



# Midas

MARGINAL LANDS, INDUSTRIAL CROPS  
AND INNOVATIVE BIO-BASED VALUE CHAINS

## **Deliverable D3.2 Case Studies for co-creation with farmers' community**



Funded by  
the European Union

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101082070.

## Document summary

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Deliverable number</b>        | <b>3.2</b>                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Title</b>                     | <b>Case Studies for co-creation with farmers' community</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>Version</b>                   | <b>1</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Work package n°</b>           | <b>3</b>                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Lead Beneficiary</b>          | <b>CRES</b>                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>Submission date</b>           | <b>25.1.26</b>                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Dissemination Level</b>       | <b>Public</b>                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Project acronym and title</b> | <b>MIDAS - Marginal agricultural land and climate-resilient and biodiversity-friendly industrial crops for innovative bio-based value chains</b> |
| <b>Grant Agreement n°</b>        | <b>101082070</b>                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Project coordinator</b>       | <b>CRES</b>                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Reviewer</b>                  | <b>Name and affiliation</b>                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Review date</b>               | <b>28.2.26</b>                                                                                                                                   |

### Statement of Originality

The deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.

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## Executive summary

Deliverable **D3.2** documents the co-creation activities carried out within the MIDAS project through **Case Studies (CSs)** and **Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs)** across nine European countries. Its core objective is to demonstrate how innovative, low-ILUC, biodiversity-friendly cropping systems on marginal lands can be co-designed, validated, and scaled through continuous interaction with farmers, industry, researchers, and policymakers.

The project established **15 case studies** (10 intercropping and 5 agroforestry systems) across 9 European countries (Italy, Germany, Greece, Spain, Serbia, Poland, Czech Republic, France, and Hungary). These case studies functioned as **living laboratories**, enabling practical testing of industrial crops (e.g., hemp, carinata, crambe, safflower, miscanthus, guayule, lavender) under marginal land conditions, while simultaneously fostering stakeholder engagement and feedback loops.

A central mechanism for co-creation was the formation of **Regional Advisory Groups**, which met regularly through workshops, field demonstrations, surveys, and bilateral consultations. RAGs proved essential in:

- ▶ Identifying **technical, economic, and policy barriers** to adoption
- ▶ Aligning agronomic practices with **industrial demand and value chains**
- ▶ Highlighting the decisive role of **CAP subsidies** and national Strategic Plans
- ▶ Strengthening trust and long-term collaboration between farmers and industry

Across regions, common findings emerged:

- ▶ **Market certainty and industrial off-take** are prerequisites for farmer engagement; agronomic innovation alone is insufficient.
- ▶ **CAP support (or lack thereof)** strongly influences crop adoption, with subsidy-driven interest clearly observed.
- ▶ Intercropping and perennial systems show strong potential to **reduce land abandonment**, improve biodiversity, and stabilize farm income on marginal land.
- ▶ **Demonstration fields** and on-site engagement are more effective than conventional workshops for knowledge transfer and acceptance.

Country-specific experiences enriched the overall framework: Italy emphasized industry-led regeneration of marginal lands; Spain demonstrated productivity gains through intercropping; Poland highlighted large-scale stakeholder mobilization; Germany produced high-impact scientific outputs and deep value-chain insights; Greece revealed policy gaps under CAP; France raised EU-level policy concerns regarding guayule eligibility.

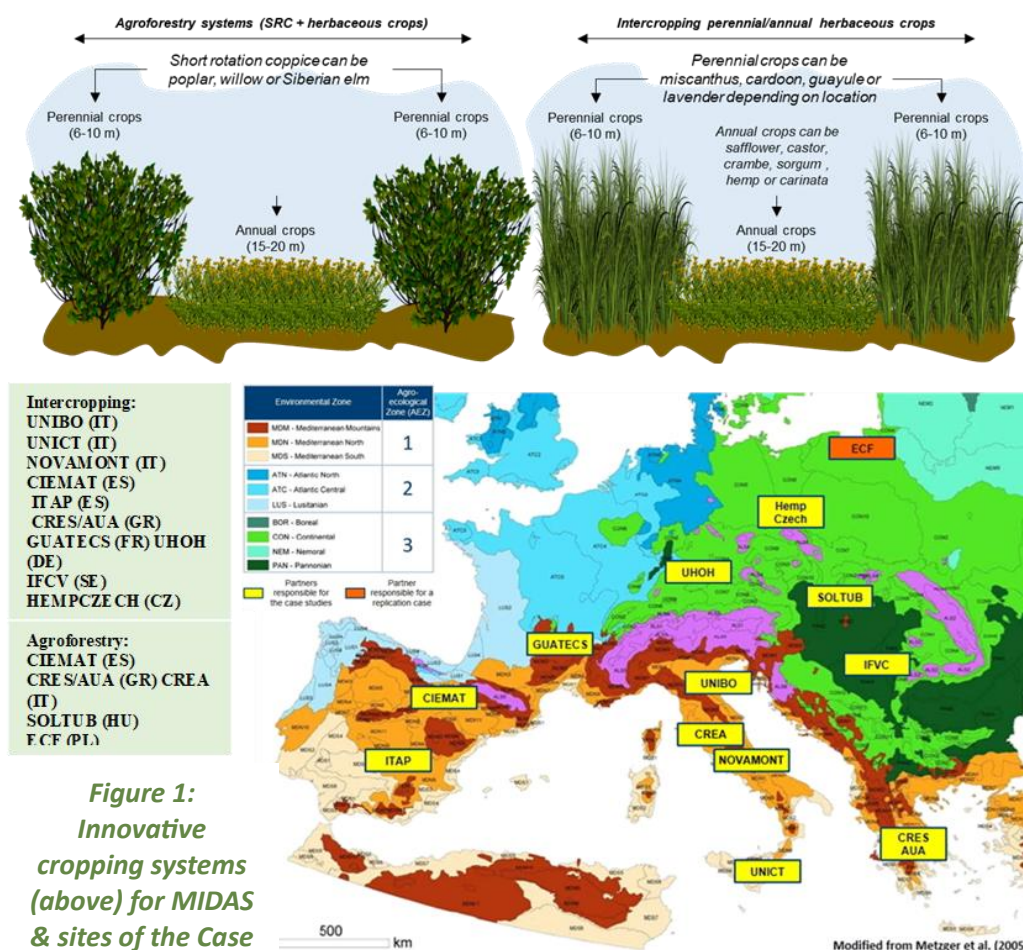
Overall, Deliverable **D3.2** confirms that **co-creation with farmers**, embedded in real farming conditions and linked to industrial value chains and policy frameworks, is critical for the successful deployment and upscaling of MIDAS cropping systems. The insights generated feed directly into subsequent WPs, particularly WP5, supporting environmental assessment, biodiversity impacts, and restoration potential.

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## Introduction

In MIDAS project Case Studies (CSs) on marginal lands facing natural constraints had been established in Italy, Germany, Greece, Spain, Serbia, Poland, Czech Republic, France and Hungary to provide live examples of innovative cropping systems (10 for intercropping and 5 for agro-forestry) demonstrating the best practices for a sustainable agriculture on marginal land (Figure 1). The aim of these CSs was to provide evidence of the cropping systems that can be applied locally to produce low ILUC feedstock to source the bio-based industry. The case-studies act as catalyst for a systematic user co-creation and collaboration approach among farmers, entrepreneurs, practitioners, academia, decision makers, NGOs, and other stakeholders, with the aim at building up new ideas and innovative solutions during the project and beyond, according to the Case Studies concept. Nine Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs) have been built and strong linkages have been developed between the local partner(s) and the RAG that meet physically regularly during the project lifetime. They are playing an essential role to optimize agricultural practices to exploit the opportunities offered by diversified agricultural systems appositely designed for marginal land. They are also contributing to understanding co-benefits, potential risks and upscaling potentials of the innovative farming systems to prevent land abandonment in the marginal areas. MIDAS has the ambition to work with farmers and for farmers and the case studies are the ground for this strong bidirectional linkage.



# 1. Regional Advisory Groups (RAGs)

## 1.1. Italian Regional Advisory Group (collaboration of UNIBO, NOVAMONT & CREA)

On November 8, 2024, the first meeting of the Italian Regional Advisory Group (RAG) took place in a hybrid format at Novamont's stand at Ecomondo. The meeting aimed to discuss issues related to the marginality of Italian agricultural soils and the agro-industrial solutions proposed within the MIDAS project. The meeting was attended by high-level policymakers, entrepreneurs, academics, junior and senior researchers, industry representatives, NGOs, and other stakeholders. In total, 27 participants attended the meeting (Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Photos from the 1st meeting of the Italian RAG**

Discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities facing the agricultural sector in relation to the sustainable use of marginal soils in Italy, as well as on identifying pathways to enhance these areas through bio-based value chains. The first issue addressed concerned participants' general perceptions of marginal agricultural soils in Italy. Overall, the abandonment of agricultural land in highly disadvantaged rural areas was considered a highly relevant and complex issue, primarily driven by social dynamics and economic unsustainability. Logistical constraints and wildlife pressure further discourage farmers from investing in these areas, leading to significant environmental risks, as land abandonment favors uncontrolled forest expansion and increases wildfire risk—an issue often inadequately addressed by policymakers.

To make marginal lands attractive again, participants highlighted the need for convincing fiscal policies aimed at developing stable and competitive value chains in areas at risk of abandonment. A widely shared view was that precision agriculture could serve as a crucial tool for overcoming technical barriers and territorial constraints. It was emphasized that the adoption of advanced technologies, such as sensors and decision-support tools, can significantly reduce cultivation costs, thereby lowering the risk of abandonment of marginal and hard-to-cultivate agricultural land.

The rehabilitation of marginal areas intended for agricultural use was widely considered to require an industry-driven approach, with industry acting as a catalyst for the development of new agricultural systems. Promoting innovative agronomic solutions directly to farmers was regarded as largely ineffective in the absence of industrial involvement and a clear commercial outlet for the

agricultural products. In this paradigm, public and private research should support industry in identifying low-cost, easily integrable technical solutions within existing farming systems. Farmers should be engaged only once a market and reference crops have been clearly identified.

The creation of “lighthouse” initiatives linked to value chains and tangible market opportunities was identified as essential for promoting new agricultural systems in the region, including those proposed within MIDAS. Conversely, initiatives that involve farmers at an early stage by presenting mature agronomic proposals without a solid industrial and commercial context were considered likely to fail. It was stressed that industry must articulate a well-defined and stable demand, including quantitative and qualitative standards, and provide farmers with sufficient assurances regarding the medium- to long-term economic returns on their investments.

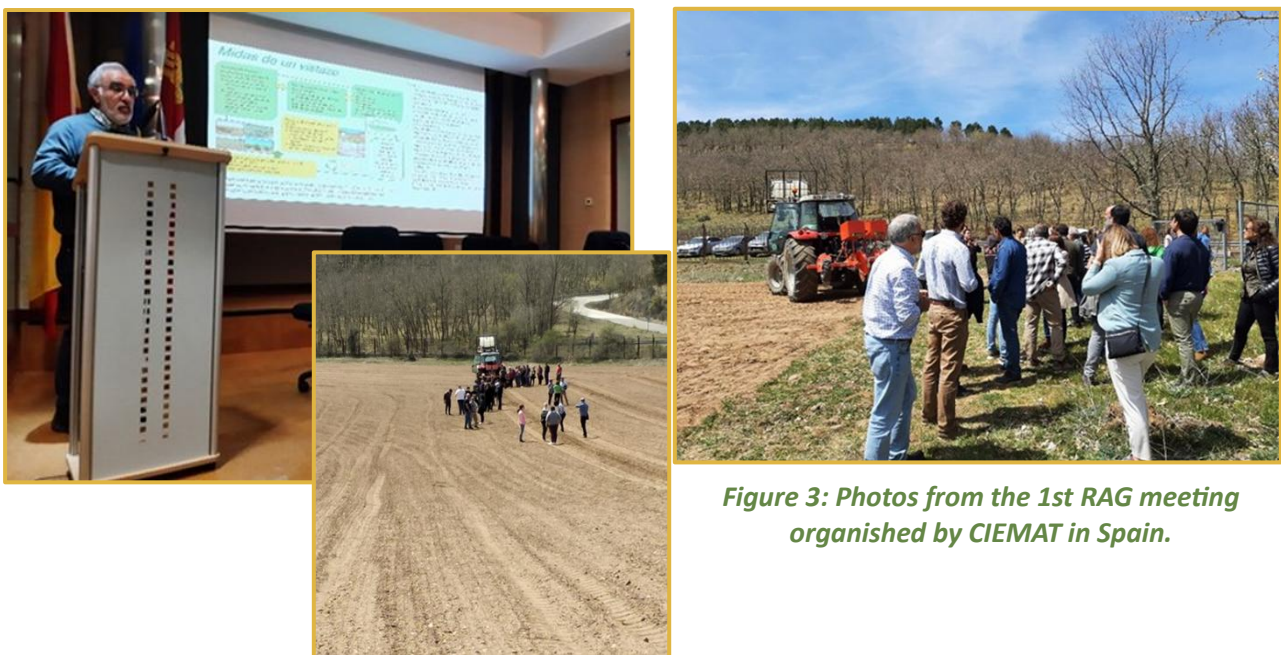
The development of new cropping systems on marginal land should adhere to the principles of regenerative agriculture, contributing to improved soil health, reduced erosion, and enhanced biodiversity. Attention was also given to generational renewal, as younger generations tend to show greater entrepreneurial motivation and are less inclined toward traditional agricultural practices.

Finally, the potential social value of utilizing marginal lands—such as areas seized from criminal activities or heavily contaminated with metalloid residues—was discussed. An illustrative example was provided through a cardoon cultivation project, in which the biomass is used as a substrate for edible mushroom production.

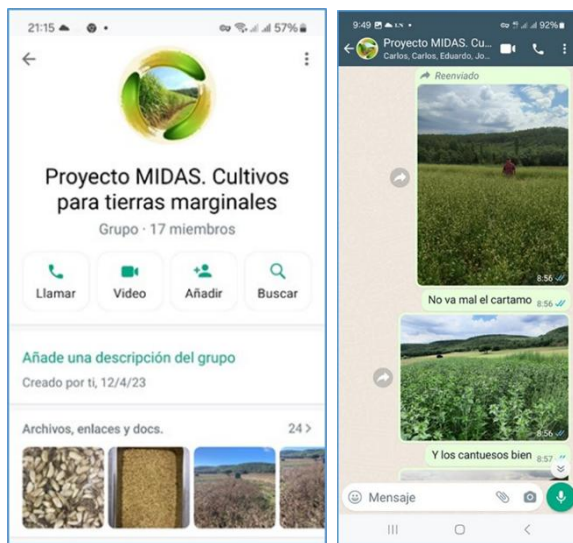
The next meeting was scheduled for November 2025.

## 1.2. Spanish Regional Advisory Group (CIEMAT & ITAP)

In Spain, two project partners (CIEMAT and ITAP) organised meetings with regional farmer groups, focusing on different industrial crops studied within the MIDAS project. CIEMAT organised the first meeting on 25 April 2023, which included both indoor and outdoor activities, with a particular emphasis on lavender (Figure 3).



*Figure 3: Photos from the 1st RAG meeting organised by CIEMAT in Spain.*



**Figure 4: Screenshots from the WhatsApp group sharing information on industrial crops**

The Regional Advisory Group (RAG) set up by CIEMAT was composed of farmers, researchers, and representatives of farmers' unions interested in diversifying cropping systems (17 participants). During the first meeting, participants had the opportunity to be informed about MIDAS activities, with a particular focus on lavender cultivation, including sowing/planting, innovative mechanical weed control, harvesting, and related practices. A WhatsApp group was established to facilitate the exchange of photos, news, and information among participants (Figure 4).

The second meeting of this RAG took place on 25 October 2024. During the meeting, emphasis was placed on two crops: lavender (a perennial shrub) and crambe (an annual oilseed). The cultivation

protocols for both crops were discussed, with particular focus on sowing/establishment, weed control, mechanical harvesting, as well as relevant policies and legislation (CRCF Directive and opportunities related to crops for Sustainable Aviation Fuels – SAF). This was followed by a technical visit to CIEMAT's fields, where farmers had the opportunity to visit the MIDAS demonstration plots on intercropping and agroforestry systems (Figure 5). CIEMAT organised a demo day on 17 May 2025 as a side event of the Biovalor meeting, during which participants had the opportunity to visit the CIEMAT fields in northern Spain. (Figure 6). Moreover, a technical visit for students from the University of Valladolid was organised on 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2025.



**Figure 6: Photos from 2nd RAG meeting organised by CIEMAT ON 25th of October 2025.**



**Figure 5: Photos from the demo day on 27th of May 2025 organised by CIEMAT as side event of Biovalor project.**



*Figure 7: Photos from the demo day organised by CIEMAT on 22nd of November 2024.*

ITAP organised a meeting and demonstration day in the guayule fields. On 8 October 2024, a meeting was held in Fuentidueña de Tajo (Madrid) with the regional group of farmers to present the progress of the project to farmers and other stakeholders. The event addressed key aspects of the effectiveness of intercropping systems in improving productivity on marginal lands. The meeting fostered a two-way dialogue between local actors and the scientific team, strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange. Preliminary results from the trials conducted in Spain indicate significant potential to enhance productivity on marginal lands, reduce the risk of land abandonment, and contribute to a sustainable rural economy. In addition, continuous interaction with farmers through the RAGs has facilitated knowledge transfer and the identification of barriers to the large-scale adoption of these practices. Within this framework, 13 Spanish farmers have been identified to participate in the development and validation of innovative cropping systems.

The implementation of innovative agricultural systems on marginal lands in Spain under the MIDAS project (Figure 8) has delivered promising technical and socioeconomic outcomes. The active involvement of local farmers, together with targeted meetings such as the one held on 8 October in Fuentidueña de Tajo, has been crucial for validating these practices and establishing a replicable model for other regions (Figure 9). Further workshops with farmers will be organised to continue disseminating the practices and strategies developed within the MIDAS project.



*Figure 8: View of ITAP field trials on intercropping*



*Figure 9: Photos from the demo day organised by ITAP on 8th of October 2024; it was combined with the physical meeting of MIDAS consortium.*

### 1.3. Polish Regional Advisory Group (ECF)

European Carbon Farmers (ECF) established a Regional Advisory Group (RAG) for the MIDAS project during the first year of project implementation in northern Poland. Two meetings were organised: the first on 30 November 2023 and the second on 21–22 October 2024. The first RAG meeting took place at the headquarters of the National Agricultural Advisory Centre of the Republic of Poland, located in central Poland near Warsaw, in order to facilitate the participation of a broad range of stakeholders, including not only farmers and farm advisors but also representatives of government institutions and the media. This approach proved highly successful, with more than 60 participants attending the meeting (Figure 10).



*Figure 10: Photos from the 1st meeting of Polish RAG on 22nd of November 2023.*

As the meeting was attended by both Polish and international speakers—including two MIDAS project partners, Moritz von Cossel from the University of Hohenheim and Carlos Martín Sastre, as well as Carlos Ciria Ramos from El Centro de Desarrollo de Energías Renovables—learning and networking throughout the day were multidirectional, laying a strong foundation for the effective operation and further implementation of the Polish RAG. An example of this exchange was a recommendation from the German partner to establish a WhatsApp group for RAG members, which was subsequently created and remains active.

Building on the success of the first RAG meeting in Poland, and in line with the commitment to organise subsequent meetings directly at the demonstration sites, the second RAG meeting took place in northern Poland over two days (Figure 11). The decision to extend the meeting to two days and to adjust the agenda by reducing the number of speakers while allowing more time for discussion was based on feedback collected from participants at the inaugural meeting.

On the first day, participants took part in a study visit to the demonstration field at Ciasnocha Family Farms—ECF’s implementation partner and host of the demo site—where they were able to observe the project activities firsthand, engage directly with on-farm realities, and exchange experiences in an informal setting. On the second day, participants met at the National Agricultural Advisory Centre’s Pomorskie Voivodeship facility in Stare Pole for further learning, sharing, and discussion. Across the two days, the second RAG meeting brought together more than 30 individual participants, with over half attending both days of the programme. In addition to the formal RAG meetings, ECF maintained regular contact with RAG members in various contexts, including national and international fairs and conferences. These informal interactions—particularly through the active WhatsApp group of the Polish MIDAS RAG—are expected to continue and further strengthen collaboration. The third RAG meeting was organised on 29 and 30 May 2025 (Figure 12).



*Figure 11: Photos from the 2nd meeting of Polish RAG on 21st and 22nd of October 2024.*



*Figure 12: Photos from the 3rd meeting of Polish RAG on 29th and 30th of May 2025.*

### 1.4. Serbian Regional Advisory Group (IFCV)

The Regional Advisory Group (RAG) meetings in Serbia, conducted within the framework of the MIDAS project, aim to bring together key stakeholders—particularly farmers—to exchange knowledge and jointly explore pathways for the sustainable use of marginal lands through the cultivation of industrial crops. To date, three RAG meetings have been successfully organised in Serbia to engage stakeholders and share updates on project progress.

The Serbian RAG was established in January 2024 during the Conference of Agronomists and Farmers of Serbia and Republika Srpska, held in Zlatibor. At this inaugural meeting, the RAG comprised 12 participants, including 3 primary producers, 2 researchers, 3 university professors, 1 industry representative, 1 representative from the Ministry, and 2 representatives from business associations (Vojvodina Organic Cluster and Industrial Crops). The event served to lay the foundation for collaboration, introduce the objectives of the MIDAS project, and set the agenda for future stakeholder engagement (Figure 13).



**Figure 13: Photos from Serbian RAG meetings in 2025.**

The second RAG meeting, held on 14 October 2024, brought together 10 participants (Figure 13). The group included representatives from academia (both from IFCV and the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Novi Sad), NGOs, industry, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management. During this meeting, the concept and objectives of the RAG were further presented, and additional stakeholders were invited to join the group.

The third RAG meeting took place on 20 November 2024 and was attended by 23 participants (Figure 13). Participants included regional promoters from IFCV, who operate in different regions across Serbia and maintain direct contact with farmers, representatives from domestic commercial offices, and the Assistant Director for Seed Production. One participant from Romania also attended the meeting. During this event, the innovative cropping systems developed within the MIDAS project and established at the Žabalj site in Serbia were presented. These systems demonstrate the practical application of low-ILUC feedstock cultivation on marginal lands and highlight sustainable and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices. In parallel, discussions addressed the potential for

seed production of safflower, crambe, sorghum, and castor bean, as well as market interest in these crops.

The overarching purpose of the RAG meetings was to ensure active engagement with the farming community and other key stakeholders in support of the project's objectives. Through close collaboration with those directly involved, the project aims to promote the adoption of innovative cropping systems and to develop strategies that deliver benefits for both agriculture and the environment.

In 2025, two additional RAG meetings were organised: the first in May 2025 at the Faculty of Technical Sciences, Academic Department in Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo, and the second in June 2025 at the IFCV premises. Both meetings involved the participation of farmers and agricultural advisory services (Figure 13).

### ***1.5. Hungarian Regional Advisory Group (Soltub)***

The Regional Advisory Group (RAG) in Hungary was established on 27 September 2023 by SOLTUB in collaboration with MATE-GAK. The main focus of the meeting was on the intercropping and agroforestry trials established in Hungary, which include annual crops (sorghum, safflower, hemp, and carinata) and perennial crops (miscanthus and poplar). Presentations were delivered on industrial crops and bioproducts, poplar, sorghum, and miscanthus as alternative industrial crops, as well as on the first-year results of the MIDAS trials.



***Figure 14: Photos from the Hungarian RAG meetings in 2024 (14.10.24).***

SOLTUB Ltd., together with the subcontracted partner MATE University (Gödöllő), organised the second MIDAS RAG meeting on 14 October 2024. This meeting combined lectures and consultation sessions with a field visit. The presentations covered topics related to the bioeconomy and the cultivation of sorghum, miscanthus, and poplar, and are available online. During the 2024 field visit, a hemp producer shared practical experience in hemp cultivation.

A similar joint RAG meeting was organised on 28 October 2025. During this meeting, a miscanthus producer presented products derived from miscanthus, such as boards and paper, and shared them with the meeting participants.

### 1.6. Germany Regional Advisory Group (UHOH)

During the second reporting period, UHOH significantly expanded stakeholder engagement through a targeted multi-sectoral approach that was initiated in the first reporting period. Moving beyond traditional workshop formats—which often reach only a limited group of highly engaged participants—the project prioritised comprehensive surveys and semi-structured interviews. This approach ensured a more representative feedback process by including stakeholder groups that are typically underrepresented in physical events, such as specific industrial actors and policymakers. The RAG activities directly contributed to high-impact scientific outputs. The results of the crambe-specific stakeholder dialogues were published in the *Journal of Cleaner Production* (Loew et al., 2024; <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2024.142376>). In addition, a comprehensive study on hemp value chain development in the Swabian Alb region is currently in preparation for publication in *Global Change Biology Bioenergy* (<https://doi.org/10.1111/GCBB.70100>). Stakeholder engagement activities were organised by industrial crop included in the intercropping trials established by UHOH (hemp, miscanthus, crambe, and melilotus) (Figure 15).

**Industrial hemp.** Stakeholder engagement related to industrial hemp was particularly strong, involving 19 participants out of 25 identified candidates. The group consisted of 9 current growers, 4 former growers, and 6 industry representatives from the food, cosmetics, fibre-based construction, and textile sectors. Although MIDAS primarily focuses on non-food applications (fibre hemp), insights from grain-oriented growers proved valuable in identifying cross-sectoral implementation challenges. A major barrier identified was the lack of regionally available specialised harvesting equipment. While professional contractors have invested over time in adapting machinery for high-fibre hemp, individual farms generally lack the capital required for such specialised equipment. As a result, reliance on external contractors—often associated with high mobilisation costs—limits economic viability. Despite recent legislative changes in Germany, farmers reported a persistently high administrative burden, particularly regarding flowering notification requirements and intensive monitoring procedures. In addition, a “chicken-and-egg” dynamic was observed between growers and off-takers. However, stakeholder dialogue indicated that these barriers are largely technical or regulatory rather than biophysical, suggesting that enhanced communication with agricultural authorities could facilitate future scale-up.

**Miscanthus and yellow melilot.** Stakeholder feedback for miscanthus was collected from 180 identified representatives across the farming, policy, and industrial sectors, including thermal power generation, refineries, and packaging industries. Although the response rate was relatively low ( $n = 12$ ), the results provided a useful baseline of current interest in perennial energy crops. For yellow melilot, while no dedicated monocultural growers have yet been identified, the crop has

been integrated into annual field demonstrations and excursions for young farmers and students from the University of Hohenheim, reaching approximately 150 participants over a three-year period. These activities revealed a strong awareness of melilot's biodiversity-enhancing potential. Farmers expressed a high willingness to adopt the crop, valuing its ecological and aesthetic benefits, particularly for farms located near residential or tourist areas. These findings are consistent with previous research on perennial wild plant mixtures (Becker et al., 2024; Fürst-Preiß and von Cossel, 2023), confirming that social acceptance and ecosystem services are key drivers for regional adoption and stakeholder engagement.



*Figure 15: Field demonstration of the MIDAS project trials for young farmers and University of Hohenheim students (July 2024). The background illustrates the distinct phenological stages of yellow melilot (*Melilotus officinalis* L.): a first-year stand approximately six weeks post-sowing (left) and a second-year stand in full inflorescence (right). In the far background (left), an established *Miscanthus* stand is visible. The event demonstrated high stakeholder engagement, with participants showing particular interest in the integration of these low-input crops into local crop rotations and their potential for diversifying regional agricultural value chains.*

Instead of standard workshops, the project employed on-site field demonstrations (Figure 15), which served as a vital platform for knowledge transfer between academia and the next generation of agricultural professionals. Observations from these events indicated that, while certain crops—such as hemp—remain sensitive for growers due to security concerns, there is a clear interest in diversifying regional crop rotations through the alternative species investigated within the MIDAS project.

### **1.7. Czech Regional Advisory Group (Czechemp)**

The Regional Farmer Group established by Czechemp organised a field day on 22 September 2023 in Olomouc (Figure 16). During the field day, farmers had the opportunity to visit plots with different hemp varieties and to discuss the challenges associated with the cultivation, harvesting, and marketing of hemp production outputs.



*Figure 16: Photos from the hemp field day organised by Czechemp (22.10.23).*

A group of farmers visited the Academy of Sciences – Institute of Botany in Průhonice on 18 October 2023 to learn about soil health and the role of mycorrhizae in agricultural production, presented by Dr. RNDr. Miroslav Vosátka. (Figure 17). The annual European Industrial Hemp Association (EIHA) conference was organised in Prague (6th of May 2024), and the farmer group was invited to attend



as it provided an excellent opportunity for them to meet farmers from other countries, exchange experiences, and gain deeper insights into the potential of industrial hemp (Figure 17).

**Figure 17: Visit of farmers' group on 18th of October 2023 to Academy of Science (Institute of Botany) (left) and meeting to EIHA (right).**

A field day was organised on 7 June

2024 at the Agritec Institute, focusing on hemp and flax fields (Figure 18).



**Figure 18: Visit of farmers' group on 7th of June 2024 combined with indoors meeting.**

The



**Figure 19: Hemp harvest day (20.9.25).**

conference “Živá krajina” (28.1.25, Praga), focused on regenerative farming and carbon

sequestration. Hana Gabrielová, President of Czechemp, delivered a presentation highlighting hemp as a valuable crop for regenerative farming and presenting its potential for biomaterials within the bioeconomy. Finally, a harvest field day was organised on 20 September 2025 in Domašov u Šternberka, during which a member of the RAG shared experiences with other farmers regarding challenges related to hemp harvesting and best practices for maintaining seed quality after harvest (Figure 19).

### 1.8. Greek Regional Advisory Group (CRES in collaboration with AUA)

A few days before the initiation of MIDAS, CRES participated with an exhibition stand at **Agrotica 2022** (20–23/10/2022, [www.agrotica.gr](http://www.agrotica.gr)) that took place in Thessaloniki. During the exhibition, a poster and informational leaflets on MIDAS (Figure 20), prepared in Greek, were distributed to farmers, who were also invited to attend a special session dedicated to industrial crops and products. In this session, particular emphasis was placed on industrial hemp and castor bean, highlighting their potential to be cultivated on marginal lands.



Figure 20: View of CRES's stand in Agrotica 2022 and MIDAS leaflet in Greek.



Figure 21: View of CRES's stand in Agrothessaly 2023.

In March 2023, CRES participated with an exhibition stand at **Agrothessaly 2023** ([www.agrothessaly.gr](http://www.agrothessaly.gr)), which took place in Larisa from 9 to 13 March 2023 (Figure 21). The exhibition stand included a poster presenting the MIDAS project, as well as informational leaflets. Farmers visiting the stand had the opportunity to be informed about the innovative aspects of MIDAS.

On the afternoon of 9 March, a dedicated session on annual oilseed crops (carinata, safflower, crambe, and castor bean) was organised. Farmers showed strong interest in oilseed crops that can provide feedstock for advanced biofuels and raised several questions regarding cultivation protocols,

seed availability, contracting opportunities with biofuel companies, and the subsidies available for these crops under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Moreover, an extensive discussion took place on the national Strategic Plan under the CAP post-2023 and the opportunities it can offer to Greek farmers.

During **Agrotica 2024** (1–4 February 2024, [www.agrotica.gr](http://www.agrotica.gr)), a dedicated session was organised on 1 February 2024 (Figure 22).

The session focused on the Greek Strategic Plan under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) after 2023 and the opportunities it offers to farmers. As the Greek Strategic Plan does not provide clear support for the crops studied within the MIDAS project, farmers raised numerous questions regarding the ten crops that receive additional support of €600/ha, such as camelina and flax.



*Figure 22: View of CRES's stand in Agrotica 2024.*



*Figure 23: View of CRES's targeted workshop in Agrothessaly 2025.*

During **Agrothessaly 2025** (6–9 March 2025), a targeted workshop was organised on 7 March 2025 (Figure 23) focusing on two oilseed crops—carinata and camelina—and their potential cultivation under intercropping systems, either in strip or inter-row configurations. Camelina once again attracted the greatest interest due to the specific subsidy initially set at €600/ha. However, following the reduction of this subsidy to €335/ha in 2025, farmers raised several questions regarding carinata, including the availability of propagation material, expected yields, required inputs, and the interest of the biofuel industry in this crop.

In the view of CARINA project a field day was organised in north Greece (Nea Gonia) on 13th of June 2024. The CARINA partners and the regional RAG visited both the fields of CARINA (intercropping of camelina and carinata) and MIDAS intercropping (lavender with crambe and safflower) (Figure 24).



*Figure 24: Demo day on 13th of June 2024.*

### ***1.9. French Regional Advisory Group (Guatecs)***

**GUATECS**, in collaboration with **VALORHIZ**, established a field trial based on intercropping systems, combining the perennial crop **guayule** with the annual crops **hemp** and **safflower**. Within the framework of the collaboration between the French **MIDAS** team and local farmers, it was identified that **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) subsidies are critical for farmers to adopt and sustain guayule cultivation**. However, guayule is currently **not included in the list of CAP-eligible crops**, which represents a major barrier to its uptake.

To address this issue, **GUATECS** and **VALORHIZ**, together with other MIDAS partners (**ITAP** and **ETRMA – European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers’ Association**), submitted a letter to the **European Commissioner for Agriculture** in October 2024, highlighting the risk this exclusion poses to the development of guayule cultivation in Southern Europe.

In its response to the MIDAS consortium, the **European Commission acknowledged the progress achieved in this field and took note of the concerns raised**, stating that contributions from research institutions, industry stakeholders, and policymakers will be valuable in informing discussions on the **future Common Agricultural Policy framework beyond 2027**.



The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant



## The consortium

