



**Alfalfa  
to get back  
into planetary  
boundaries**

Soutenu  
par



MINISTÈRE  
DE L'AGRICULTURE  
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ  
ALIMENTAIRE  
*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

**THE WORLD ALFALFA CONGRESS  
WILL BE HELD IN REIMS AND CHÂLONS-EN-CHAMPAGNE  
FROM 3 TO 6 NOVEMBER 2025**

MON. NOVEMBER 3

TUES. NOVEMBER 4

WED. NOVEMBER 5

THUR. NOVEMBER 6

## MONDAY NOVEMBER 3

13:30			PRACTICAL WORKSHOP OPENING
13:45			AGRONOMIC SESSION
14:55			EUROPEAN ALFALFA PRODUCTION: KEY FIGURES AND DATA, NATIONAL PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THE 3 <sup>rd</sup> SAN DIEGO CONGRESS
16:10			Coffee break
16:30	Christian Huyghe		YOUNG PROFESSIONNALS EVENT: MY PROJECT IN 180 SEC
	Xu Ruixuan	China	Alfalfa and silage maize intercropping provides comparable productivity and profitability with lower environmental impacts than wheat, maize system in the North China Plain
	Stepic Marija	Serbia	Aluminum toxicity in alfalfa seedlings: Effects on root growth and antioxidative defense in three cultivars
	Poentis Clara	France	An approach to enhance the agronomic benefits of forage legumes at rotation level in a cereal system: Example of alfalfa for dehydration in Champagne Ardennes.
	Humphries Alan	US	Breeding rainfed alfalfa for Central Asia with less water
	Irving Arcia Ruiz	France	Contribution of phenotypic traits to the genetic structure of alfalfa
	Janssen Charles	US	Developing and Testing Alfalfa Cultivars Under Limited Water Conditions
	Nalle Kartika	US	Evaluation of Non-Dormant Alfalfa Germplasm for Resilient
	El Ghazzal Zineb	France	Genetic and phenotypic diversity of lucerne (Medicago sativa) for optimising
	King Cree	US	Genetic Characterization and Breeding for Creeping Root Architecture in Alfalfa
	Geet Raju	Finland	Hay & Forage quality monitoring from field to feed
	Morgane Simonnet	France	Hippomix Duo: an innovation for sensitive horses
	Treffer Leah	US	Optimizing Alfalfa for Dual-Purpose Intercrop with Intermediate Wheatgrass
	Racić Nedeljko	Serbia	Pre-sowing inoculation of rhizobia and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi as a way to increase alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) variety productivity on acid soil
	Bi Yixian	China	The combination of a low legume-grass seeding ratio and optimal phosphorus fertilization enhances forage nutrient yield and economic benefits in managed grasslands
	Noushahi Hamza Armghan	Morocco	Using High-Throughput Phenotyping Techniques and Genome Wide Association Studies (GWAS) to Select Drought Tolerance Alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) Populations in Mediterranean Drought-Prone Environments
	Orbach Sarah	France	Variation of fresh alfalfa stem properties along its height: protein content, chemical composition and sorption behavior
18:00			Conclusion

## TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4

8:30	OPENING CEREMONY AND SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK OF THE CONGRESS		
10:15	Coffee break		
10:45	Tabel C. & Brun M.		SESSION 1 : ANIMAL FEED, STILL A MARKET FOR ALFALFA TOMORROW AND BEYOND?
10:45	Gian Luca Bagnara	Italy	Global Market and perspectives for Alfalfa
11:10	Baoming Ji	China	China's Alfalfa Industry and Global Market: Challenges and Opportunities
11:20	Clara Poëntis	France	An approach to evaluate the agronomic benefits of forage legumes in cereal system
11:30	Tabel C. & Brun M.		Question and poster presentation
11:40			Panel Discussion
12:15	Lunch break		
13:30	Julier B. & Sokolovic D.		SESSION 2 : GROWING ALFALFA TO INCREASE BIODIVERSITY AND BENEFIT CROP PRODUCTION
13:30	Manuel Morales	Spain	
13:55	Douglas Walsh	US	Integrated pest and pollinator management on alfalfa grown for seed in the pacific northwest
14:05	Luis Inostroza	Chili	Alfalfa quality in dry environments: phenotypic and genetic variation in 250 progenies of drought-tolerant landraces
14:15			Question and poster presentation
14:25			Panel Discussion
15:00	Coffee break		
15:30	Lloveras J. & Jézéquel S.		SESSION 3 : WATER EFFICIENCY IN ALFALFA CROPPING SYSTEMS AND REDUCTION OF THE IMPACT ON WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY
15:30	in progress		
15:55	Bhamidimarri Suresh	US	Breeding for Drought Tolerance in Alfalfa
16:05	Mouradi Mohammed	Morocco	Integrated Evaluation of Drought Tolerance in Moroccan Alfalfa: Role of Osmopriming and Rhizobial Strain Selection
16:15	Lloveras J. & Jézéquel S.		Question and poster presentation
16:25			Panel Discussion
17:00			Business meeting & Poster session
17:15			Start of the business forum
17:20			Introduction of the round table
17:30			Presentations
18:10			Discussions and Q/A
18:30			End of the business forum
19:30			START OF THE TRANSFER FROM THE CONFERENCE CENTER TO VRANKEN POMMERY
20:00			START OF THE GALA DINER
23:00			END OF THE GALA DINER

## PARALLEL SESSION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4

14:00	Jézéquel S. & TBD	PARALLEL SESSION 1 : WATER MANAGEMENT	
14:10	Toktarbekova Saltanat & Humphries Alan	KZK/AU	Breeding rainfed alfalfa for Central Asia with less water
14:20	Montazar Aliasghar	US	Climate-smart water technologies and strategies for a resilient alfalfa production system in the deserts of the southwestern United States
14:30	Bouazzama Bassou	Morocco	Combining experimentation and modeling to optimize alfalfa irrigation under semi-arid conditions in Morocco: the case of the Tadla irrigated perimeter.
14:40	Larsonneau Pierre	France	Effects of Water Stress on Alfalfa and Impacts of Irrigation
14:50	Janssen Charles	US	Developing and Testing Alfalfa Cultivars Under Limited Water Conditions

16:00	Sokolovic D. & TBD	PARALLEL SESSION 2 : ALFALFA AND SOIL QUALITY	
16:10	Thioye Babacar	France	Alfalfa age and soil management as drivers of mycorrhizal colonization and agronomic performance
16:20	Xu Shiyang	China	Fungal pathogens associated with Root Rot in Alfalfa in Xingjiang, China and Biocontrol effects of Bacillus strains on dominant pathogens
16:30	Wang Tiemei	China	Meta-analysis of the effects of alfalfa ( <i>Medicago sativa</i> L.) cultivation on soil health status
16:40	Damon Steve	USA	Mapping and validation of resistance to <i>Aphanomyces euteiches</i> in alfalfa
16:50	Thiebeau Pascal	France	Quantification and characterization of alfalfa crop residues to improve estimates of alfalfa derived inputs into the soil and confidence in models simulating soil organic carbon dynamics



## WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5

8:30	Thamialami I. & Palmonari A.	SESSION 4 : Closing the nitrogen cycle: from alfalfa symbiotic fixation to crop and animal production	
8:30	Pablo Gregorini	NZ	
8:55	Geet Raju (YRI)	Finland	Hay & Forage quality monitoring from field to feed
9:05	Racic Nedeljko (YRI)	Serbia	Pre-sowing inoculation of rhizobia and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi as a way to increase alfalfa (Medicago sativa L.) variety productivity on acid soil
9:15			Question and poster presentation
9:25			Panel Discussion
10:00	Coffee break		
10:30	Liu N. & Labanca H.	SESSION 5 : Alfalfa-based cropping systems in sustainable land-use for livestock production	
10:30	Yingjun Zhang	China	Legume introduction enhances productivity and soil carbon sequestration in degraded grasslands: Decadal insights into the role of phosphorus fertilization
10:55	Valentino Solfrini	Italy	LCA of alfalfa-based dried forage in Italy: quantification of impacts and environmental benefits
11:05	Zineb El Ghazzal (YRI)	France	Genetic and phenotypic diversity of lucerne for optimising its role as a living mulch in agroecological systems
11:15			Question and poster presentation
11:25			Panel Discussion
12:00	Lunch break		
13:30	Brummer C. & Odorizzi A.	SESSION 6 : High yield alfalfa for low carbon livestock in stressful climate	
13:30	Carolina Alvarez	Argentina	
13:55	Paolo Annichiarico	Italy	Breeding alfalfa for adaptation to the changing climate
14:05	Gaëtan Louarn	France	Identifying new agrometeorological zones for lucerne in present and future European climates using STICS model
14:15			Question and poster presentation
14:25			Panel Discussion
15:00	Coffee break		
15:30			CONCLUSION
16:00			ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIELD TOUR
16:30			Business meeting & Poster session
16:45			Start of the business forum
16:45			Introduction of the round table
16:50			Presentations
17:15			Discussions and Q/A
17:30			End of the business forum & Break
17:40			Start of the business forum
17:45			Introduction of the round table
17:50			Presentations
18:15			Discussions and Q/A
18:30			End of the business forum

## PARALLEL SESSION

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 5

9:00	Liu N. & TBD	PARALLEL SESSION 3 : NEW ALFALFA BASED CROPPING SYSTEMS	
9:10	Xu Ruixuan	China	Alfalfa and silage maize intercropping provides comparable productivity and profitability with lower environmental impacts than wheat-maize system in the North China Plain
9:20	Berti Marisol	USA	Alfalfa Established in Intercropping with Sunflower Allocates Fixed Nitrogen to the Crop
9:30	Julier Bernadette	France	Lucerne in mixture with forage grass species for herbicide-free weed control, high yield and quality
9:40	Marguerie Mathieu	France	New uses of Alfalfa as a service plant for the resilience of cereal production
9:50	Treffer Leah	USA	Optimizing Alfalfa for Dual-Purpose Intercrop with Intermediate Wheatgrass

11:00	Palmonari A. & TBD	PARALLEL SESSION 4 : ANIMAL NUTRITION	
11:10	Julliand Samy	France	Dehydrated alfalfa and gastric health in monogastric species: a 10-year perspective
11:20	Morgane Simonnet (YRI)	France	Hippomix Duo: an innovation for sensitive horses
11:30	El Khouni Amine	Morocco	Nutrient management in Alfalfa: current researches and future perspectives
11:40	Shi Yinghua	China	Maternal consumption of fiber diet reduces oxidative stress and inflammation in self and offspring by remodeling the gut microbiota
11:50	Orbach Sarah (YRI)	France	Variation of fresh alfalfa stem properties along its height: protein content, chemical composition and sorption behavior

11:00	Julier B. & TBD	PARALLEL SESSION 5 : TECHNOLOGIES	
14:10	Valentin Picasso	France	Combinations of alfalfa management practices that maximize on farm yields
14:20	Rios Esteban	Argentina	Multi-Omics Data Integration Improve the Accuracy of Prediction Models for Complex Traits in Non-dormant Alfalfa
14:30	Soto Gabriela	Argentina	Genomic Editing for Alfalfa Improvement in Argentina
14:40	Tristan Duminil	France	From Breeding to Market Launch: How to Digitalize Product Development of Alfalfa Mixes for Agroecology
14:50	Earl Creech	USA	Technologies to remoisturize alfalfa in the windrow for baling



## THURSDAY NOVEMBER 6

Opening hours	Location	Sequences
08:00	Congress center	Bus boarding to field tour spots
08:30		Transfer to field tour spots
09:30		First round of visits
11:00		Transfer to field tour spots
11:30		Second round of visits
13:00		Transfer to Châlons-en-Champagne
13:30		Lunch break
14:30		Transfer to Reims City Congress Center
15:30		End of the congress

