

## Practice abstract #5.4

# The triticale food value chain in Belgium



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### CHALLENGE

Triticale is a hybrid crop that is known for their resilience towards extreme cultivation conditions, yet they are not readily consumed in Belgium, thus the potential of this crop as an alternative to mainstream commodities is less maximized. As animal feed and ensilage, triticale is somewhat utilized, and Belgium depends on imports from outside markets.

### SOLUTION

As there is little vested interest in triticale, it is important to analyze how actors in the value chain perceive the prospects of this crop.

### OUTCOME

Suppliers and processors alike face challenges as to the lack of disease and pest resistant triticale varieties. There is also a knowledge gap that hinders these actors from understanding the nutritional and environmental benefits of these crops. This is further exacerbated by a lack of demand from the consumers themselves for triticale goods.

### PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Establishing investments in research concerning yield and crop development as well as pest resistance and management can propel the cultivation of triticale. Furthermore, informational initiatives and optimal marketing strategies towards food/feed processors will motivate the development of new products.

## PRACTICAL TESTING/FARMERS' EXPERIENCES

Growing triticale in Belgium remains to be a rare venture, and are mostly for animal feed mixes alone. Only a handful of farmers engage in triticale production and very little is known about eating food products in Belgium from triticale.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

McGoverin, C. M., Snyders, F., Muller, N., Botes, W., Fox, G., & Manley, M. (2011). A review of triticale uses and the effect of growth environment on grain quality. *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture*, 91(7), 1155–1165.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/jsfa.4338>

Zhu, F. (2018). Triticale: Nutritional composition and food uses. *Food Chemistry*, 241, 468–479.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foodchem.2017.09.00>

Photos: (1) BASF Belgium (2) Britannica (3) Pure Graze

### 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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