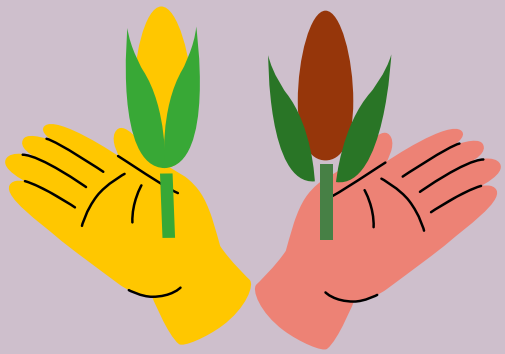
Corn and Sorghum - Pillars of European Autonomy



SEEDS FROM EUROPE

MAIZE AND SORGHUM, KEYS TO BUILD OUR FUTURE.

CAMPAIGN FINANCED WITH AID FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

THE EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS CAMPAIGNS THAT PROMOTE HIGH QUALITY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

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At a time when Europe must strengthen its strategic autonomy within the context of the current sanitary, geopolitical, and climate crises, corn and sorghum stand out as the pillars of the agricultural and industrial autonomy of the continent. The complementarity of the two crops not only helps to secure food supply, but also reduces dependency on imports, renders local industries more active, and places Europe as a leader in agronomic innovation.



Two Resilient Crops in a Europe that Is Less Dependent on Imports

Climate changes and the increased frequency of weather hazards (droughts, extreme heat) threaten the steadiness of grain supply. Thanks to their C4 photosynthesis, corn and sorghum provide a concrete solution:



• **Tolerance to extreme temperatures:** photosynthesis remains active at high temperatures (around 30°C).



• **Rapid growth:** abundant production of biomass, which is perfect for replacing imports of plant protein or energy (biofuel).

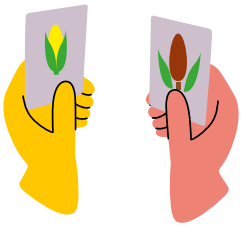


• **Exceptional water efficiency:** corn and sorghum require two times less water per biomass unit (compared to C3-grain photosynthesis).



Self-reliance:

By developing these crops, Europe can reduce its dependency on corn imports (especially from South America) and soybean imports, whilst securing its raw materials for feed and food uses.



A Complementarity that Contributes to the Resilience of European Farms

European farmers face a double pressure: price and weather volatility. Corn and sorghum – complementary crops – enable them to:



• **Diversify their productions** and limit risks related to specialization;



• **Optimize costs, through** simple production systems, using typical farm equipment, and being able to spread work evenly throughout the summer;



• **Secure their income,** thanks to a variety of market outlets (food, feed, biofuel, biomaterials);



• **Foster European excellence in the field of seed production:** the result of acknowledged know-how, the European seed industry is a true strategic asset for Europe.



Self-reliance:

Resilient farms mean a European agriculture that is less vulnerable to external shocks (such as commercial wars, sanitary crises, or shortages). A self-reliant seed production and hybrid innovation industry that is able to meet all our needs is a guarantee of independence. It is also a way of maintaining a competitive agriculture among international competition.



Securing the Supply Chains for the Processing Industry: a Strategic Must

To the European processors and industrial operators, dependency on agricultural raw materials is a major risk. Corn and sorghum enable one to:



• **Diversify one's supply sources** and reduce exposure to world market fluctuations;



• **Access well-supplied, liquid markets** throughout the year, allowing plants to plan and react in a timely manner;

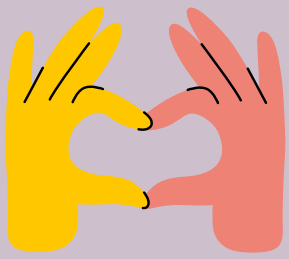


• **Meet a wide range of needs:** feed use, food use, biofuel (to limit oil imports) or biomaterials (for a circular European economy).



Self-reliance:

By relying on these crops, Europe can re-industrialise its processing sectors (starch, ethanol, feed) and limit value leakages.



Corn and Sorghum: Two Crops Standing at the Heart of the European Economy

Against the background of the current geopolitical, climate, and economic challenges, corn and sorghum are not only high-performing crops, but also strategic tools that:

- reduce dependency on grain imports;
- strengthen the resilience of the European farms and processing industries;
- secure the supply of raw materials for food, energy, and materials;
- assert Europe's technological autonomy in the field of seeds.

Europe has all the assets to become a leader in self-reliant and sustainable agriculture.

And corn and sorghum are two pillars of future agriculture.

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FNPSMS
maiz'EUROP'

Valérie Brochet
Head of the FNPSMS
valerie.brochet@fnpsms.fr

maize.seedsforfuture.eu
sorghum-id.com

Headquarters
21 chemin de Pau
64121 MONTARDON
Phone: +33 (0)5 59 12 67 00

Office
23-25 avenue de Neuilly
75116 PARIS
Phone: +33 (0)1 47 23 48 32