



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

Legumes for sustainable agriculture – the LegSA network

Earlier work so far, what is needed to follow up

Georg Carlsson

SLU, dep. Biosystems and Technology, Alnarp

Legumes for sustainable agriculture

The idea to start a “SLU-legumes” network was launched in 2010 by **Kerstin Huss-Danell, Erik Steen Jensen** and **Georg Carlsson**.

Invitation to a first network meeting sent to SLU researchers in November 2010

Aims:

- Improve collaboration and communication among Swedish legume scientists.
- Improve the communication and visibility (internally and externally) of legume research at SLU.



Legumes for sustainable agriculture

Invitation to SLU researchers, November 2010

Legumes provide:

- protein-rich foods and feeds and N-rich green-manures
- biologically fixed dinitrogen (N₂) to the legume host and the entire agro-ecosystem
- building of soil fertility via C and N sequestration,
- biofuels, fuelwood, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals,
- diversification of crop rotations and reduction in the requirement for pesticides,
- potential to reduce fossil energy requirement and emissions of greenhouse gases in production systems,
- prevention of soil erosion by strip intercropping





LegSA activities and achievements so far

Meeting January 2011, Arlanda (20 participants; Umeå, Ultuna, Skara, Alnarp)

Website and sendlist launched in June 2011: www.slu.se/legumes;
slu_legumes@listserver.slu.se (about 70 subscribers)

Meeting September 2011, Alnarp (7 participants; Umeå, Ultuna , Alnarp)

Debate article published in Miljöaktuellt, September 2011

”Legumes for sustainable agriculture and better food, health and environment”
proposed to Formas for a targeted call, September 2011

Meeting February 2012, Ultuna (14 participants; Umeå, Ultuna , Skara, Alnarp)
→ LegSA open for colleagues from outside SLU, Swedish and
international

Legumes Workshop July 2012, Alnarp (17 participants; Umeå, Ultuna, Skara,
Alnarp, non-SLU representatives, Australia, New Zealand, Scotland)

Legumes session at the Future Agriculture day, October 2012

LegSA activities and achievements so far

Meeting March 2013, Skara (almost 20 participants; Umeå, Ultuna, Skara, Alnarp, non-SLU representatives)

Representation at the first Legume Society Conference, Novi Sad, Serbia, May 2013 (Georg Carlsson). <http://lsc1.nsseme.com>



LegSA ambitions for the coming year(s)

Annual meeting 2014, where? local organizer(s)?

PhD course? NOVA network on legumes?

Towards an action plan for promoting the use of legumes in agriculture



Researchers, farmers and other stakeholders need to engage in information transfer and knowledge sharing, at both national and international levels, to promote the use of legumes and stimulate research aiming to overcome current limitations of legume-based production systems.

Inspiration for an action plan, the German example:





The strategy is the result of intensive discussions between experts from the research, farming and food communities.

Initiated by the establishment of the Legumes Expert Forum by the German Agricultural Research Alliance (DAFA).

Task for the Legumes Expert Forum: examine and report on the research required to support the use of legumes in Germany.

Steering group leading more than 40 discussions with different experts.

Conference attended by more than 100 scientists, representatives from farming, agri-business, policy, civil society and research funders.

Planning group driving the development of the strategy forward.

Responsible ministry: the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

Towards a Swedish action plan...

Suggest that a Legumes symposium be hosted by KSLA, The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, as a startup for a series of workshops with representatives from academia, farmers, agri-business, policy, civil society and research funders.



Legumes for Sustainable Agriculture

- LegSA

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The network

LegSA is a network for research about legumes and legume-based production systems. This list offers possibilities to establish contacts based on individual persons research activities and interests.

Name and affiliation

What can LegSA do for you?

What can you do for LegSA?

- Link your homepage to LegSA homepage
- Spread information about seminars, courses, projects, publications, excursions, ...
- Host network meetings
- Propose subjects for M Sc theses; B Sc theses; PhD courses (*e.g.* NOVA)?

Thank you for your attention!



Have fun!