



EUROPEAN RESEARCH ALLIANCE

***Towards a Chemical Pesticide
Free Agriculture***

A strong demand to reduce chemical pesticide use raised from public authorities, agriculture professionals, and society in general, all over Europe. To face a challenge of this magnitude, the scientific community had to rethink the way research should be carried out not just at a national level but throughout the whole continent. For almost 2 years, INRAE and its German partners from the Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) and the German Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (JKI) have been building a dialogue among European researchers and stakeholders with the purpose of setting a common research strategy. 24 partnering research organizations from 16 European countries joined forces and created the European Research Alliance "Towards a Chemical Pesticide-free Agriculture" gathers. It was formalized on 23 February at the Paris International Agricultural Show, with support of the French Ministries in charge of Agriculture and Research, in presence of Amelie de Montchalin, The French State Secretary of EU Affairs.

This unprecedented endeavour has brought the European research community together around this ambitious vision of an agriculture free of chemical pesticides. Through several workshops involving a balanced diversity of stakeholders, the Alliance has already drawn up multiple common research avenues, and call for reinforced links between the production of knowledge and the experimentation process, both in the lab and in the field, and a stronger involvement of actors to maximize the impact of this innovative approach. The implementation of this approach will be possible thanks to the wide network of the Alliance, both in terms of expertise and geographical coverage. Thanks to more than 250 experimental farms, this networks deals with all types of agricultural practices and sectors, and integrates the European variety of climates, soils and socio-economic characteristics, making possible to test innovative alternative solutions at a bigger scale.

This initiative echoes the European Green Deal announced by the European Commission in December 2019 that encourages the adoption of ambitious targets, in particular through the Farm to Fork, Zero Pollution and Biodiversity 2030 strategies.



The European Research Alliance

at a glance

24 European research institutes
from **16** European countries

1359 European research projects

More than **100 000** scientific papers on
«Agriculture» and «Plant sciences»

A community of around **2000** researchers
and engineers working on topics related to
pesticide reduction

A network of more than **250** experimental
fields/farms, spread over **7000 ha**, and
access to **thousands of farms** through
networks such as *Dephy* (FR), *PestiRed* (CH),
DIPS (DE)...

