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GRAIN LEGUME RE-DIVERSIFICATION THROUGH TRANSDISCIPLINARY BREEDING APPROACHES

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Agroecological transitions in Switzerland require the re-diversification of field crops. This especially concerns grain legumes. Adapted cultivars and knowledge about their cultivation and use for processing are lacking. The integral project experiments with transdisciplinary action-research in cultivar testing

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606 / 243

and plant breeding; and brings together farmers, processing, and plant breeders.



Main results

Participatory action research: Focus on the process - adaptations possible according to identified needs and interests

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- Transdisciplinarity: Multiple stakeholders and their concerns are involved from the beginning of the project
- **Breeders:** Receive information about performance of varieties in different environments under on-farm conditions and desired traits for improvement
- Farmers: Can select adapted varieties for their farms and marketing
- **Processing:** Can advise on variety selection and help determine quality characteristics

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Discussion of results with breeders, farmers, processing and marketing





Establishment of topic and species-specific working groups

Grass pea breeding group Chickpea-Network

Working group for Political Support

On-farm processing of grain legumes

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Bean testing group

- Communication, meetings and documentation of results are beneficial but time-consuming
- Not all species are suitable for mini-onfarm trials

Conclusions

For underutilized grain legumes, the continuous exchange between multiple stakeholders contributes to the joint definition of testing and development targets. Agronomic, breeding and quality issues can efficiently be dealt with together. The necessary work processes need to be optimized



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