



Harnessing Plant Reproduction for Crop Improvement

Acronimo: **PROCROP**

Call: **H2020-MSCA-RISE-2014**

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Abstract: The "Plant Reproduction for Crop Improvement (PROCROP)" project is focused on exploring Plant Reproductive Biology in grasses using biological systems including sexual plant models and sub-tropical and tropical apomictic species. The overall objective of this network is to strengthen research partnership through short period staff exchange and networking activities between European Research organizations and organizations from countries with which the Community shares an S&T agreement. The main topic of this Research Staff Exchange regards sexual/asexual plant reproduction in grasses for carrying out innovative research activities, so that apomixis (an asexual mode of reproduction believed to revolutionize agriculture of the future) can be more efficiently exploited for crop improvement. Due to its high economical impact, several research programmes are currently investigating sexual/asexual reproduction and are mainly funded at the national level. This proposal aimed at strengthening, and initiating, partnerships between European and Latin-American research groups focussing on either model plants or crops, therefore facilitating interactions between fundamental and applied aspects of plant reproduction research. The number and the expertise of participant groups ensure a multidisciplinary approach that will favour comparative studies and translational research between model species and crop plants. University of Perugia is the COORDINATOR of PROCROP, and involve the Department of Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental.