



Overcoming obstacles to create an intercrop market



Main results and practical implementation

Intercropping of cereals and grain legumes offers a number of benefits, such as enhanced nitrogen use efficiency, lower inputs of agrochemicals and yields stability. However, a major obstacle to implementing intercropping is the lack of established markets for mixed grain products. To address this issue, we conducted a stakeholder workshop in Denmark to identify barriers and generate solutions to open market access for mixed grain products. On-farm solutions are needed to manage uneven maturity and drying of mixed grain. Pre-harvest cutting and drying could be a solution for uneven maturation of intercrops and for obtaining sufficiently dry grains. The mixed grains can be separated, but another option is to analyze the quality of the mixed product and use it directly for food or feed.

Practical recommendations

- Identify end-users of the mixed grain products, such as local farmers with livestock
- Secure drying facilities and explore local options for separating mixed grains
- Analyse the composition and nutrient content of mixed grain products



Benefits and impact

- Grain products with higher protein content, lower cultivation costs, and reduced risks
- New food and feed products with lower environmental footprints
- Opportunity for creating new value chains



Challenges (and solutions)

A key challenge is ensuring that EU regulations on fodder raw materials include mixed grain products. Another challenge is collaborating with consumers, retailers, and food processors to integrate mixed grains into their food products. Local collaboration among farmers for drying and grain separation facilities can help reduce costs associated with preparing mixed grains for the market.

Get in touch for more support!

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