



Newsletter #2

Growing Together from the Roots

Welcome to the ROTATES Newsletter!

We are glad to welcome you to a new edition of the ROTATES Newsletter, where we share updates, insights and activities from across the project.

ROTATES is a Horizon Europe research and innovation project working to strengthen agrobiodiversity and support more resilient agri-food systems. By focusing on crops such as sweet potato, yam, cassava and taro, the project explores how they can be integrated into European agriculture through research, field activities and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders.

In this edition, you will find recent publications, field activities, and upcoming events from partners, along with insights into how ROTATES is connecting research with practice across different regions.



[Discover our website](#)

Short reads for your break



BLOG POST

Unlocking the Potential of Tropical Root and Tuber Crops in Europe: The Role of CREA-IT in the ROTATES Project

by Chiara Natale, Francesca Nocente, Laura Gazza (CREA)

[Read here](#)



BLOG POST

Exploring the potential of organic sweet potato in the EU

by Cesar Revoredo Giha (SRUC) and Carla Barlagne (INRAE)

[Read here](#)

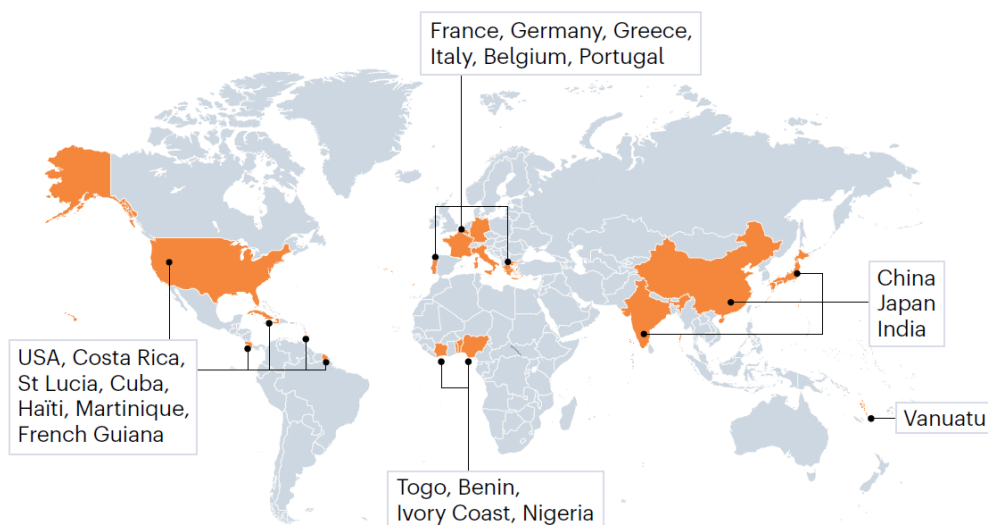
What's new in ROTATES?

New publication in *Nature Genetics* advancing Yam research

Researchers from CIRAD, including Komivi Dossa, Gemma Arnau, Erick Malédon and Hanâ Chair, have published a new paper in *Nature Genetics* presenting YamHub, an international platform for yam research and breeding based in Guadeloupe. The

study highlights how coordinated research infrastructures can support the development of more resilient and productive yam varieties, strengthening a crop that feeds over 500 million people worldwide.

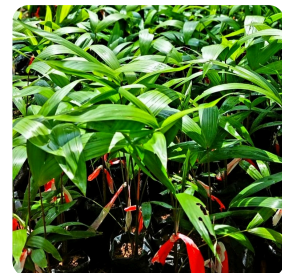
International collaboration



Discover the article

Cassava planting activities advance in French Guiana

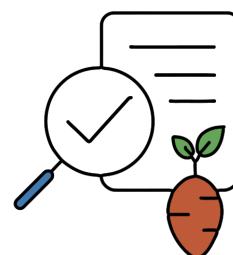
In French Guiana, ROTATES activities are taking shape through cassava planting initiatives carried out with local communities. These actions test agroecological practices such as intercropping and crop rotation, while also addressing challenges like deforestation and plant diseases. The work combines field experimentation with knowledge exchange, contributing to more sustainable and locally adapted farming systems.



Discover pLL activities here

New article on biodiversity and smallholder farming systems

A recent publication by Frédéric Baudron (CIRAD), published in *Outlook on Agriculture*, brings a new perspective to the debate on agriculture and biodiversity. The article focuses on smallholder systems in sub-Saharan Africa and highlights the need to align farming practices with farmers' realities, supporting both ecosystem services and sustainable livelihoods.



Discover the article

Did you know that ROTATES is developing four Breeding Hubs across Europe and its outermost regions?



Focused on sweet potato, cassava, yam and taro, these hubs combine field trials, laboratory research and data analysis to develop crop varieties adapted to different agroecological conditions. One example is YamHub, an international platform based in Guadeloupe, which connects European research with partners across tropical regions and supports the improvement of yam varieties. By linking research with real farming conditions, Breeding Hubs play a key role in making these crops more resilient and ready to be integrated into European agri-food systems.

[Discover YamHub](#)

ROTATES Events



Engaging citizens in agroecology: ROTATES at PataFEST

On 12 May, Bertille Auvray (ENoLL) will represent ROTATES as a guest speaker in a webinar organised by the PataFEST project, a European initiative focused on sustainable plant protection in potato systems. Her intervention, *“From Living Labs to Fields: Engaging Citizens in Sustainable Agroecological Practices”*, will highlight how ROTATES involves farmers, stakeholders and local communities through Living Labs and the Multi-Actor Approach, bringing citizen engagement into the development of agroecological solutions.

WEBINAR CITIZEN SCIENCE MEETS POTATOES

ENGAGING CITIZENS IN PROTECTING PLANT HEALTH



MAY 12, 2026 16:00-17:00 CET



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[Find out more](#)

ROTATES Heads to Madeira for Its First Annual General Assembly

From 17 to 19 June 2026, the ROTATES consortium will meet in Madeira, Portugal, for its first annual General Assembly. Partners from across the project will come together to review progress from the first year, align next steps, and strengthen collaboration across work packages, Pilot Living Labs, Breeding Hubs and Case Studies. The programme will also include field visits to the Madeira pilot Living Lab and the Taro Breeding Hub, offering direct insight into project activities on the ground. Stay tuned on our channels to follow highlights from the meeting and discover the latest developments from ROTATES.

[Find out more](#)

#FollowUs on our Social Media.

We invite you to follow our journey as we work together to diversify crops, strengthen value chains, and contribute to climate-resilient and sustainable agri-food systems across continents!



ROTATES

Meet the consortium

A wide range of expertise for one project



ROTATES Project
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