





XIV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium "Agrosym 2023" Jahorina, October 05-08, 2023



# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

XIV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium "AGROSYM 2023"



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# PREFACE

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the Book of Abstracts of the 14<sup>th</sup> International Scientific Agricultural Symposium "AGROSYM 2023", which I hope you will find useful in your work. Almost 700 contributions have been accepted for the Book of Abstracts. The themes of AGROSYM 2023 cover all branches of agriculture and are divided into seven sessions: 1) Plant production, 2) Plant protection and food safety, 3) Organic agriculture, 4) Environmental protection and natural resources management, 5) Animal husbandry, 6) Rural development and agro-economy, and 7) Forestry and agroforestry.

Many scholars and practitioners argue that technology can increase production and feed more people while increasing supply stability and reducing the environmental impacts of agricultural production. Technology has been particularly important for improving production in annual crops such as maize, rice, soybean, wheat and cotton. Because trees have longer cycles, their breeding programs take longer. New plant breeding techniques can improve productivity, but there is a lively academic debate about their pros and cons.

While attention has been paid in the past mainly to the production side (cf. productivity, efficiency), more attention is nowadays paid to the consumption side as well as the intermediate stages (e.g. processing, distribution) of the food chain thus moving towards a 'farm to fork' approach. Globally, consumers are sending clearer signals about what they want on their tables i.e. higher quality as well as healthier, safer, and tastier products. Therefore, most agri-food companies have been exploring new, innovative ways to ensure more control over the production processes as well as final products quality and safety. Changes in investment strategy also have the potential to reduce the environmental and social costs of agriculture. It is now clear to most investors that companies paying more attention to sustainability and social responsibility, will have better returns on investments.

Agri-food systems have been central in the global debate on sustainable development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Indeed, agri-food systems are at the center of various global challenges such as climate change, poverty, vulnerability, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity and ecosystem degradation. In this context, one of the goals of the sustainable agriculture movement is to develop farming systems that mitigate or eliminate environmental harms associated with industrial agriculture. It is also crucial to improve the resilience of food systems to crises, shocks and pandemics.

Many thanks to all the authors, reviewers and colleagues for their assistance in editing the Book of Abstracts. Special thanks go to all co-organizers and partners for their unselfish collaboration and comprehensive support.

East Sarajevo, 07 October 2023 Prof. Dušan Kovačević, PhD Editor in Chief, President of the Scientific Committee of AGROSYM 2023

# THE EFFECT OF MANURE AND ZEOLITE ON THE MORPHOLOGICAL TRAITS AND YIELD OF *PORTULACA OLERACEAE*

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## Abstract

A field trial was conducted at the experimental farm of the University of Thessaly during the period of June-August 2021 in order to evaluate the effect of zeolite and manure on the growth development on purslane plants. For the conduction of the experiment, three treatments were used, namely, manure application, zeolite application and the control treatment. Each treatment included three plots with a size of 4  $m^2$ , whereas in each plot seven rows of seeds of *Portulaca oleraceae* were sown with a distance of 50 cm between the rows. Regarding the manure treatment, in each plot 20 kg/plot of manure was added and incorporated in the soil with the tiller, while for the zeolite treatment 4 kg of zeolite were added and mixed in the soil in each plot. Finally, for the control treatment no amendments were applied. During, the growing period the chlorophyll content of leaves (SPAD values) and net photosynthesis (Pn) at different light intensities (PAR: 0-1200 µmol s<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-2</sup>) were recorded. At harvest, the morphological traits namely the height of plants (cm), the weight of plants (g), the weight of shoots/plant (g), the weight of leaves/plant (g) and the dry matter of shoots/leaves/plants (%) were also evaluated. The trial was conducted according to a Completely Randomized Design (CRD) with three replications (n=3) per treatment. Based on the current findings, the application of manure and zeolite had a significant positive impact on the tested growth parameters, whereas the dry matter content of the aerial parts of purslane plants was not affected by the studied treatments. In conclusion, the implementation of organic matter via manure application could be a promising cultivation practice in terms of sustainability for the commercial exploitation of the species, especially in the small-scale farms of the Mediterranean basin.

**Keywords:** Wild edible plants, Purslane, Manure, Zeolite, Growth parameters. Soil amendments.

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# CROP ROTATION WITH LEGUME IMPROVES PURSLANE PRODUCTION AND CHANGE THE SOIL MICROBIAL COMMUNITY

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### Abstract

Intercropping systems involving leguminous species have the potential to enhance crop production sustainability by reducing input costs and improving soil fertility and diversity. In this study, we compared the effects of four legume cropping systems on purslane (Portulaca oleracea) plants. These systems included crop rotation (R), where peas (Pisum sativum) were grown in winter followed by purslane during the next summer; intercropping (I), which involved simultaneous cultivation of cowpea (Vigna unguiculata) and purslane in summer; rotation plus intercropping (I+R), where winter peas were followed by simultaneous cultivation of purslane and cowpea in summer; and the control (C), which consisted of sole purslane monoculture in summer. We primary focused on purslane production, soil physiochemical properties, soil enzyme activities and fungal and bacterial taxonomical and functional structure by high-throughput sequencing, and processing sequences through metabarcoding using ITS and 16S markers, respectively. All treatments increased purslane production, with observed the greatest increase under the treatment combining intercropping and rotation (R+I). However, the soil enzymatic activity was significantly increased by the treatments R and R + I. The structure and functionality of fungal and bacterial communities were affected by R and R + I treatments, whereas C and I treatments were similar to each other. These findings suggest that while both cropping systems and their combination improved purslane growth, the effects on purslane rhizosphere were mainly influenced by crop rotation, potentially due to the purslane's ability to utilize the nitrogen fixed in the legume rhizosphere. This indicates that the composition of microbial communities, as well as their functionality and enzymatic activity, are primarily affected under the rotation cropping system which involves immediate close contact with legume roots, rather than proximity alone such as in the case of intercropping systems.

# Keywords: Cropping systems, purslane, legume, nitrogen, microbial communities.

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