

4th European Sorghum Congress – 1001 reasons to invest in sorghum !

Budapest (Hungary) hosted the **4th European Sorghum Congress**, organized by **Sorghum ID and FNPSMS** (the French National Federation for Maize and Sorghum Seed Production).

This major European event brought together on October 8–9, 2025 over 200 stakeholders in the sorghum sector — from industry, production, policymaking, and business — around one central theme:

“We have 1001 reasons to invest in sorghum!”



Sorghum: a sustainable answer to agricultural, climatic and food challenges

As the world's fifth most consumed cereal, used for animal feed, human food, and energy production, sorghum is establishing itself as a strategic crop for Europe's future. Drought-tolerant, resource-efficient, and adaptable to multiple uses, it offers great potential for Europe's needs.

Since 2017, the European association Sorghum ID has been working to develop a structured and sustainable European sorghum value chain. Launched in January 2021, the “Seeds for Future” communication campaign is implemented by Sorghum ID and FNPSMS across five European countries, with the support of the European Union. Its aim is to promote the many advantages of sorghum and to encourage its production across Europe.

This 4th European Sorghum Congress marked a key milestone in the “Seeds for Future” campaign — a unifying event offering two days rich in discussions, innovation, and forward-looking perspectives, with a combination of plenary conferences, round tables, and 3 thematic workshops.

Feed Workshop

Speakers explored the nutritional benefits of sorghum for pig, poultry, and ruminant production. Experts such as Dr. Orsolya Varga (Bonafarm), Mr. Markus Wiltafsky-Martin (Evonik Industries), and Dr. István Dezső Kovács (Kite) shared insights and case studies on sorghum's value and vertical integration within feed chains.

Food Workshop

Researchers, processors, and distributors presented innovative applications of sorghum in healthy food production. From flour and pasta to snacks, entrepreneurs like Mohamed Zellama (ORI Sorgho Smartfood) and Aurélien Amir (Vieille Graine) demonstrated that sorghum is a promising, nutritious, and gluten-free ingredient for European food products.

Diversification & Energy Workshop

This workshop focused on industrial and energy uses of sorghum — bioethanol, biogas, and biomass. International experts such as John Duff (Serō Ag Strategies) and Rafael Parrella (Embrapa) shared global experiences in energy valorization of sorghum.

An international and collaborative dimension

The congress took place in Hungary, a country where every link in the sorghum chain has developed — from varietal innovation to production, marketing, and industrial processing.

This expertise was showcased during the round table “Success Story: Sorghum in Hungary”, where four major Hungarian stakeholders shared the strategies and methods that helped build a dynamic national sorghum sector.

Experts from 24 countries across Europe, the Americas, and Africa — including Florentino Lopez (Creando Mañana), Nate Blum (Sorghum United Foundation), and Ephrem Habyarimana (ICRISAT) — provided valuable insights on global advances in sorghum research, processing, and market development.

The RiSorgo project, a Swiss research initiative presented by Monia Caramma and Tiziana Vonlanthen (Agroscope), illustrated the synergy between science, industry, and sustainable food systems by exploring sorghum’s agronomic potential, processing options, and economic viability.

A meeting place for scientific exchange and collaboration

Beyond conferences, the congress encouraged scientific and technical exchange through a poster session, where participants presented their research and development work — fostering collaboration among professionals across the sorghum value chain.

A 4th edition highlighting strong growth potential across all markets

According to Pierre Pagès, president of Sorghum ID: “The numerous presentations and testimonies revealed the extraordinary diversity of sorghum applications. The growth of the sector will rely on a strong educational effort, led by Sorghum ID and all stakeholders, to increase step-by-step awareness and interest in sorghum-based products among both professionals and consumers. This congress demonstrated that sorghum brings together all the qualities needed to become a crop of the future in Europe — and that its united, forward-looking stakeholders now have 1001 reasons to invest in sorghum.”

About Sorghum ID

Sorghum ID is the European interbranch organization dedicated to the development and promotion of sorghum. It brings together all stakeholders in the sector — seed companies, producers, industrials, and researchers — around a shared ambition: to build a structured European sorghum industry and promote this crop as a pillar of sustainable agriculture.

More information : <https://www.sorghum-id.com>

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PRESS CONTACT:

Martin Gomez – International promotion officer at FNPSMS
martin.gomez@fnpsms.fr / contact@sorghum-id.com