

November 2021 | ISSUE 17

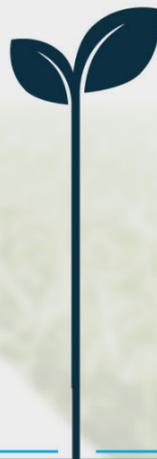
# SKiM PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Strengthening Knowledge Management  
for Greater Development Effectiveness

2<sup>nd</sup> International Agrobiodiversity Congress

**INNOVATION SPACE**

Monday, 15 November 2021  
14:15 - 16:00 CET



**AGROBIODIVERSITY  
INNOVATION  
CHALLENGE**



Agrobiodiversity  
Innovation  
Challenge: 3 wins  
for Irri-Smart

Selectia  
milestone

Digital advance  
for SAUM

# Agrobiodiversity Innovation Challenge: 3 wins for Irri-Smart

*The Agrobiodiversity Innovation Challenge brought together innovators passionate to demonstrate their solutions and products to transform food systems through the use and conservation of agrobiodiversity and to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

The winners were announced during the prize giving ceremony on the 15th of November, 2021 during the 2nd International Agrobiodiversity Congress.

The Irri-Smart application by SPEC-trum research team at ENA-Meknes (Morocco) **won awards in 3 nominations.**

The Irri-Smart application has been developed to help optimize on-field drip irrigation by providing farmers, farm managers and other end users with the necessary irrigation parameters (daily irrigation needs, calendar) in order to implement precision irrigation and help improve profitability.



Follow the [link](#) to watch the video presentation of the Irri-Smart.



More details about the Irri-Smart in [SKiM Newsletter issue 15](#) (p. 4).



All the videos from 2nd International Agrobiodiversity Congress are available [here](#).



# South-South cooperation for improving field crops by Selectia — important milestone for SKiM partner from Moldova

*Widening collaborative efforts through SKiM partnership, [Selectia Research Institute of Field Crops](#)\*, Republic of Moldova received access to international nurseries of different crops that will support development of new varieties in the country.*

For example, over 90 varieties of new winter wheat and winter barley seeds were received from international community of similar research institutions. Also, chickpea (CAT-22) and faba bean (FAT-22) advanced nursery trials, grass pea yield trials for early maturity (GIYT-E) and lentil international segregation nursery trial (LISN-22) are among generic material received from ICARDA network. Four sets of nurseries of the ICARDA mandated legume crops have been provided for evaluation and selection under the Moldova's agro-ecological conditions and socio-economics contexts. The advanced yield trials are for fast-track evaluation and release. In contrast, segregating material provides opportunity to national partners to make single plant selections to carry forward them through the evaluation



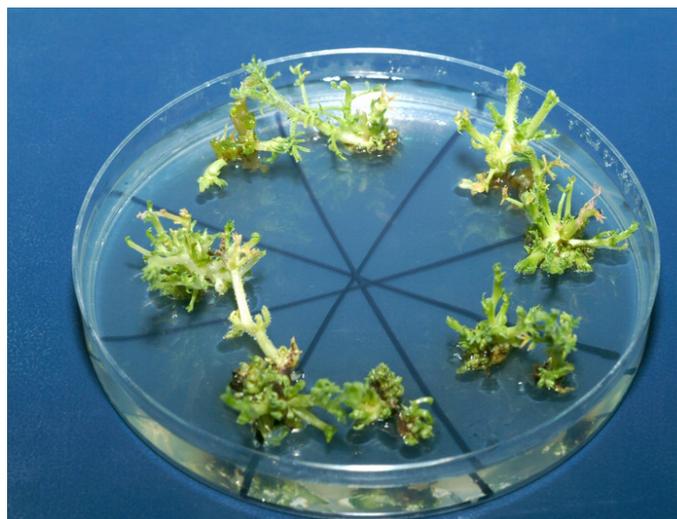
*ICARDA seed boxes ready for scan at the airport.*

cycle in place. The segregation material is used for more comprehensive testing, in-depth evaluation to improve the genetic diversity in the country.

The “Selectia” beneficiaries are farmers, students and researchers. The overall objective is to obtain scientific results that will serve as a basis for recommendations for farmers and teaching materials for the training of young specialists in the field of agriculture.

The increased activity of national partners has become more dynamic due to close cross-country collaboration within SKiM Project.

The last [Learning Route](#) event held in Moldova with active participation of Selectia Research Institute demonstrated keen interest between national partners from Moldova, Morocco and Sudan in exchanging scientific achievements, best practices and knowledge for analysis and adoption by participating rural institutions, growing professional network or capacity development.



*Germinated seeds of chickpea.*

## Note

\* *“Selectia” Research Institute of Field Crops is a public institution with target areas for breeding and production of field crop seeds. The Institute also develops technologies and agricultural systems capable to ensure the sustainable development of agriculture.*

*During the institute’s 74 years of activity, 349 varieties and hybrids have been developed, out of which 160 were officially recognized, including but not limited to 17 varieties of winter wheat, 15 varieties of autumn barley, 16 varieties of peas, 18 varieties of soybeans, 12 varieties of beans, 18 hybrids of sunflower, and 6 varieties of sugar beet.*



*The public Research Institute for Field Crops “Selectia” in Balti District, Republic of Moldova.*

# Digital advance for SAUM

The year of 2021 was marked for the State Agrarian University of Moldova (SAUM) with significant digital reinforcements: successful launch of the updated [official website](#) and [Institutional repository](#) integration to the [Knowledge Management Portal](#). Both of enhancements were driven within the framework of SKiM project.

The updated website is available in 3 languages: Romanian, English and Russian, providing up-to-date information on areas of study, research programs and educational process.

The new version of the website offers wide range of interactive services and support for the researchers, students and parents.

The SKiM project also contributed to the production of 4 video stories highlighting best practice sharing from SAUM graduates.

The videos are available on the [University website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

The SAUM history dates back to April 1933 when His Majesty King Carol II promulgated the Law concerning the transformation of Agricultural Sciences Section from the University of Iasi into the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences with its center in Chisinau.

Further growth and evolution of the University allowed it to become a well-recognized higher educational institution both on local and international levels, being an alma mater for more than 50,000 well-known specialists with significant scientific performances.

At present, SAUM has over 6,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students trained in 23 specialties, 30 specializations, and 27 scientific specialties. In 2013 The State Agrarian University of Moldova was honored with "The Order of the Republic", the highest state award recognizing its legacy and merits in the Higher Education Area.



**i**  
SAUM, located in Chişinău, is the center of capacity building for youth to help rural development and agriculture production of the country

SAUM website.

## Don't miss any news from SKiM project!

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## SKiM project implementing partners



**Procasur**



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