



2nd European Sorghum Congress: Great opportunities for a culture with great potential

«The future is about sorghum». This promising topic mobilized approximately 200 specialists from around the world at the 2nd European Sorghum Congress, held in Milan on 7 and 8 November. For 2 days, researchers, producers, processing industry representatives shared their knowledge, their experiences and their questions on several issues.

All agree on one point: the development of sorghum could be a chance for Europe, this cereal meeting all necessary qualities to tackle the economic and environmental challenges of tomorrow.

Boost an emerging industry

«We need to coordinate all actors of the sorghum sector and find new and sustainable markets. Production constancy both in quantity and quality shall be our imperative», underlined Daniel Peyraube, President of Sorghum ID. It is a call for raising awareness reacting to China's implementation of custom duties on US sorghum, which offers an opportunity for European production and reinforces the need for a structured industry at European level.

Our various thematic workshops, led by sorghum experts, made clear that European sorghum has the qualities necessary to meet different market needs:

- Sorghum is undergoing constant genetic improvement leading to hybrids more resistant to low temperatures with better productivity year after year.
- These new characteristics add to the already recognized intrinsic qualities of sorghum: low input and water needs, and strong resilience
- Sorghum is a species adapted to multiple markets: animal feed industry, human food or biogas production.

Therefore sorghum is an ace to play for producers and processing industry as well.

Meeting the challenges of the CAP to come

In the closing session, presentations on climate change, main goals of the future CAP, sustainability, resilience and competitiveness proved that the development of sorghum was one of the possible answers to these issues. This is a conviction shared by Sorghum ID, which, through the voice of his treasurer Pierre Pagès, recalled the work carried out to position sorghum as a solution for the future.

This 2nd congress highlighted the benefits of sorghum to respond to new opportunities that this young sector must take to ensure sustainable development in Europe.

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