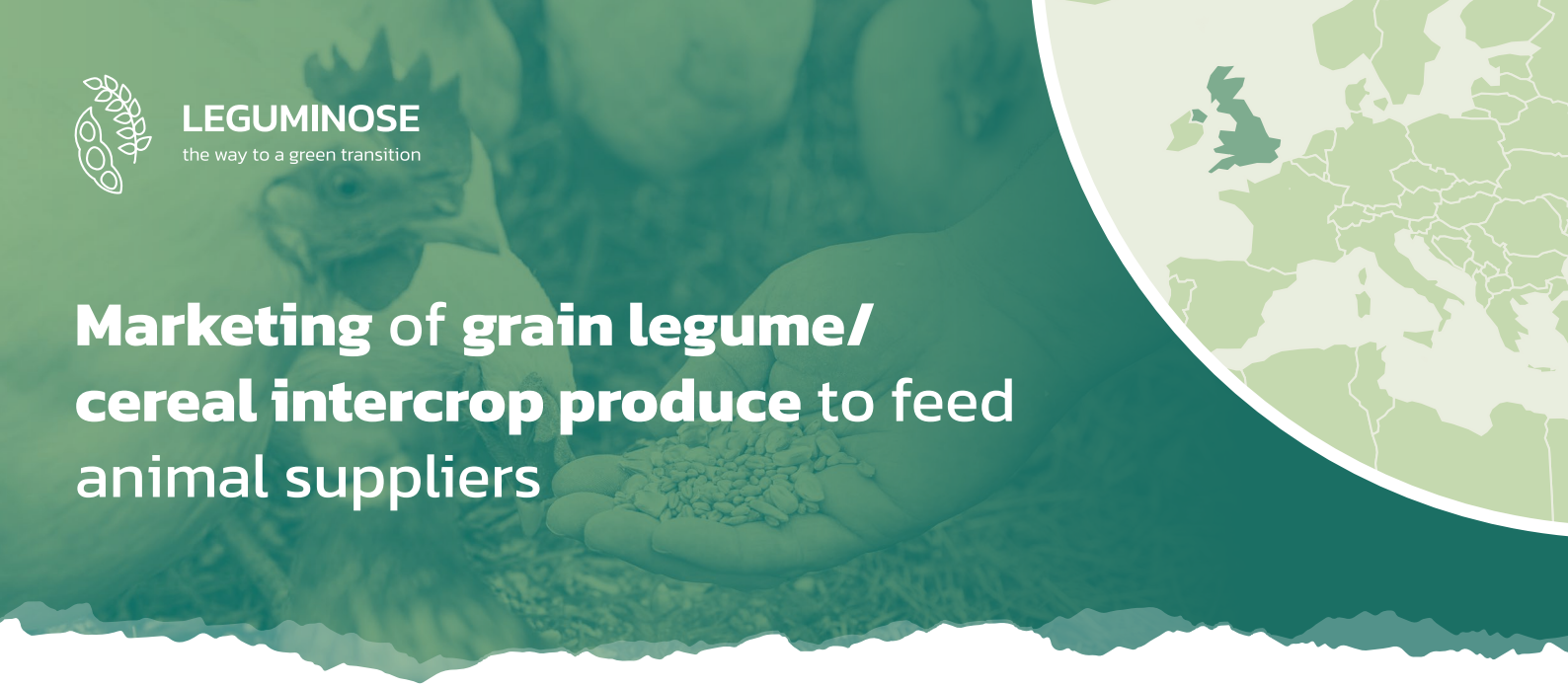
LEGUMINOSE
the way to a green transition



Marketing of grain legume/ cereal intercrop produce to feed animal suppliers

Main results and practical implementation

Intercropping produces a mixture of grain legumes and cereals. One perceived barrier is the need to separate crops for sale. For livestock feed, protein is the desired ingredient and legumes supply that protein. An unseparated crop could provide a protein content of between 15-18% Crude Protein, which is too wide a range for feed mills.

To assess accurate protein values and determine financial value for the farmer, buyers can screen incoming loads by sieving to assess legume and cereal ratios. Feed mills can then use intercrops either by adding protein (a ration needing 10% peas could be made up of 2% peas from the intercropped mix, and 8% supplemented peas) or by using a 'high protein blend' (an intercrop containing 25% beans and 75% wheat would have a calculated protein of 17% and so could be added as a 17% product).

Benefits and impact

Putting a value on intercropped products ensures the farmer and the buyer are able to negotiate value and demonstrate a direct financial benefit.

Challenges (and solutions)

Animal feed mills want a consistent product in order to produce a consistent product to sell, although there are tolerances on feed analysis. They also often have limited storage capacity on site to handle a potentially diverse product. A simple analysis of incoming intercropping products can be carried out and on site blending of commodities can increase consistency.

Get in touch for more support!

Jerry Alford, Soil Association, jalford@soilassociation.org

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