



Supported by:



Start: January/2018  
End: December/2020

Budget: 300.000 €

## Operational Group: ConVIGNA – Maize and cowpea intercrop.

*ConVIGNA Consociação de milho com feijão-frade como uma técnica sustentável de adaptação da produção deste cereal às alterações climáticas em Portugal.*

### Practical problem

There are several cultivars of cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) in Portugal which can be intercropped with maize with various potential benefits. However, there is little information on this intercrop in Portugal or in similar contexts.

### Partners

Type:

Research /Teaching  
Agri Association

Agri enterprise

Name:

INIAV - Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, I.P.  
ANSEME - Associação Nacional dos Produtores e Comerciantes de Sementes  
Living Seeds Sementes Vivas; Living Farms Quintas Vivas; Curvas da Primavera; Sativa Rheinau AG

### Project

Objectives:

To study portuguese cowpea cultivars intercropped with maize (for human consumption), grown organically under different production conditions.

Expected results:

Identify the most promising cowpea cultivars to intercrop with maize in different regions of Portugal (North, Center and South);  
Monitor indicators such as yield, LER, drought tolerance and nutritional quality, using Bioversity International's descriptors;  
Develop a “best practices” manual for the maize-cowpea intercrop.

Results so far/ first  
lessons:

Trials will only start in Spring of 2018.  
The existence of three trial sites managed by different entities adds potential for more insights, but also requires additional coordination efforts.

Who will benefit:

Maize and cowpea growers;  
Researchers of maize-legume intercropping;  
Organic seed producers;  
Society in general due to: lesser input use, better soil conservation and higher biodiversity conservation.

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