



ecobreed
IMPROVING CROPS



Funded by European Union
Horizon 2020
Grant agreement No 771367

SECURITY (DISSEMINATION LEVEL)	Confidential
CONTRACTUAL DATE OF DELIVERY	n.a.
ACTUAL DATE OF DELIVERY	12 February 2024
DELIVERABLE NUMBER	n.a.
TYPE	Internal document
STATUS AND VERSION	Final
NUMBER OF PAGES	12
WP CONTRIBUTING TO THE DELIVERABLE	WP 9
LEAD BENEFICIARY	KIS
OTHER CONTRIBUTORS	
AUTHOR(S)	Antoaneta G. Kuhar, Andreja Žibrat Gašparič, Lea Mlekuš, Vladimir Meglič
KEYWORDS	Final GA Meeting, minutes
ABSTRACT (FOR DISSEMINATION)	The document contains minutes of the sixth Ecobreed annual meeting held at KIS, Ljubljana, Slovenia from 15 to 16 January 2024
DOCUMENT ID	Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

AGENDA

ECOBREED Final General Assembly Meeting



Salon Orhideja, Eurostars uHotel,
Miklošičeva cesta 3, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
15 – 16 January 2024

Monday, 15 January 2024

14:30-15:00	Registration
15:00-15:30	Welcome and introduction Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator
15:30-16:00	Overall progress report Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager
16:00-16:30	WP 1 report Pavol Hauptvogel (NPPC)
16:30-16:45	<i>Coffee & tea break</i>
16:45-17:15	WP2 report Heinrich Grausgruber (BOKU)
17:15-17:45	WP3 report Peter Dolničar (KIS)
17:45-18:15	WP4 report Vuk Djordjevic (IFVC)

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

Tuesday, 16 January 2024

9:00-9:30	WP5 report Dagmar Janovská (CRI)
9:30-10:00	WP6 report Werner Vogt Kaute (NATUR)
10:00-10:30	<i>Coffee & tea break</i>
10:30-11:00	WP7 report Mario Pagnotta (UNITUS)
11:00-11:30	WP8 report & Key Exploitable Results (KER) Antoaneta G. Kuhar & Helena Valas (KIS)
11:30-12:00	WP9 report Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager
12:00-12:30	PR4 and final report Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator Antoaneta G. Kuhar, project manager
12:30-13:30	<i>Lunch & networking</i>
13:30-15:30	Take-away messages & discussion All partners
15:30-16:30	Scientific Advisory Group SAG members
16:30-17:00	Conclusions of the meeting Vladimir Meglič, project coordinator
18:00-	<i>General Assembly Dinner (location: Union Pub, Celovška cesta 22, 1000 Ljubljana)</i>

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

Present in person: *see list of participants below*

Final General Assembly Meeting – 1st day

The meeting started Monday, 15 January 2024 at 15:00.

Welcome and introduction

Vladimir Meglič (KIS, project coordinator) welcomed all partners to the meeting and to Ljubljana. This is the last General Assembly meeting for all ECOBREED project partners.

Prof Andrej Simončič, director of the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, welcomed all project partners to the last official meeting in Ljubljana. He also thanked all for the excellent job and project results. ECOBREED is the 3rd H2020 project KIS being the coordinator and is the first one that was focusing on plant genetics and breeding. He also thanked all researchers and professionals from the Institute included in the project.

The project coordinator thanked the director of the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia for his support to the project.

Overall progress report

Vladimir Meglič (KIS, project coordinator) said that the project will be officially finished by end of February, but currently we need to submit all documents (deliverables, milestones, reports, except financial reports) to the European Commission by end of January 2024. He congratulated the project partners on all wonderful results of the project. There is already a lot of work published based on ECOBREED results. Our work will help organic producers and farmers in the organic sector. Challenges in Slovenia: 85% of all organic agricultural land are grasslands and only 8.5% organic areas are arable land (only 3% of all agricultural arable land). This is where ECOBREED can help with lowering cost of production and increase organic production in European countries. He also showed the plan of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food in Slovenia as they would like to increase organic production in the country. He then presented the main results and impact of ECOBREED. The project results will provide an increased availability and quality of seed and varieties suited to the specific conditions of organic and low-input farming.

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (project manager, WP8 and WP9 leader) then welcomed everyone and introduced today's speakers.

WP1 report

Pavol Hauptvogel (WP1 leader, NPPC) introduced the results of this work package and the special database produced within Task 1.3. He talked about the objectives of this work package and results achieved. He then presented the database in detail (what is included

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

in the database – source, country of origin, status, EURISCO links, Zenodo links etc.). The database will then be available and regularly updated on the ECOBREED website even after the end of the project.

The project coordinator added that in the database there will be a link also to all publications describing all assessments used in ECOBREED. We need the database finished before end of the month. He then also said that new information must be submitted even after the end of the project as we need to keep the database updated for at least 5 years after the end of the project.

WP2 report

Heinrich Grausgruber (WP2 leader, BOKU) asked the partners within this work package to discuss the final report and work to be done after the end of today's meeting. He said that most results will be presented at the ECOBREED conference later this week.

He said that the material produced in WP2 was distributed and an MTA was prepared. At the end of the project, the MTA will be distributed to all partners. The WP2 leader will discuss what will be distributed to whom in individual meetings.

He asked partners to let him know about planned publications and maybe submit to higher impact journals (more on the availability of the results, not so much the Impact Factor per se).

Drought stress experiment has very interesting results and this should be processed. Sadly, some data was lost due to the cyber-attack at KIS, but the data is now again available.

Two deliverables were submitted within this WP. He also mentioned some publications within WP2 (from BOKU, UVIGO and other partners).

EU requested how many breeding lines were developed, we need to decide what to put in the report as we have hundreds of breeding lines already.

He then asked partners to let him know what the conditions in different EU countries (Czech Republic, UK, Romania etc.) about quality requirements in organic wheat are (protein content etc.) and asked also for the reference (link to bias or similar).

WP3 report

Peter Dolničar (WP3 leader, KIS) explained that within this work package some trials were planted and evaluated in 2023. Potato genotypes for phenotyping were planted in Slovenia in 2022 and 2023, although there were problems with drought one year and floods the next. Remote sensing measurements were also carried out during both years. The results will be presented at the ECOBREED conference. He then presented the results of all the other tasks. Tasks 3.2 and 3.4 were completed before the last reporting period,

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

except for a CPB trial, on variety susceptibility, which was carried out as planned at IHAR in Poland. In Task 3.3 cover crops were evaluated in the second year at UNEW and a deliverable was prepared. In Task 3.5, they found the marker for carotenoid content in their breeding lines in Poland and evaluated the working collection. In both tasks 3.5 and 3.6 new crosses were made, material was selected in the field and markers for late blight and viruses were applied in all three breeding programmes. Selected advanced potato lines were offered to the partners within the MS 17.

Most deliverables were already prepared, only two deliverables need to be prepared until the end of January 2024.

WP4 report

Vuk Djordjević (WP4 leader, IFVC) presented the main results within the work package, but more will be presented during the conference. In Task 4.1 they collected a lot of data on genetic traits. They prepared all deliverables and published the results. They also organised a genotyping workshop at the World Soybean Conference in Vienna in 2023. In Task 4.2, chilling and drought tolerance in soybean have been studied in four partner countries. Here also all deliverables were already produced, and publications prepared. Task 4.3 is finished, and deliverable was prepared on N-fixation in soybean. In Task 4.4 they collected all data related to genotyping and phenotyping. Task 4.5 is important for seed multiplication via use of cover crops and seed inoculants with several trials done. They also prepared all deliverables within this task and published the results. One of the most important goals was production of new soybean lines suitable for organic production. They also have registered a new variety NS ECOB, that was registered in Serbia.

Main achievements were meeting objectives, trials and experiments finished in time, milestones and deliverables prepared and reached, publications prepared.

Meeting finished on Monday at 17:30

Final General Assembly Meeting – 2nd day

The meeting started on Tuesday, 16 January 2024 at 9:05

WP5 report

Dagmar Janovská (WP5 leader, CRI) proudly shared the results from this work package. In Task 5.1, 215 genotypes were collected, and more than 55,000 samples analysed. She showed the website of the CRI gene bank database where all buckwheat phenotyping data is publicly available to all stakeholders. They already published the results or are in

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

preparation of at least 2 additional publications. Deliverable 5.5 was also submitted using those results. Task 5.2 was focused on allelopathic activity screening with promising results. UVIGO did most of the testing in this task. They also used buckwheat straw for their pot experiments with good results. Task 5.4 was focused on genotyping and the results will be presented by Prof Zhou at the ECOBREED conference. 572 common buckwheat accessions were sampled with results clearly showing two genetic groups. Task 5.5 was focused on elite varieties and advanced breeding lines. RGA and SZG did more than 90 crosses that were then used in WP6. All milestones have been achieved, only one deliverable, D5.7 needs to be prepared (the final publishable report). She thanked all partners involved in WP5 for their great work on buckwheat over the last 6 years. She also thanked the coordination team for their support, especially the coordinator, and all partners for their project work.

WP6 report

Werner Vogt-Kaute (WP6 leader, NATUR) presented the results of this work package that was focused on farmer participatory trials and breeding. He presented the publications published (the bulletin for 2022 and the bulletin for 2023 is prepared and will be published in February 2024). He reminded partners to prepare the translations of the bulletin for their farmers. The network of farms was quite big. Farmers participatory trials (FPT) in Task 6.2 were continued in 2023 (52 farms with 57 trials and 489 plots; additional seed treatments trials in the UK). Varieties registration in process or already registered: NS ECOB (soybean) and Balatoni sarga (potato). Other varieties are in process but need to be sent to the WP6 leader. Peter Dolničar (WP3 leader, KIS) asked where this will be reported – so, either within the crop work packages or in WP6. The WP6 leader asked crop leaders to communicate this also with him, not only within their WPs. Task 6.3 with participatory plant breeding (PPB) had 19 farms with sown wheat CCPs in 2023 (total number of CCPs was 64 in 2023). For soybean 10 farms had FPT's with CCPs (total number of CCPs was 15 in 2023). 8 farms had sown buckwheat in 2023 with 15 CCPs in total. Buckwheat is not only for grain production, but used also as a cover crop so it has two types of use which is also important for farmers. In potato, 9 farms sown 78 early lines in 2023. Lastly, he thanked everyone for their great work.

WP7 report

Mario A Pagnotta (WP7 leader, UNITUS) presented the results of the work package. Although this task was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, we managed to organise all planned events. All deliverables were prepared, the final deliverable will be submitted soon (D7.4). In the last reporting period, one joined workshop with IFVC and KIS was organised at the World Soybean Conference in Vienna in 2023. NPPC organised an advanced genotyping workshop in December 2023. All KPIs were reached in Task 7.1 and

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

Task 7.2. In PR4, several events were organised also in Task 7.3 and the KPIs were reached. All events were attended by more than 1,100 participants, mostly in Task 7.2 focusing on advanced phenotyping.

WP8 report & Key Exploitable Results (KER)

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (WP8 leader, KIS) presented the results of this work package in the last reporting period. She presented the achievements in communication, dissemination and exploitation activities. She thanked the partners for their activities within this WP. The widest reach was achieved using X/Twitter as more than 876 were connected to the project, reaching more than 200,000 people. Most KPIs were reached within WP8. Still missing are fairs and business events with breeders, farmers, breeding companies and it seems that these events were not reported by all partners. She asked the partners to send information if any such events were performed but not yet reported. We need this information to include it in the final report. In the dissemination activities, she asked the partners to inform KIS about the published articles in industry/specialized magazines that are currently planned for 2024. For exploitation part, she presented the number of published peer-reviewed articles and the number of published first-author articles per partner. CAAS had the most published peer-reviewed articles in high impact journals.

Helena Valas (KIS) presented the exploitation results and the deliverable that is in preparation (D8.5). She stressed that the exploitation of the project results need to be presented to the European Commission up to 5 years after the end of the project. IP sub-committee had a working session with WP leaders in May 2023 to finalize the four business cases. The final draft of the business cases is currently prepared. Project partners developed business case for each organic seed variety. She then showed the still missing data from all partners in preparation of D8.5 for the four crops business cases and asked partners to provide the missing information as soon as possible. Next step is also to participate in the Horizon Results Booster Service where the business cases should be published. Once we submit the 4 business cases, there will be feedback from the European Commission and can help with commercialisation of the project results. These are the key exploitable results of the project and will have the highest impact after the end of the project. She also reminder partners to use the ECOBREED logo in new registered varieties that were developed within the project. With the intellectual property and licencing agreements already signed we will even extend the impact of the project to at least 15 years (royalty free licence to project partners to produce, market and sell new seed varieties for this period). At the end, the WP8 leader reminded all partners that the obligation of the consortium is to report on all results and activities up to 5 years after the end of the project as this needs to be reported to the European Commission in the Funding & Tender portal.

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

WP9 report

Antoaneta G. Kuhar (WP9 leader, KIS) thanked the project coordinator for trusting her with this job. Then she reported on the status on the deliverables and milestones for the project. Now, 12 more deliverables still need to be delivered to the European Commission by 31 January 2024 together with the technical and final reports as the final review meeting will be on 14 February 2024. One milestone needs to be reported (MS48) which is part of WP1 and KIS is responsible for that. In finances, she informed partners that individual communication for the 4th internal financial reporting is under way already. She added that the **financial reports together with gender data, dissemination and communication activities and SME data for the last period** need to be sent **to KIS by 10 March 2024** at the very latest. The financial report needs to be reported to the European Commission by 24 March 2024 (internal deadline due to Easter holidays). Take away messages: respect the deadlines, inform in advance for any changes, audits etc., keep your organisation's contacts up to date in the FC portal and do not go to the active processes for reporting in the portal.

PR4 and final report

Vladimir Meglič (project coordinator, KIS) reported on the status for the Periodic Report 4 and final report that need to be submitted to the European Commission by end of January 2024. He also asked all partners to stick to deadlines and report regularly. By February 2024, we will already have feedback from reviewers about the submitted reports. If everything goes well, the last payment will be sent to partner's bank accounts soon and he stated to make sure to always confirm to the coordinator the bank account number the moment before money is transferred (so that money does not go to the wrong account). Both the coordinator and the project manager thanked everyone for their cooperation and friendship in the past 6 years.

SAG members, as they were not present at the GA, will get all the information and report to give their feedback.

Meeting finished on Tuesday at 17:15

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

ECOBREED Final General Assembly Meeting

15 - 16 January 2024, Ljubljana, Slovenia



ecobreed
IMPROVING CROPS



Funded by European Union
Horizon 2020
Grant agreement No 771367

	Surname	Name	Organisation	Signature
1	Bilsborrow	Paul	UNEW	<i>Paul Bilsborrow</i>
2	Bláha	Tomáš	SELGEN	<i>Tomáš Bláha</i>
3	Bonfiglioli	Luca	UNITUS	<i>Luca Bonfiglioli</i>
4	Brandstetter	Anton	Saatgut	<i>Anton Brandstetter</i>
5	Brezáni	Adam	PRO-BIO	<i>Adam Brezáni</i>
6	Ceccarelli	Salvatore	independent consultant	<i>Salvatore Ceccarelli</i>
7	Ciuca	Matilda	NARDI	<i>Matilda Ciuca</i>
8	Colley	Micaela	Organic Seed Alliance	
9	Cséplő	Mónika Károlyné	ATK	<i>Mónika Károlyné Cséplő</i>
10	Djordjevic	Vuk	IFVC	<i>Vuk Djordjevic</i>
11	Dolničar	Peter	KIS	<i>Peter Dolničar</i>
12	Frank	Krisztián	MATE	<i>Krisztián Frank</i>
13	G. Kuhar	Antoaneta	KIS	<i>Antoaneta G. Kuhar</i>
14	Gavurníková	Soňa	NPPC	<i>Soňa Gavurníková</i>
15	Grausgruber	Heinrich	BOKU	<i>Heinrich Grausgruber</i>
16	Hauptvogel	Pavol	NPPC	<i>Pavol Hauptvogel</i>
17	Horčíčka	Pavel	SELGEN	<i>Pavel Horčíčka</i>
18	Janovská	Dagmar	CRI	<i>Dagmar Janovská</i>
19	Jocković	Bojan	IFVC	<i>Bojan Jocković</i>
20	Kempf	Hubert	SECOBRA	<i>Hubert Kempf</i>
21	Köppel	Jennifer	SZG	<i>Jennifer Köppel</i>

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

ECOBREED Final General Assembly Meeting

15 - 16 January 2024, Ljubljana, Slovenia



ecobreed
IMPROVING CROPS



Funded by European Union
Horizon 2020
Grant agreement No 771367

22	Marinciu	Cristina-Mihaela	NARDI	
23	Mayer	Marianna	ATK	
24	Meglič	Vladimir	KIS	
25	Mikó	Péter	ATK	
26	Mlekuš	Lea	KIS	
27	Pagnotta	Mario	UNITUS	
28	Pearce	Anna	LC Smales	
29	Polgár	Zsolt	MATE	
30	Prashar	Ankush	UNEW	
31	Ranđelović	Predrag	IFVC	
32	Ristić	Žarko	GS	
33	Sánchez-Moreiras	Adela	UVIGO	
34	Schäfer	Freya	FIBL Germany	
35	Schneider	Michael	FIBL Switzerland	
36	Schreiber	Nadine	SECOBRA	
37	Sinkovič	Lovro	KIS	
38	Titan	Primož	RGA	
39	Toncea	Ion	NARDI	
40	Toth	Viola	ATK	
41	Valas	Helena	KIS	
42	Vasiljevic	Marjana	IFVC	
43	Veskrna	Ondrej	SELGEN	
44	Vida	Gyula	ATK	

Ecobreed_final GA meeting_January 2024_Ljubljana_minutes

ECOBREED Final General Assembly Meeting

15 - 16 January 2024, Ljubljana, Slovenia



ecobreed
IMPROVING CROPS



Funded by European Union
Horizon 2020
Grant agreement No 771367

45	Vieites-Álvarez	Yedra	UVIGO	<i>Yedra</i>
46	Vogt-Kaute	Werner	NATUR	<i>w. U-ka</i>
47	Vojnović	Ana	KIS	<i>Ana V</i>
48	Zhou	Meiliang	CAAS	<i>Meiliang</i>
49	Žibrat	Uroš	KIS	<i>Uroš</i>
50	Žibrat Gašparič	Andreja	KIS	<i>A. Gašparič</i>
51	KODRE	ŠPELA	KIS	<i>Špela</i>
52	ŠUSTAR VORLIK	JELKA	KIS	<i>Jelka</i>
53	Champaillet	Marion	KIS	<i>Marion</i>
54	PIFAN	BARBACH	KIS	<i>Barbach</i>
55				
56				
57				
58				
59				
60				