

Research spirit required - with beans to promote genetic diversity

Scientists from the European INCREASE project are calling on all interested citizens to participate in the second round of the European citizen science experiment (CSE) with old, "forgotten" bean varieties of the common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*).



As is well known, diversity in agriculture/horticulture has decreased considerably, but it is precisely this diversity that is important in order to meet the challenges that we are facing, for example, due to climate change. For this we are asking for your help. In our citizens' experiment, 1075 old and "forgotten" bean varieties, most of which come from the IPK's German gene bank, will be distributed throughout Europe. The participating citizens then examine their respective small selection. In this way we obtain valuable information about which varieties grow how and are suitable for which areas, which are then available to the general public and to research and breeding. Furthermore, we are happy if their favourite varieties continue to find a home in their gardens and there is more diversity in our gardens again.

What is needed therefore? Anyone with a smartphone and a field, garden, terrace or balcony and the necessary enthusiasm for growing different bean varieties is invited to participate. Each participant receives seeds (10 seeds) of five of the 1075 different old bean varieties and one commercial control variety to grow and care for, and to document their development by uploading photos and rating characteristics in the corresponding app.



In the pilot year 2021, more than 5200 volunteer citizen scientists from all over Europe already participated, we would be happy if we can activate many citizen scientists this year as well and for that we need your help.

To participate, the free app "INCREASE CSA" must be installed, where you can then register for Round 2 by 28 February (go to "Registration CSE Round 2" in the menu bar at the top left and follow the steps). Seeds will be sent out (free of charge) from mid-March after the bean varieties have been distributed sensibly among all participants.

The app "INCREASE CSA" can be downloaded free of charge from all digital platforms and is available in ten different languages. One can register exclusively via the app and all observations during the vegetation period are documented with the help of the app.



More information about the project and the experiment, updates and news are available on the INCREASE website on social media:

Website: <https://www.pulsesincrease.eu/experiment>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pulses.increase>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/pulses_increase

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pulsesincrease/>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/M1Cpajv6p58>

The INCREASE team is looking forward to a large number of registrations, thank you very much!