

## Practice abstract #5.2

# The lupin food value chain in Belgium



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### CHALLENGE

Lupins are crops that have immense potential for improving environmental impacts of agriculture as well as human nutrition. However, they are not largely produced in mass in Belgium due to limited knowledge and perceived economic benefits by stakeholders.

### SOLUTION

Investigating the dynamics of the lupin value chain can uncover reasons as to why this crop is not widely commercialized in Belgium as a consumer good. This can in turn build avenues that strengthen lupin production nationwide.

### OUTCOME

Consumer demand for lupins is quite low, and they are often seen as feed for animal. Some seed suppliers and farmers even believe that there is no mass cultivation of lupin in Belgium, and most lupins are imported. There is also risk amongst farmers, pertaining to the tangible economic benefits of these crops.

### PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Awareness initiatives on the environmental and health impacts of lupins can help increase demand from downstream stakeholders. Likewise, exploring more research on better and high yielding varieties, as well as providing technical support to farmers and facilitating access to information will help secure the status of lupins.

## PRACTICAL TESTING/FARMERS' EXPERIENCES

A very limited value chain of lupin exists in Belgium, yet in practice, lupins are used for meat replacements, bread mixes, and other feed ingredients.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The following documents provide more data on the lupin food value chain in Belgium:

Gresta, F., Wink, M., Prins, U., Abberton, M., Capraro, J., Scarafoni, A., & Hill, G. (2017). Lupins in European cropping systems. In D. Murphy-Bokern, F. L. Stoddard, & C. A. Watson (Eds.), *Legumes in cropping systems* (pp. 88–108). CABI.  
<https://doi.org/10.1079/9781780644981.0088>

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<https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fpls.2015.00705>

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### About CROPDIVA

CROPDIVA wants to put 6 underused arable crops back in the fields: oats, hull-less barley for human consumption, triticale, buckwheat, faba beans and lupins. 27 European partners are joining forces to enhance agrobiodiversity in Europe. They will achieve this by focusing on crop diversity and creating local value chains. The project is running from September 2021 to August 2025.



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