

The annual PIC Meeting is **the most important Cluster event for the plant production industry in Europe**. This event aims to foster innovation in plant production and to define a common strategy in order to ease the international development of Plant clusters and of their members.

For this **10th anniversary**, the Plant Inter Cluster (PIC) Network organized the **PIC Week 2020**, a remote event. Due to COVID-19 crisis, the two co-organizers **VEGEPOLYS VALLEY** and **Innov'Alliance** worked together to propose a comfortable event **100% online**. The format and the length of the event did change but the goals and objectives remained the same.

From June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, a large diversity of participants was able to participate and to **create new connexions for their R&D projects**. The virtual constraint turn out to be an advantage with a high level of registration and attendance to the overall event. This edition will stay in all memories.

**218 Participants**  
**71 individuals meetings**  
**26 Nationalities**  
**15 hours of activities**

## A FULL EVENT ON PLANT INNOVATION

Thanks to the support of Enterprise Europe Network and particularly **Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Entreprises**, the registration was open 1 month before the event thanks to the registration platform, which was used for all activities (Marketplace, Conferences and 1-to-1 Meeting). The **full agenda and all the replay are available here: [www.picweek-2020.b2match.io](http://www.picweek-2020.b2match.io)**

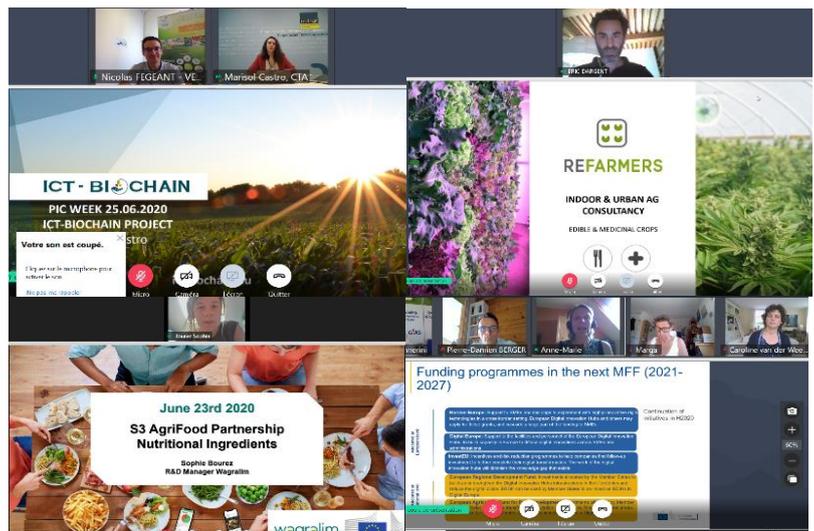
Personal chat between participants for networking purposes was possible at every session of the week through a visio conference tool. Of course, more interactions happened during the **“Search for Partners sessions”** and the two workshops on **“Uses of Plant Ingredients”** and **“AgTech in Bio Tech”**.

This event was targeting Plant clusters but some conferences also integrated topics of interest for all the clusters. Among the **28 speakers**, some of them discussed about **Digital Innovation Hubs, Smart Specialization Strategies partnerships and Cascade funding management**.

For the concrete part and more sectorial exchanges, each day was concluded with a presentation of 2 stakeholders: **Research and Academics, Urban farming, Valorisation of Plants and Biocontrol**.

The remote event format provided the possibility to distribute the events along the week, and provided more flexibility to the speakers (**CTA, Smart Agri Hubs, DG Agri, Minalogic, ASOI, Wagralim and Flanders Foods**) but also to participants who were free to select the most relevant program to them.

Finally, a side-event was included to the PIC Week Agenda, in collaboration with the **TRACK** project. On the 26<sup>th</sup> of June, a webinar on **Digital solutions** was proposed to all the participants. All the partners of this project and several SMEs were participating to the overall event.





## Participants

Austria	1
Belgium	8
Bulgaria	4
Chile	19
Colombia	6
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	7
Estonia	1
France	56
Georgia	1
Germany	1
Greece	2
Hungary	4

This digital edition cannot be compared to the previous PIC Meetings. It is important to note that among the 218 registered persons, almost **70% were connected at least once during the week**. The diversity of nationalities demonstrates the advantage to reach other continents. With the majority of programs happening during the afternoon, 30 participants were coming from America. The 3 first nations represented after **France, were Spain, Romania and Italy**.

Ireland	2
Israel	1
Italy	9
Morocco	1
Netherlands	8
Peru	5
Poland	1
Portugal	5
Romania	21
Spain	51
Tunisia	1
Turkey	1
United States	1

**Clusters (22%)** have participated to more sessions than other categories of actors. Companies were more selective in their participation. **The triple helix of cluster's members is visible** with 35% of companies, 13% of Universities and 10% of R&D centres. A large majority of participants was directly involved in Plant industry but also cosmetics, ICT, Circular Economy and food were represented.



## Plant Inter Cluster Network : Next steps

The Plant InterCluster network decided during this week to continue the construction of an **European Cluster Alliance on Plant Innovation**. The 5 main sectorial pillars will be: Production, Equipment, Horticulture, Digitalization and Food.

The network is open to other clusters, and a MoU should be approved by all in 2020. It will define the common objectives and the first actions to implement. **Online monthly meeting, PIC Meeting and the creation of thematic working groups will be our priorities** for the next semester. Each cluster could have a part of responsibility. **VEGEPOLYS VALLEY remains the PIC Network coordinator**.



## Focus on Auvergne Rhône-Alpes

Each edition of the PIC Meeting have proposed field visits to discover the host region. In 2020, Lyon, which is located in **Auvergne Rhône-Alpes**, was selected to host the event. A specific focus has been maintained virtually though. A specific session introduced the "DOMEX" (Excellence Sector) on Agriculture and the main skills of the region for Innovation and Agriculture. Then 9 regional stakeholders highlighted their collaboration opportunities: **ISARA, I-Site, RED, Refarmers, Gatefossé, R&D Centre Institut Paul Bocuse, SBM, AMOEBA and Greentech**. Other members of the French clusters were also represented (12), such as **ASTREDHOR** during the pitch session and available for 1-to-1 meetings.