

NEURICE

Neu commercial European RICE (*Oryza sativa*) harbouring salt tolerance alleles to protect the rice sector against climate change and apple snail (*Pomacea insularum*) invasion

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1. Introduction

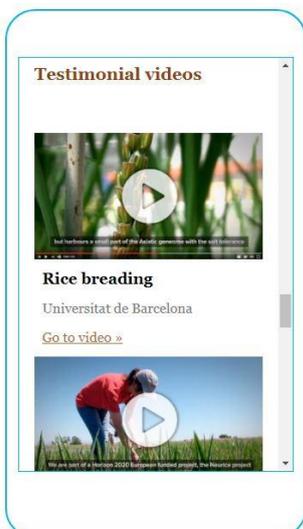
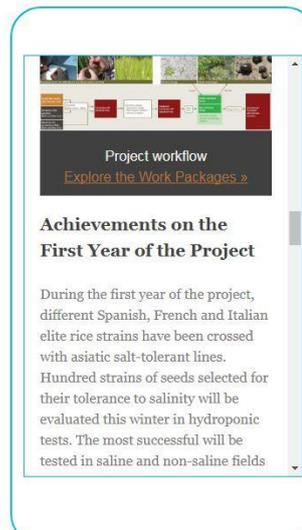
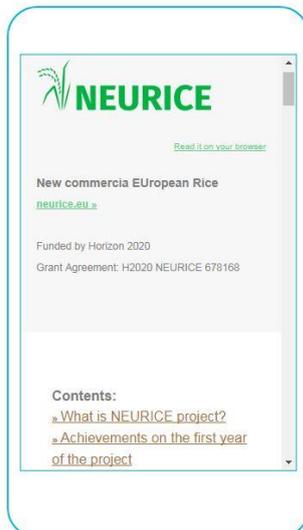
The newsletter is an e-mail sent to all NEURICE's contacts containing information of the project and its performance. The first newsletter was sent on august 2017.

2. Contents

The full newsletter can be read at the following link:

<http://bit.ly/2vioiMP>

Screenshots



Text

Contents:

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- » [Achievements on the first year of the project](#)
- » [Testimonial videos](#)



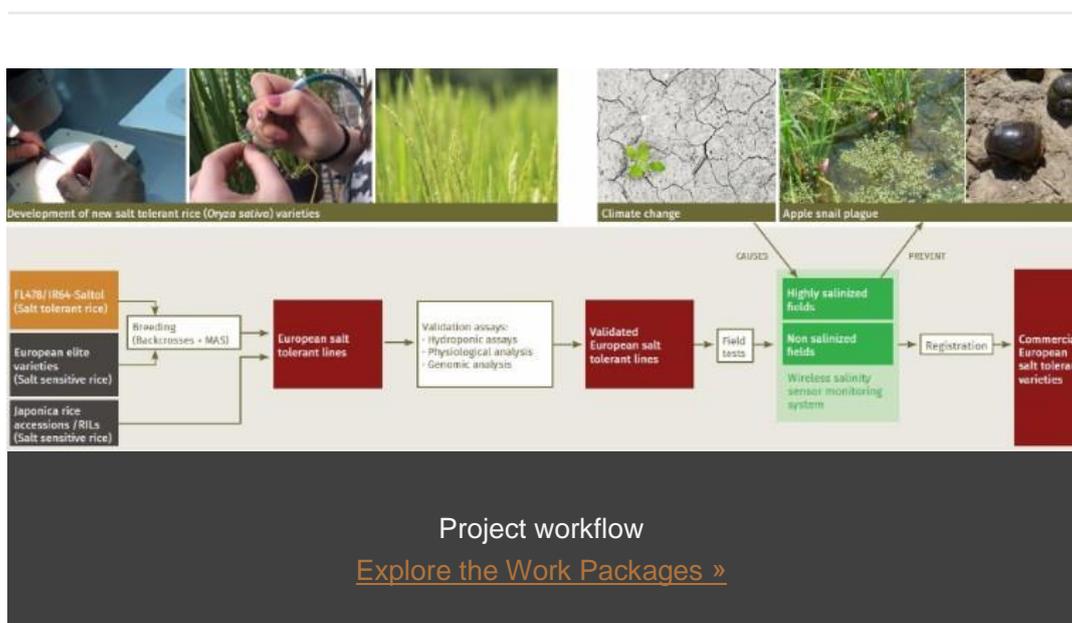
NEURICE: New Varieties of Rice to Combat the Apple Snail and the Effects of Climate Change on this Crop

Scarcer water availability and sea level rise are some of the [climate change effects](#) that clearly contribute to the salinization of the river deltas, where rice is grown in Europe. Most rice varieties are severely injured by abiotic stresses caused by salinization, with a strong impact on rice production.

The [NEURICE project](#) aims to develop new comercial European salt tolerance rice (*Oryza sativa*) varieties that will protect the sector against the climate change effects.

In addition, the Ebro river delta, in Spain, is affected by the **Apple Snail pest** that is destroying rice paddy fields and eating the rice seedlings. Seawater treatment of the highly infested fields has demonstrated a high apple snail mortality since high salt concentrations are harmful for these invasive species, although it also affects negatively the production of current European rice varieties. Thus, seawater treatments in combination with new European salt tolerant lines could contribute to the eradication of this pest.

The **NEURICE project** is funded by the Horizon 2020 program, within the call "Sustainable Food Security". It's a four year-long project (2016-2020) that is seeking for novel breeding targets to improve productivity, stability and quality in European rice production.



Achievements on the First Year of the Project

During the first year of the project, different Spanish, French and Italian elite rice strains have been crossed with asiatic salt-tolerant lines. Hundred strains of seeds selected for their tolerance to salinity will be evaluated this winter in hydroponic tests. The most successful will be tested in saline and non-saline fields during the 2018 and 2019 campaigns.

The **NEURICE project** has also begun to monitor the salinity of some saline fields

in Spain, France and Italy in order to conduct trials of new salt tolerant varieties of rice being developed. For several months, the salinity of the water and the soil of the rice fields, the height of the water's surface and the salinity of the water flowing in and out of fields will be monitored closely.

Next season, the new strains of rice are expected to be ready for planting, so that they can be evaluated in both saline and non-saline fields.

The UB is conducting a parallel protein study of the rice varieties that are most tolerant to salinity from around the world in order to determine the mechanism that allows these plants to grow in highly saline environments.

Testimonial videos



Rice breeding

Universitat de Barcelona

[Go to video »](#)



Soil Salinity at Ebro Delta

IRTA

[Go to video »](#)



Funded by Horizon 2020

Partners



3. Audience

The newsletter was sent to the NEURICE database, which includes 40 contacts linked to the NEURICE project. It was also posted on NEURICE's social media profiles (Facebook and Twitter)

Partners used their channels to reach more audience.

Impacts

- IRTA Newsletter: 980 views
- IRTA Social media: Facebook (286 people reach), Twitter (30 clicks) and LinkedIn (629 impressions).
- GRAG Social Media: Facebook 573 people reach, Twitter 149 impressions, LinkedIn 235 impressions