



# BOOSTER

BOOSTING DROUGHT TOLERANCE IN KEY CEREALS  
IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE

## BOOSTING DROUGHT TOLERANCE IN KEY CEREALS IN THE ERA OF CLIMATE CHANGE



**START**  
1st May 2023



**DURATION**  
48 months



**EXPECTED FUNDING**  
€ 4.9 million



**FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME**  
European Commission's Horizon Europe

### WHAT IS THE AIM OF BOOSTER?

To enhance drought tolerance in maize and teff by utilizing natural genetic variations and biostimulants derived from living organisms to develop new varieties of drought-tolerant agricultural crops.



### BOOSTER PLANT SPECIES:

#### EUROPEAN MAIZE

(Zea mays): globally utilized cereal.



#### ETHIOPIAN TEFF

(Eragrostis teff): orphan cereal.



#### SOUTH AFRICAN LOVEGRASS

(Eragrostis nindensis): desiccation-tolerant cereal found in the wild.



### STRATEGIES:



**Identify natural genetic variations** linked to drought tolerance in maize and teff and **transfer genetic traits** from more drought-tolerant species (teff and lovegrass) to less tolerant species (maize) to improve drought resistance.



**Develop novel natural biostimulants**, such as seaweed extracts (SWEs) and plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR), to enhance drought resilience using an eco-friendly approach.



**Implement a synergistic approach** that combines genetic and biostimulant strategies to boost crop resilience to climate challenges.



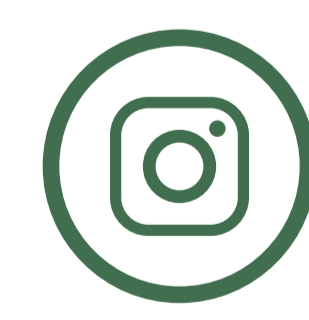
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