













10 - 13 Aprilie 2023, Timișoara

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## **SeedOmics**: what have we learned from seed priming and germination studies

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- · Situated only 35 km from Milan
- Trains to Milan every 10 minutes
- Population of 70,000



- 18 departments
- 77 courses taught in Italian
  - 39 Bachelor's degrees
  - 38 Master's courses
- 12 Master's degree courses taught in English
- 19 Ph.D. courses



- 1500 international students
- 2700 professors, lecturers, native language teachers and administrative staff









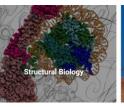


#### https://dbb.dip.unipv.it/en

### Department of Excellence 2018-2022

























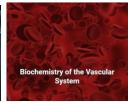


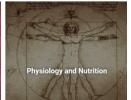
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### PhD Program in Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology

https://dbb.dip.unipv.it/en/education/post-graduate-programs/phd-programs/phd-program-genetics-molecular-and-cellular-biology







### Why study seeds – a worldwide perspective







High-quality Seeds



Climate change



Food security



Development of sustainable agriculture

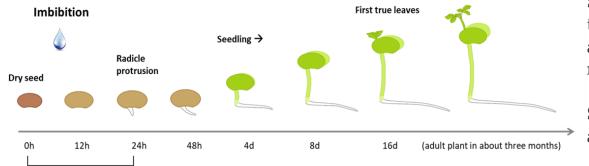


Crop productivity and resilience



### Seed germination & Seed priming





**Seed germination -** the sum of events that begin with hydration of the seed and culminate in emergence of the new plantlet

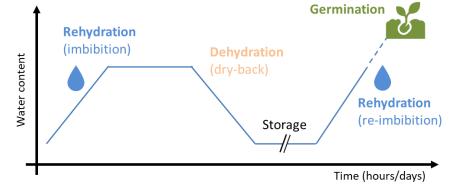
**Seed priming** - pre-sowing treatment able to improve seed germination

Pre-germinative metabolism (until radicle protrusion)

Activation of respiration
Accumulation of ROS
Accumulation of DNA damage
Activation of DNA repair
Activation of the pregerminative metabolism

The processes activated within pre-germinative metabolism have effects on seed germination and seedling establishment.





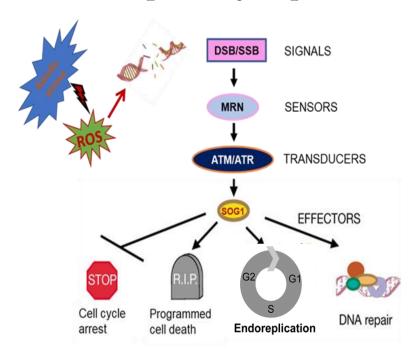


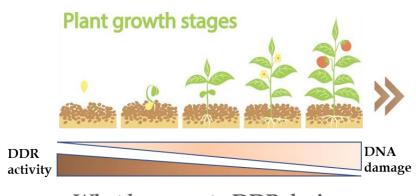


### DNA Damage Respose (DDR) & Seeds



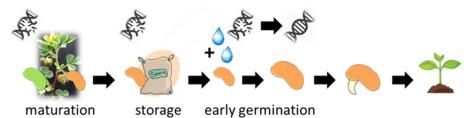
### DDR pathway in plants





What happens to DDR during plant life...?

When do seeds accumulate or repair DNA damage?







### **Experimental System Design**



#### **TIMEPOINTS**



0 h, dry seed



2 h imbibition



8 h imbibition



radicle protrusion



4-day old seedling



7-day old seedlings



Up to 14 days



### **TREATMENTS**







- Trichostatin A (TSA)
- Sodium butyrate (NaB)
- **%** Kinetin
- Desiccation-rehydration
- Priming



#### **ANALYSES**







Gene expression profiles



C Lipidomics

**Biochemical HPLC** 

Ultrastructural TEM



### SeedOmics & Molecular Markers of Seed Quality

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Metabolic and gene expression hallmarks of seed germination uncovered by sodium butyrate in *Medicago truncatula* 

Andrea Pagano<sup>1</sup> | Susana de Sousa Araújo<sup>2</sup> | Anca Macovei<sup>1</sup> | Daniele Dondi<sup>3</sup> | Simone Lazzaroni<sup>3</sup> | Alma Balestrazzi<sup>1</sup> © CTRL 5 mM Na 10 mM NaB MtOGG1 MtFPG MtALKBH1 MtALKBH2 MtAPE1 **MtPCNA** 1.0 MtFEN1 MtLIG1 Polyamine biosynthesis Uracil degradation

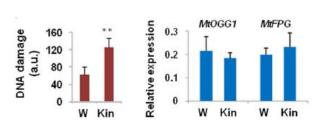
Purine and pyrimidine metabolism

METABOLIC HALLMARKS OF SEED RESPONSE TO GENOTOXIC STRESS

### SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

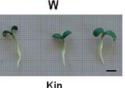
Metabolic signatures of germination triggered by kinetin in *Medicago truncatula* 

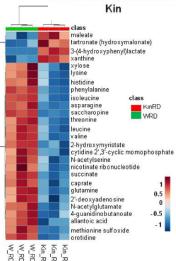
Susana Araújo (0 1, Andrea Pagano 2, Daniele Dondi 3, Simone Lazzaroni 3, Eduardo Pinela 1, Anca Macovei 3 & Alma Balestrazzi 2



- 27 metabolites showed significant changes triggered by kinetin exclusively at radicle protrusion
- inositol, pentakisphosphate, agmatine, inositol hexakisphosphate, oleoylcholine
- changes linked to fast metabolic depletion associated with a fast germination





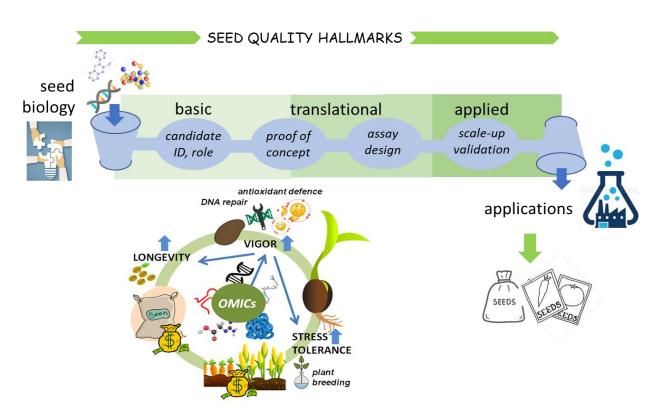




### SeedOmics & Molecular Markers of Seed Quality

THE SEED IN

- ➤ Identification of candidate hallmarks gathered from basic analyses and omics approaches can be put to use to follow the transition from the proof-of-concept phase to dedicated experimental designs suited for scale-up validation and industrial applications.
- ➤ Collaborations between academia (researchers) and industry (seed technologists) is essential to define future research targets and sustain the development of high-quality seeds that can be productive even under stress conditions.



Seed biology: from basic to applied research









### SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO ...





































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