

Innovation Hub Factsheets 2024

Living Interrow, Hungary

The mountains of north-eastern Hungary are becoming increasingly prone to extended periods of drought, so this innovation hub is looking at how cover crops can help protect soil and provide protection in the region's vineyards and apple orchards. As well as improving soil health, the aim is to see what can be done to increase biodiversity, working with seed companies to determine which species provide the best overall climate-proof mix.



Field visit with local farmers and citizens



Site testing

Notable successes and challenges 2023–2024

Research has continued throughout the year, with an emphasis on sandy areas. In 2023, 9 sites were surveyed, with a further 18 covered in 2024. This has allowed the project to extend its research network and build new collaborations both with winegrowers and orchard farmers.

The project's academic influence has extended further through a new strategic partnership with Eszterházy Károly Catholic University, alongside a masterclass at ÖMKI's sectoral conference, a field visit hosted at the European Organic Congress in September 2024 and presentations to the Hungarian scientific community at three major events.

Summary

Work continues to focus on species-rich cover in vineyards and orchards, engage with outreach programmes to local communities and agricultural practitioners, and work with new strategic partners.