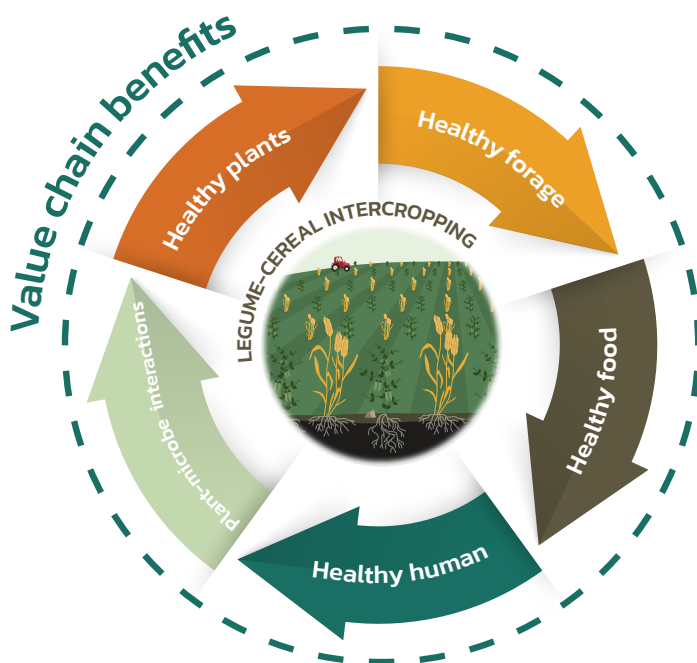
Benefits and impact

Intercropping spring wheat with red clover enhances microbial diversity and fosters beneficial plant-microbe interactions. More broadly, our findings show that intercropping not only supports a healthier and more diverse spring wheat microbiome but also improves soil health and overall crop productivity.



Challenges (and solutions)

Our results underscore the importance of crop diversification as a sustainable farming practice. However, scaling up intercropping poses challenges, such as adapting current farming practices and equipment to manage diverse crops simultaneously.



Get in touch for more support!

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