



# EU-ReMIX UK MAP

**ReMIX Project** Redesigning European cropping systems based on species mixtures Paris Co-design seminar – February 27 & 28th 2018

Coordinator(s): Robin Walker Institute: SRUC Location: Craibstone, Aberdeen, Scotland Climate: Atlantic, annual rainfall = 850mm Soil and practices: Soil type (various) Soil tillage: Inversion & min till; Organic, Conv, Both Date of 1st planting: spring 2017



### 1. The MAP context:

**Current systems (generally):** Input intensive, production orientated, soil damage, increasingly erratic weather events **Targets or new expectations that current local agricultural systems do not reach?:** Reliable yields but using lower inputs, especially cereals, seed potatoes and home grown protein production, improved soils - health & structure

**What are the main characteristics of the socioeconomic context?:** *Long-term sustainability of business, soils and agricultural productivity* **Planned activities on the UK MAP:** *Interaction between farmers (online discussion forum), MAP farm visits, open days / evenings* 

## 2. Partners in codesigning

Main actors involved:	
Farmers, researchers, certification bodies, processor	
Recruitment: Various networks, farmer events	
Expectations: General soil improvements and	
greater yield stability of trickier crops	
Experience of crop mixtures up to now: Most have	
grown some at some point in time	

Farmers:

Number of farmers: 5 (so far ) Expectations: cropping with reasonable yields and profit with lower inputs, but is beneficial to the soil Level of involvement: All contributing to discussion and options

#### Other stakeholders:

**Certification Bodies** – potential for wider inclusion in organic cropping systems **Processor** – feed compounder & crusher with interest in organic OSR for oil destined for human consumption and residues for livestock feed

**Pea-Barley** 

Interaction between partners: Closed Facebook Group for UK MAP, with emails

What info is exchanged?: Past experiences, crop performance / observations, possible crop combinations, agronomy advice (do's and don'ts) Other actors interacting with the MAP, who are not involved in co-designing (visitors)? Certification bodies, processor, seed merchant, some researchers / KT

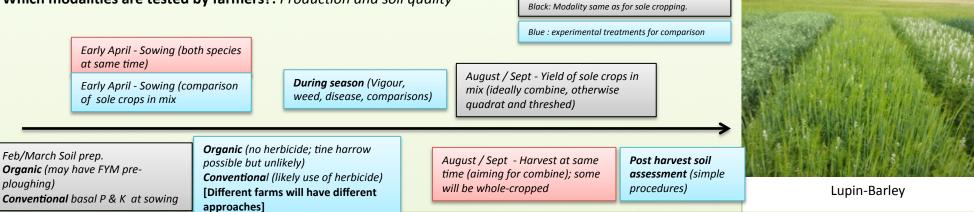
## 3. The crops mixtures in the MAP

How are crop mixture chosen and who proposed them?: Farmer orientated with suggestions from MAP What are your questions on the crop mixtures?: Different for each farm (based around targeted end use) Are they the same for each satellite farmers?: No, each farm chooses a crop mixture that fits in with their rotation and level of risk they are prepared to take, and which market is targeted

**What knowledge is available?:** Research available from SRUC and wider afield (V), alternative options for regional climate / soils (limited), herbicide options (limited), overcoming harvesting difficulties (limited)

## Crop mixture : Pea-Barley (although others being investigated)

Why this Crop mixture? Who proposed it?: *Most common approach (familiarity)* Which eco-services are targeted? *Soil improvement / lower inputs* Which modalities are tested by farmers?: *Production and soil quality* 



## 4. Next steps:

**Upcoming UK MAP activities planned?:** Continued online / email interaction between farmers and other MAP members, two field events (July)



Red : Modality adapted for mixing species