
COST Action CA22158

MiCropBiomes: “Exploiting Plant-Microbiomes Networks and Synthetic Communities to improve Crops Fitness”

Minutes of the 3rd WG3 Online Meeting

Online, 5th July 2024 - 09:00-09:45

Minutes of the WG3 Meeting written by J.F. Pothier and R. Artimová

Attending:

Joël F. POTHIER	CH	WG3 Leader
Renata ARTIMOVA	SK	WG3 Vice Leader
Maria A. AYLLON	ES	WG3 participant
Esther BADOSA	ES	WG3 participant
Anna BONNATERRA	ES	WG4 Leader
Tanja BERIC	RS	MC Member
Leonardo BRUNI	ES	WG3 participant
Irene CHRISTOFORDI	GR	WG3 participant
Hans HOENICKA	DE	Participant
Juliana LUKSA	LT	WG3 participant
Juraj MEDO	SK	MC Member
Maria NEORALOVA	CZ	WG3 participant
Amaia NOGALES	ES	WG3 participant
Agnieszka SAEID	PL	WG3 participant
Elena SERVIENE	LT	MC Member
Izzah SHAHID	ES	WG3 participant
Elodie VANDELLE	IT	WG2 Leader
Pablo VARGAS	ES	WG3 participant
Oifa FRIKHA-GARGOURI	TN	WG3 participant

On July 5th, about 20 members of the MiCropBiomes COST Action from 11 countries met online via Zoom for the third WG3 online meeting.

The WG3 leader used a presentation to briefly recall the five working groups of the Action and the close interrelationship between them. This was followed by a brief overview of the latest updates since the last WG3 online meeting on May 3rd, especially on the registrations for the 1st training school and the 1st annual meeting (34 and 76 applications, respectively). The WG3 leader then recalled the 1st Grant Period Goals (GPGs) and the division into three topics subgroups (Challenges, Terminology and Applications) and two strategies subgroups (Model Crops and their Microbiota; PGP / BCAs and Phages/Viruses) subgroups.

He also presented the results of the survey of Action participants regarding their plant(s) of interest (Fig. 1). This survey had 110 participants so far and 90 responses regarding the plant(s) of interest. If about a quarter of the participants admit to be interested in all plants, almost a third (30%) of the participants are interested in fruits and berries, with about a fifth of them on grapevine, followed by strawberry and olive. The *Solanaceae* plants gather 15% of the participants covering only tomato ($n = 23$) and pepper ($n = 8$). Vegetables/legumes and cereals/pseudocereals have about the same number of participants. For the cereals/pseudocereals category, wheat, rice and maize were the ones mentioned. The *Fabaceae* and *Brassicaceae* categories have relatively low representation among the participants.

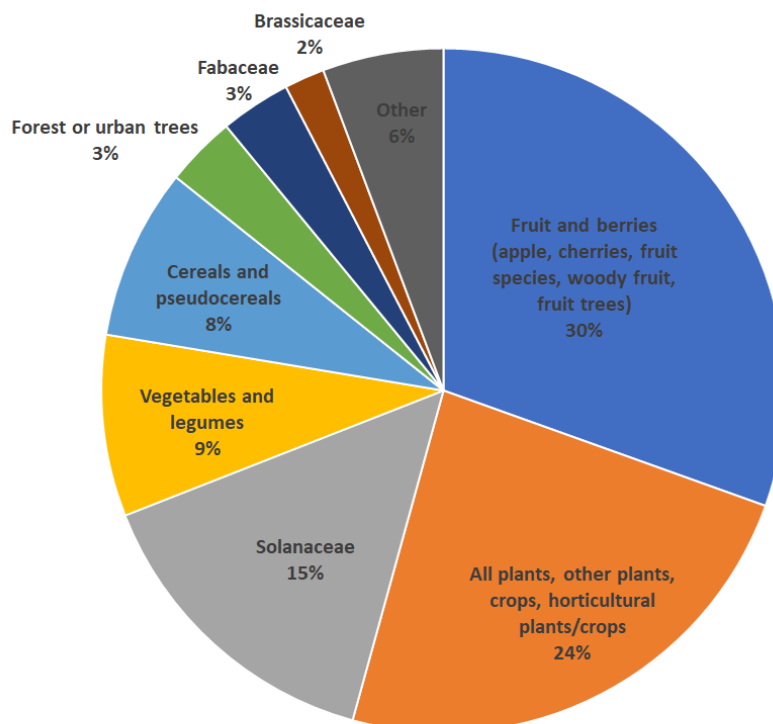
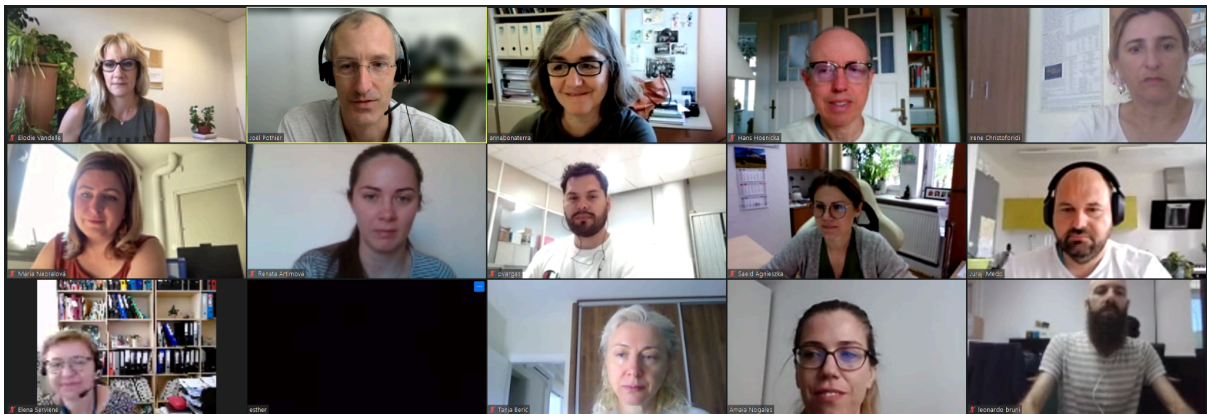


Fig. 1 - Repartition of the 90 answers from 110 participants in the Action regarding their plant(s) of interest.

Juraj Medo then presented a way to address the terminology topic which is an overarching goal for the four WGs. With the help of AI, Juraj has already collected a list of 500 terms with

their definitions. He proposed a division into four categories: Interactions, Methods, Stress, Applications. These terms are shared on the Action's Google Drive with limited editing rights. An email communication will be initiated soon to collect any missing terms via a Google Form survey by the 1st MC meeting in September. An iterative strategy to reach a consensus on definitions was also proposed, including the involvement of recognized experts in the field. The terms and their definitions will be made publicly available via a DokuWiki platform and it is also planned to publish the most problematic terms in an opinion article.

The WG3 leader presentation ended up with a summary of the upcoming activities of the MiCropBiomes and Root-Benefit COST Actions. The presentation was followed by a very short general discussion. This online meeting ended after ~45 minutes of presentation and fruitful discussions. Everyone was cordially invited to join in person the next WG3 meeting, which is scheduled at the 1st Annual Meeting in Porto on September 12th. Seven members actively involved in the terminology topic stayed online for an additional 30 minutes to discuss further plans on how best to proceed with this task.



Eighteen of the participants in the WG3 Online Meeting via Zoom