



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

First Legume Society Conference
2013: A Legume Odyssey

9-11 May 2013, Novi Sad, Serbia

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Book of Abstracts

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International Legume Society
Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Novi Sad, Serbia
2013

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Getting the message out: grow, use, feed and eat legumes

Breeding autumn-sown annual legumes for temperate regions

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Annual legumes are one of the fundamental crops of the agriculture of Serbia. Until recent times, only pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) or vetches (*Vicia* L.) were autumn-sown in Serbia and other neighbouring Balkan countries. During the last decade, the first seminal steps in the development of autumn-sown grain legumes were made, with emphasis on dry pea, faba bean (*Vicia faba* L.) and dual-purpose vetches. The winter forage pea cultivars developed in Serbia are generally characterised by prominent winter hardiness and a rather extended growing season, usually beginning with sowing in early October and ending either by cutting for forage production in late May or harvesting seeds in mid-July. One of the strategic advantages of recently released cultivars of autumn-sown dry pea is their significantly improved earliness. The Serbian winter dry pea cultivar NS Mraz, newly registered in Serbia in 2011 and developed from hybrids between French and Serbian autumn-hardy materials, is regularly at least a week earlier than winter barley, so many farmers will not have to choose between pea and cereals due to limited harvesting resources. The initial material for pre-breeding autumn-sown faba bean in the conditions of Serbia consisted of both collected local landraces of Serbia and populations from France and Germany. The preliminary results of their agronomic performance showed that they have a great potential for high grain yield in the conditions of Serbia. Promising results in breeding winter hardy cultivars were achieved with several vetch species, as well as with lentil (*Lens culinaris* Medik.) and grass pea (*Lathyrus sativus* L.), and will be continued with more species including barrel medic (*Medicago truncatula* Gaertn.).

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In the rich world of global agriculture, diverse legumes can play key roles to develop environment-friendly production, supplying humans and animals with the products of high nutritional value.

The Legume Society was initiated in 2011 with two primary missions. One of them was to treasure the rich legume research tradition of the European Association for Grain Legume Research (AEP), with emphasis on carrying out its the triennial legume-devoted conferences. Another one is to fulfill a long-term strategy of linking together the research on all legumes worldwide, from grain and forage legumes pharmaceutical and ornamental ones and from the Old World to the Americas.

We do anticipate that the First Legume Society Conference will be a unique and genuine contribution to our common goals: to promote the legume research and all its benefits into all spheres of the society, linking science with stakeholders and decision-makers, and to demonstrate how an efficient, useful and firm network of the legume researchers of the world is possible and sustainable.

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