



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
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Programme

9

Session 1

Achievements and challenges in crop legume research

15

Session 2

Legume genetic resources and phylogenetic relationships

47

Session 3

Legumes in foods and impacts on human health

69

Session 4

Advances in legume breeding concepts and tools

115

Session 5

Legume seed production, meeting market requirements and economic impacts

137

Session 6

Translational omics for legume improvement

185

Session 7

Responses to biotic and abiotic stresses in legumes

225

Session 8

Non-food, non-feed and other alternative legume uses

235

Session 9

Understanding and enhancing the legume cropping environment

275

Session 10

Mechanisms of beneficial legume-microbe interactions

289

Session 11

Legumes in animal feeds: requirements and impacts

305

Session 12

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

Field pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) as a companion crop for the establishment of perennial legumes

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Pea is one of the most important crops in the world. Among the many ways of utilization of this crop are that related for forage production. Forage pea may be cultivated alone as a pure crop, or in mixture with other crops, usually cereals. In recent time, several attempts have been made to cultivate forage pea with other legumes, where pea would play the role of cover crop. The results reported here are obtained in a greenhouse experiment aimed to assess the pea as a companion crop for establishment of lucerne (*Medicago sativa* L.), red clover (*Trifolium pratense* L.) and sainfoin (*Onobrychis sativa* L.) as undersown crops. The semi-leafless pea cultivar Jezero with three population densities (30, 60 and 90 plants per m²) were used in this experiment. Two control treatments also included in the experiment – the perennial legumes grown as a pure stand, and the perennial legumes with oat as a cover crop. The effect of pea on forage yield, chlorophyll content, leaf surface and LER is determined. According to obtained results, the best combination for lucerne is 30 pea plants per m², 90 for red clover and 60 pea plants per m² for sainfoin.

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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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