

5. Cultivar

A coordinated higher education programme in the field of plant breeding with an international scope, with operational options for partners in the Mediterranean and tropical countries



CultiVar trains students in plant breeding by introducing them to cutting-edge scientific research.

OBJECTIFS

CultiVar is an international multi-partner initiative, aiming to promote the exchange of information and skills between researchers and students within existing Master and PhD level training courses oriented towards plant improvement.

ACTIONS

- *Training modules "anchored on research"*. Leading researchers transform their research results into educational material.
- *Interdisciplinary bridges*. Interdisciplinary interfaces, action research experiences and multidimensional issues are addressed through lectures, roundtables and symposia to raise awareness of the complexity of research for development.
- *Follow-up with students*. Two cohorts of students starting their Master's degree in 2016 and 2017 are accompanied and financially supported.

RESULTATS

- Support for researchers from the Agro community (from research units in the field of plants and plant improvement in the broad sense) so that they become more involved in master's and doctoral courses in local training programmes (UM, Montpellier SupAgro, ED Gaia), in collaboration with the teacher-researchers: more than 100 scientists trained in teaching methods ;
- More than 130 scientists involved in the project.
- Production of educational materials:
 - Thirteen new teaching modules have been integrated into Montpellier's training courses, covering cutting-edge scientific fields ranging from phenotype and genotype analysis to integrated approaches to plant breeding;
 - Creation of innovative educational products including games and 13 video capsules.
- Support for students and young scientists:
 - Eleven scholarships to study for a master's degree in Montpellier (seven Senegalese and four Vietnamese);
 - Ten French students for their M1 internships abroad (travel, gratification, lab hosting);
 - Twenty-six invitations to young researchers from southern countries to participate in teaching modules in Montpellier.
- International component: with the objective of transposing certain teaching components into the local curricula of partner institutions in Senegal (Ucad Dakar and Ensa Thiès) and Vietnam (USTH Hanoi).
- Two introductory courses on pedagogy organised on site;
- Five international coordination missions abroad ;
- Ten invitations from partner teachers to Montpellier.
- Signing of a consortium agreement concerning, among other things, the intellectual property of the educational products created in the framework of CultiVar.
- Communication: the website cultivar-flagship.net/en gives access to a large part of the project's output (teaching bricks programme, catalogue of educational products, newsletters, educational videos).
- Putting the CultiVar experience (CultiV-ART) into perspective via an artistic medium.

PERSPECTIVES

The testimonies gathered during the workshops organised during the project and on the closing day of 21 November shed important light on the possible drivers of a sustainable dynamic. The researchers involved in CultiVar state that this project has enabled them to gain in coherence and conviction, and to participate in the rapprochement of