

InnoVar Kicks off!

***InnoVar* – Next-generation variety testing for improved cropping on European farmland**

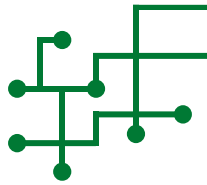
The kick-off meeting of the H2020 project *InnoVar* was held October 16th, 17th and 18th in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The project’s coordinator AFBI hosted the meeting.

InnoVar aims to augment and improve the efficacy and accuracy of European crop variety testing and decision-making, using an integrated approach incorporating genomics, phenomics and machine learning. Historic data will form the foundation of the *InnoVar* database which will be expanded with new harmonised data generated from a trial series across Europe. The project focuses on wheat initially before applying the *InnoVar* approach to other crops.



Photos from the *InnoVar* kick-off meeting. On the left - KOM attendees, on the right – Project coordinator and speakers from Day 1.





InnoVar is a 4,5 years project under the Horizon 2020 SFS-29-2018 call. The project's consortium includes 21 partners across Europe.

Outputs and impacts of the project include:

- Support the introduction of new varieties that are “fit for purpose”, providing stable and higher yields;
- Help introduce plant traits that respond to new challenges and demands in the conventional and organic sectors;
- Increase the economic return of growers;
- Develop experimental designs, methods and tools to improve performance testing of new varieties for their sustainability profile;
- Support activities of the network of European and national plant variety examination offices;
- Improve information and recommendations on variety performance available to growers.

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