

# EMPHASIS: European Infrastructure for Multi-Scale Plant Phenotyping And Simulation for Food Security in a Chancing Climate

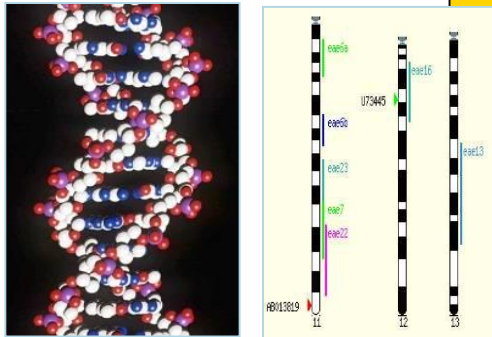
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IBG2: Plant Sciences

# Plant Phenotyping contribute to solving these challenges



Environment

Genes

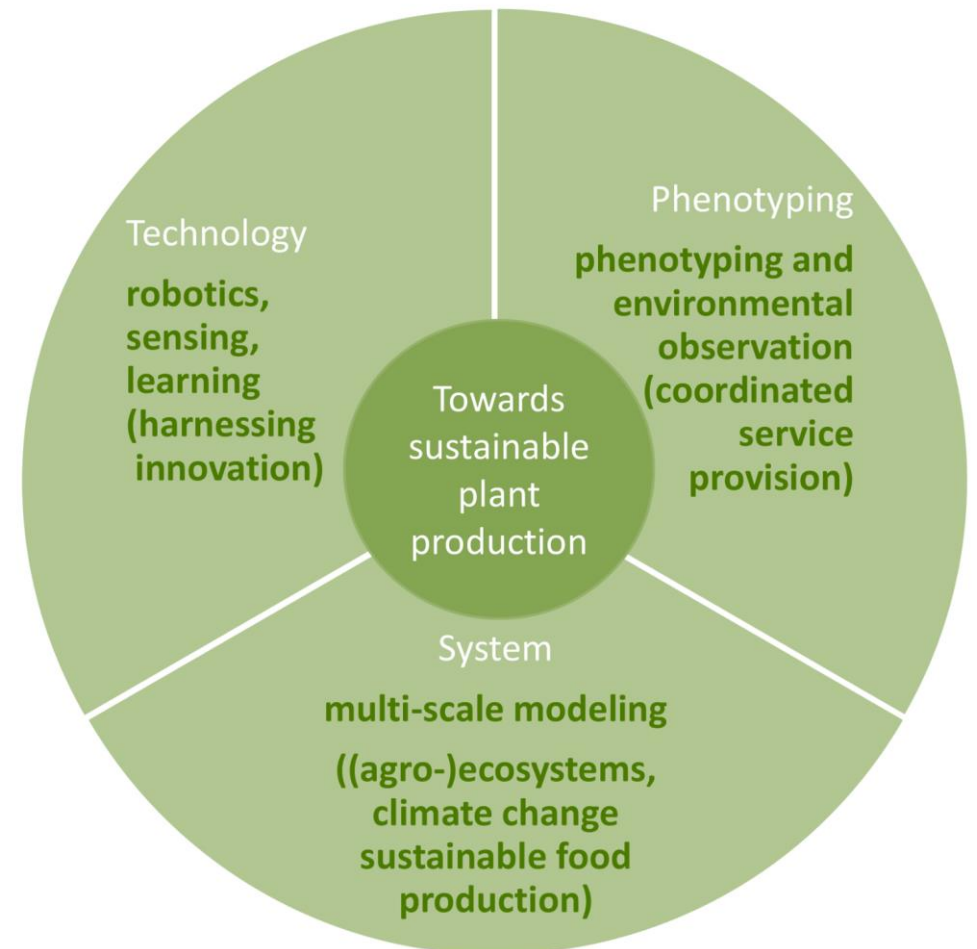


Plant performance and plant production

- Higher quantity and quality of plant biomass production
- Novel characteristics and products
- Yielding in stressful environments
- Sustainable production / intensification

# Demand for plant phenotyping as a tool - towards sustainable agriculture

- Addressing diverse crops and conditions
- Specialized infrastructure
  - plant characterization
  - environmental simulation
- Expertise is required, e.g. analysis pipelines, modelling, data re-usability
- Integrated (multi-disciplinary) approaches
- Europe is the global leader, but competition is growing



# Plant phenotyping initiatives to address the demand



PPN-Ireland



EUROPEAN  
NATIONAL  
INFRASTRUCTURE



Belgian  
Plant  
Phenotyping  
Network



More projects in  
development

EUROPEAN  
REGIONAL  
PROJECTS /  
NETWORKS



EMPHASIS



Long-term and stable organization

- integrating and operating a pan-European infrastructure
- listed on ESFRI roadmap since 2016

# The road to Operation

Operational Phase  
(2025 onwards)



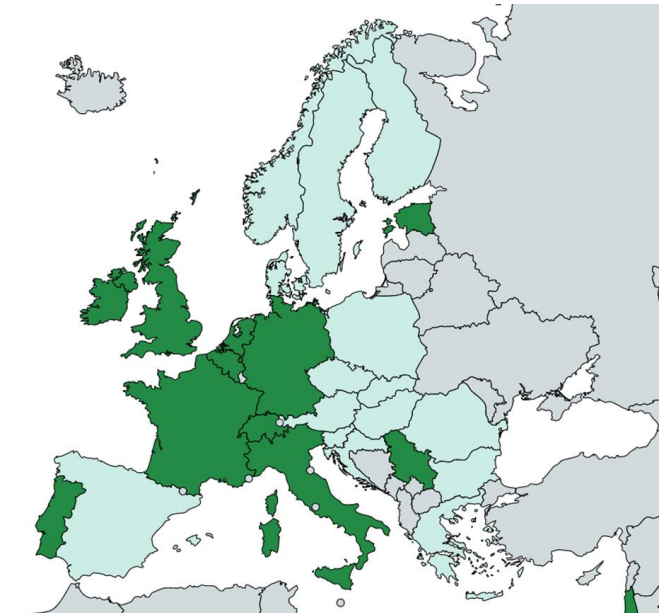
## Implementation Phase (2021-2025)

- Long-term legal framework in place
- Fully function governance bodies
- Annual membership contributions
- Full access for members to facilities and services

## Preparatory Phase (2017-2020)

- H2020 (€4m)
- Work undertaken as per the EC proposal
- Evaluate the phenotyping landscape  
Development of business plan

- HE (€1.5m)
- Aligned to the long-term operations
- Governed via interim agreement
- Official representation of ministries
- Set up of EMPHASIS pan-European Services
- Widen membership
- Set up of National Nodes



# Objectives

DEVELOPING INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROVIDING ACCESS

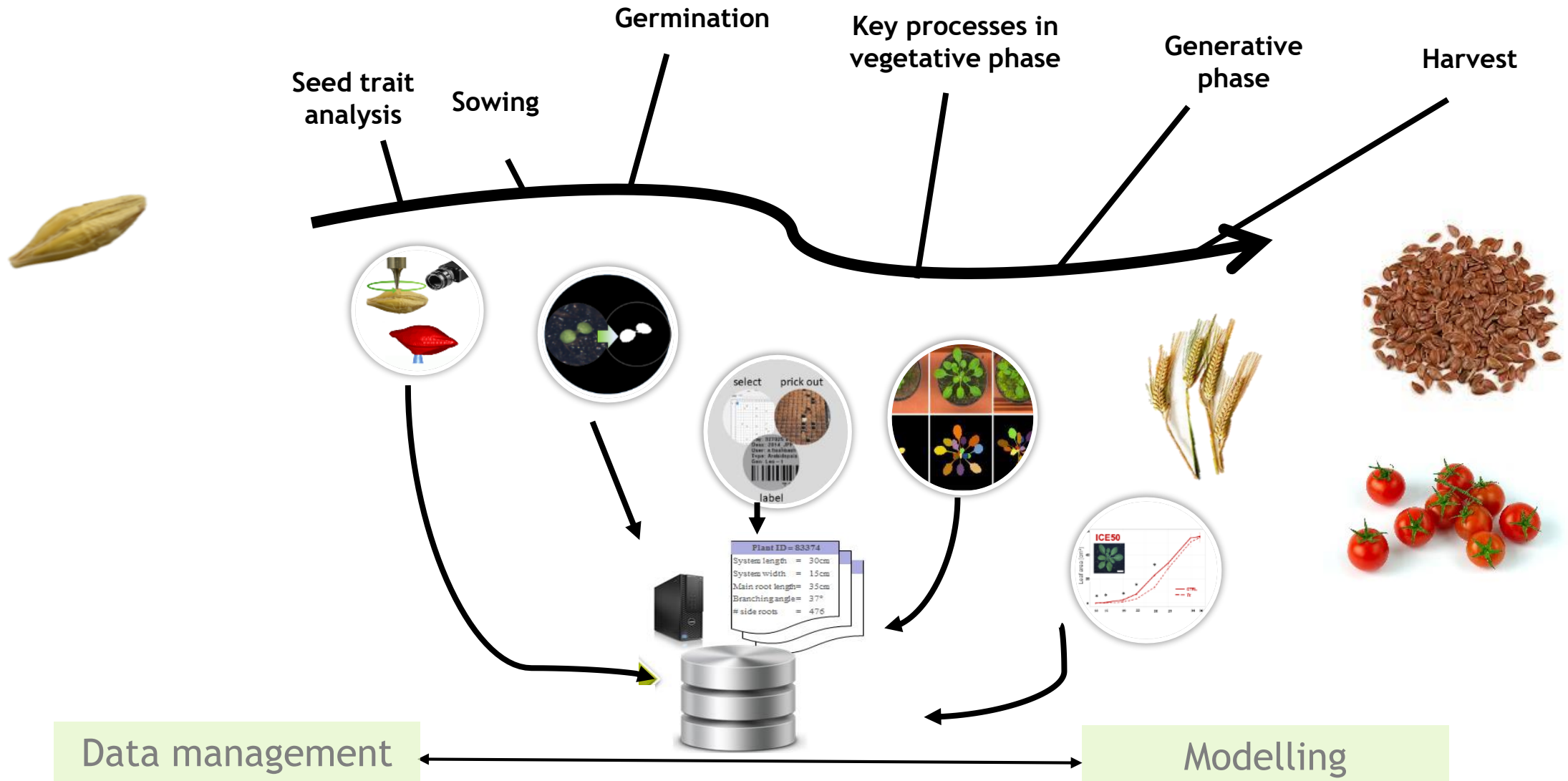


Develop an integrated  
pan-European  
infrastructure of  
instrumented facilities

Link data acquisition to  
a European-level data  
information system and  
modelling

Develop, evaluate  
and share knowledge  
and novel technologies

# Phenotyping modalities and pipelines from seed to plant tracking



# Seed phenotyping

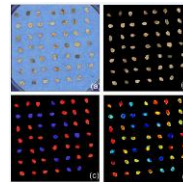
- Optimizing the phenotyping pipeline
- Seed physiology
- Characterising germplasm
- Seed testing for seed industry

Bulk seed properties & individual seeds

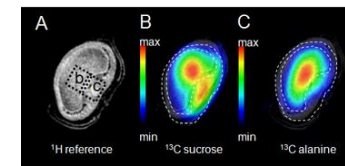
extrem Detail



CNR



Fraunhofer CT



IPK High Resolution MRI

Throughput

Information



# Individual seeds: High throughput (PhenoSeeder)

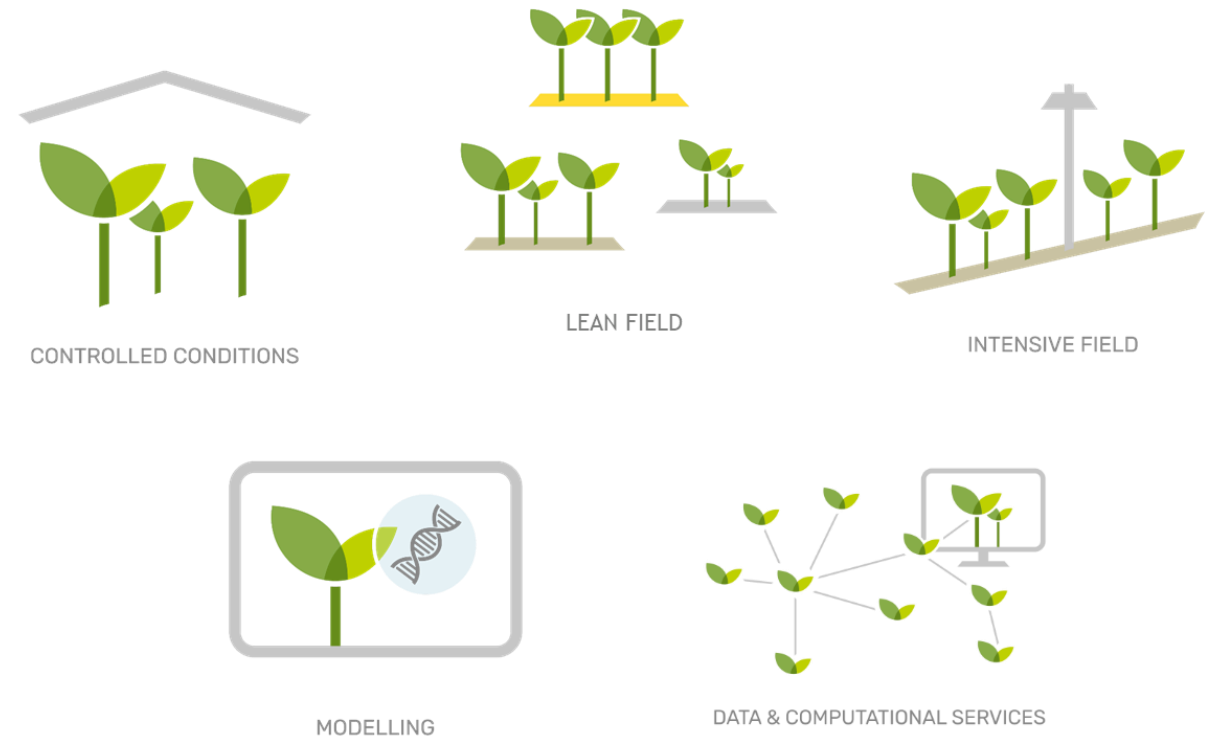


## 2D and 3D traits

- Projected area
- Volume
- Mass
- Density
- Colour
- (3D) shape

# Infrastructure categories in EMPHASIS

PLANT PHENOTYPING REQUIRES INTEGRATED CONCEPTS TO FULLY  
EXPLORE ITS POTENTIAL



Source: EMPHASIS homepage  
([https://emphasis.plant-phenotyping.eu/emphasis\\_infrastructure\\_map](https://emphasis.plant-phenotyping.eu/emphasis_infrastructure_map))

# Infrastructure: controlled environment



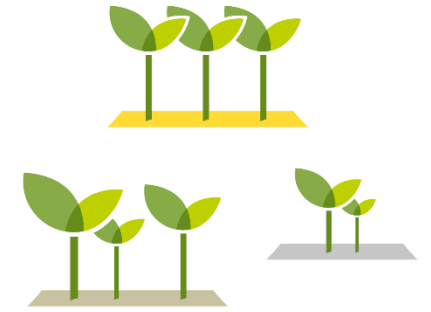
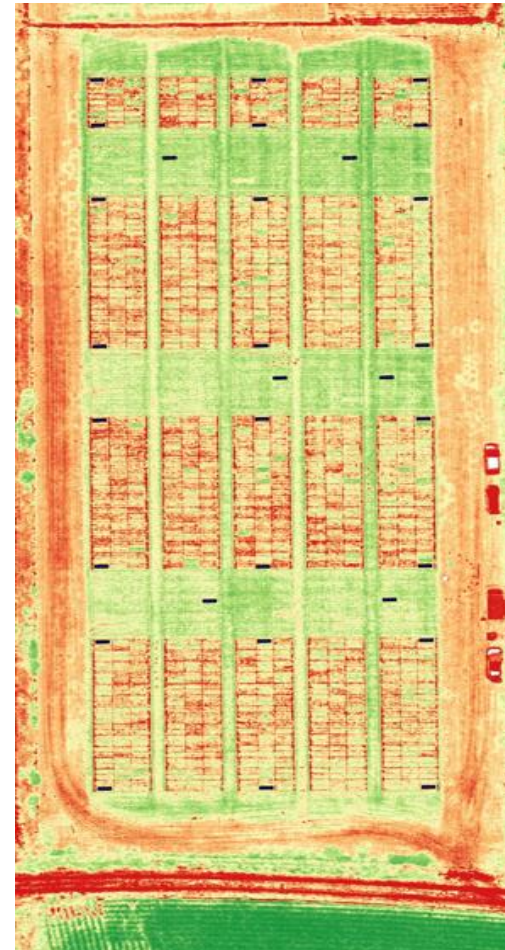
- ✓ Greenhouses and growth chambers
- ✓ Simulation and monitoring of the environment
- ✓ High level of automation
- ✓ Deep phenotyping
- ✓ Throughput typically between 100-1000s plants



# Infrastructure: intense field and lean field



- ✓ Detailed environmental monitoring
- ✓ High quality, details measurements
- ✓ Field sites enabling environmental simulation

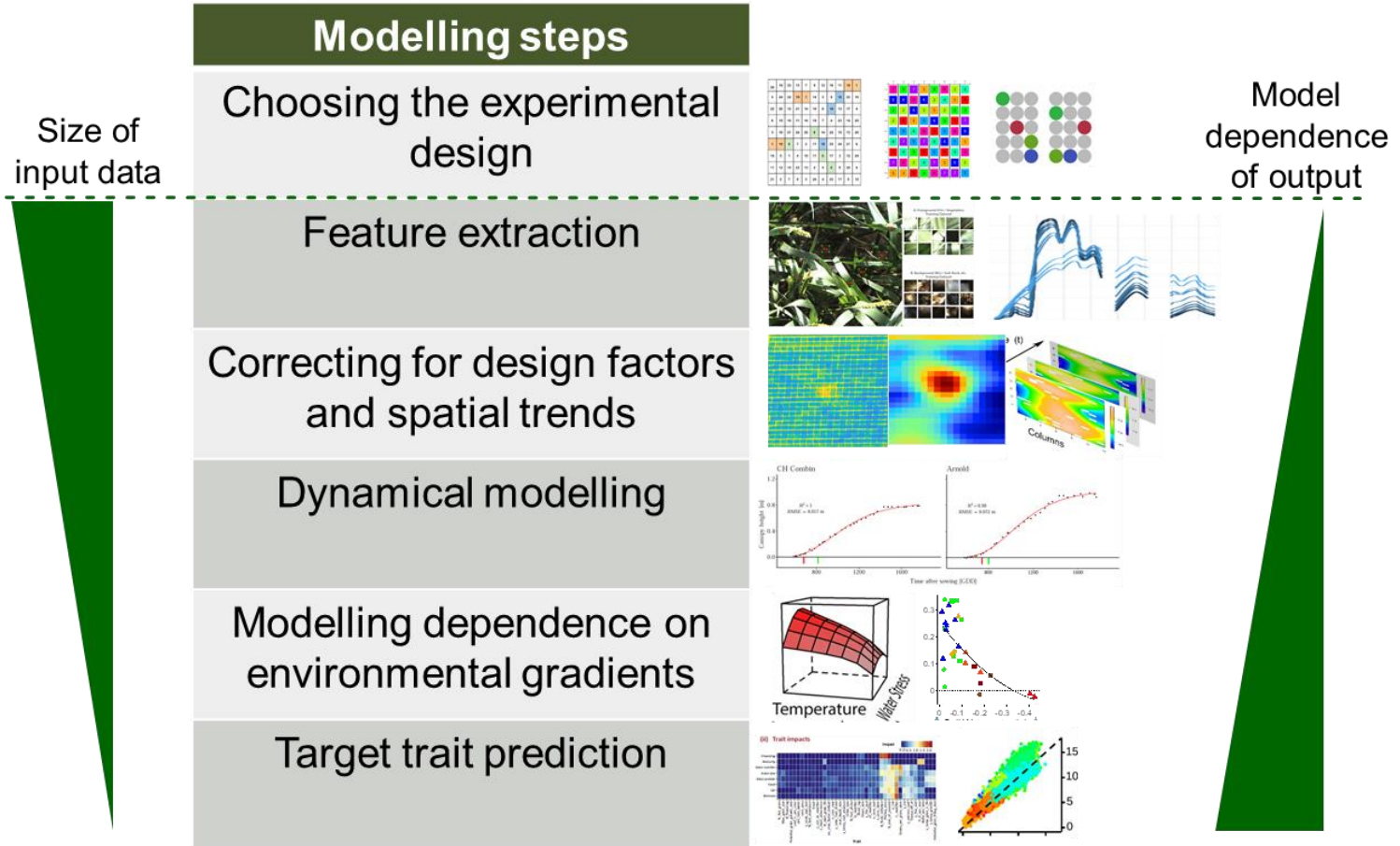


- ✓ Field sites with environmental monitoring
- ✓ Phenotyping equipment for basic traits
- ✓ Potentially ground based or airborne sensing systems
- ✓ Networks of fields

# Infrastructure: modelling

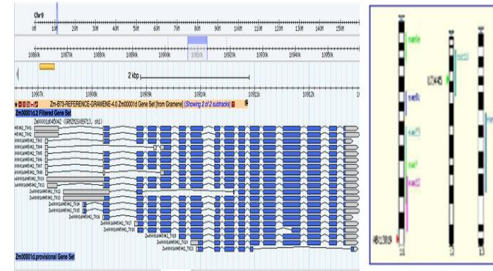
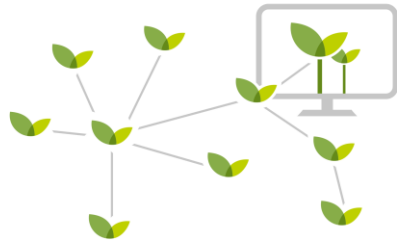
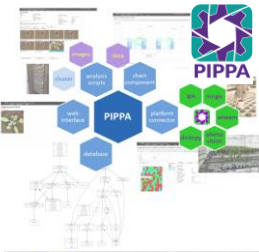
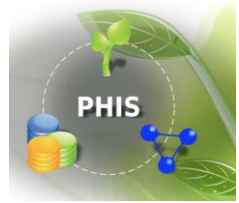


- ✓ Virtual platforms
- ✓ Different types of models
- ✓ Integrated or interfacing with phenotyping installations



Millet and Hund - Adapted from Van Eeuwijk et al. (2018)

# Infrastructure: information system



F indable A ccessible I nteroperable R eusable



- ✓ FAIR Information systems plant phenotyping data
- ✓ Access to data
- ✓ Local installation data-management
- ✓ EMPHASIS installations should have integrated information systems

## More details: Thematic session 4 (Wednesday, 9:30 -10:30)

C Pommier, R. Pieruschka: *Plant phenotyping data management from phenomics to integration for analysis and PGR characterizations: challenges and solutions from ELIXIR and EMPHASIS*

# Building on experience in service development and provision



since 2016: EMPHASIS-PREP / EMPHASIS-GO  
 ESFRI infrastructure, currently 12 countries will establish an ERIC  
 In total 26 national communities are interested to join



2012-2015: EU FP7 Transnational  
 Access 14 partners (5 ME)



2017-2021: EU H2020 Transnational  
 Access 22 partners (10 ME)



2019-2023: Digital life sciences  
 ~70 partners (26 ME)



2022-2027: EU HE Agroecology (15 ME)  
 Transnational Access ~70 partners



2023-2027: EU HE Agroecology (10 ME)  
 novel tools, methods ~20 partners



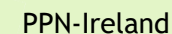
2024-2028: EU HE Transnational  
 Access, ~30 partners (15 ME)



2022-2025: EU HE AI4Life, AI (5ME)  
 image analysis ~10 partners

## National infrastructures as a backbone for EMPHASIS

2012 - ongoing:  
 Development of multiple national  
 RIs providing services



# AgroServ: CALL for access to services addressing agroecological transition

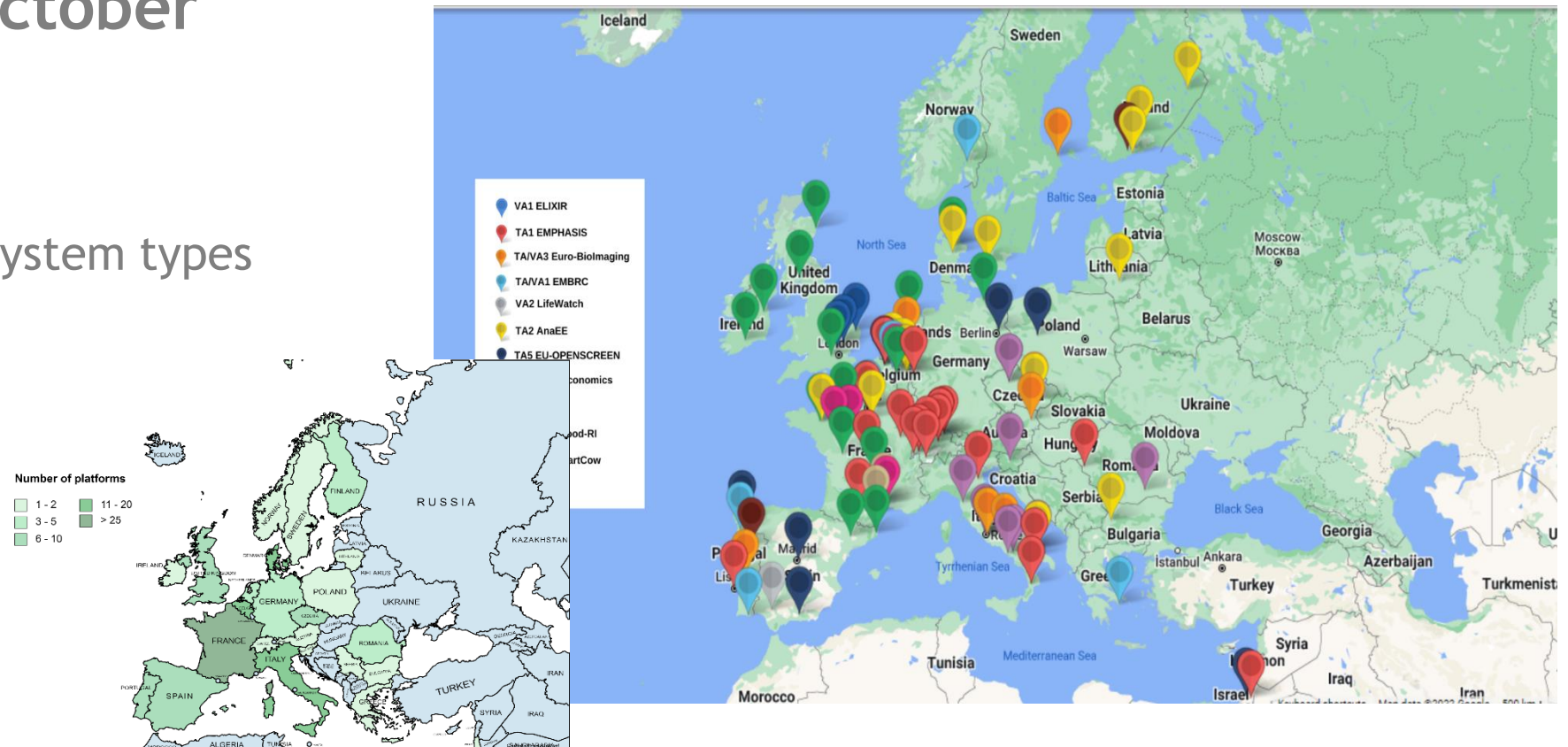
<https://agroserv.eu/>



An unprecedented offer within the TNA scheme  
deadline 23th of October

Combination of

- Climate zones and ecosystem types
- Agricultural practices
- Type of services
- Living labs in progress
- Socio-economic studies







# Get In Touch

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