Awareness raising Workshop PRESS RELEASE

The CAPSELLA Project, launched on January 1st 2016 under Horizon 2020, will establish a Collective Awareness Platform for Environmentally-sound Land Management based on Data Technologies & Agrobiodiversity

17 June 2016: Agrobiodiversity and sustainable land use contribute to farmers' resilience to plant pathologies and diseases, and supports innovative strategies to environmental and economic changes. The restoration of ecosystem services and a genetic reservoir of new traits and species for farming are facilitated by an agrobiodiversity approach.

The discovery, access and adequate use of primary biodiversity and soil **open data** is critical to inform decision making to achieve sustainable use of soil and agrobiodiversity resources, to guarantee their availability in the future and to tackle several of the world's hot challenges such as providing good food for a growing human population and developing more productive and sustainable agriculture while preserving the planet.

In the light of the aforementioned concepts, the Capsella consortium presents some of the outcomes of its first workshop's Round Tables discussions moderated by experts from the agricultural and ICT & Data domains, which focused on the importance of an efficient data management and sharing.

Among others, one of the core topics that animated the discussion of the Round Table devoted to *field* was the correct management of the soil organic matter (SOM). The main interests underlined were about data supported services to increase soil fertility, to use compost, to manage the SOM with precision agriculture techniques and to deal with the soil organisms in order to balance soil requirements and functional biodiversity. In line with this need, experts demonstrated interesting open data sources, that are useful for high tech and low input, conventional and organic farming. Many more of these datasets will be disclosed by Capsella. This first outcome was followed by others raised during the other two Round Tables focused respectively on *Seeds* and *Food.*

The main requirements emerging from the *Seed* networks gathered at the Round Table, is a tool to better manage the increasing body of data on the varieties circulating in the informal seed systems they work with, as well as to record, link and elaborate the data coming from the on-farm experimental fields these networks manage. The tool would be used by each seed network at national level, making their activities leaner, more efficient and streamlined and allowing end results to be more comparable.

In discussing possible solutions, issues of data sharing, open access and privacy emerged, which were elaborated at length. Seed network representatives explained the context in which their work takes place, the reasons why privacy and restricted access to data on genetic resources, landraces and traditional knowledge are perceived as extremely important by farmers. It was underlined that anyhow, the use of standard templates, methodologies and approaches to data collection and management could greatly empower the European networks impact, allowing them to share comparable results and present these to policy makers and broader audiences at EU level.

Finally the third Round Table that tackled the important topic of good *food*. Thanks to the participation of representatives from the food professional sector such as chefs, restaurants owners

and wine producers who voiced their experience, it was highlighted which data are considered important by them and consumers. Among others, citizens/consumers are keen to know data related to the production trail, including the environmental footprint such as information about quantity and quality of water (as a natural resource and as an ingredient), food transportation and educational information: nutrients, farming practices, ways of cooking food, how to transform/process food.

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