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**Company / Agency / Organization**

Scotia Seeds/ NASSTEC

**Presentation type**

Oral presentation

**Presentation title**

NASSTEC: an EU training initiative in native seeds production and use for grassland restoration

**Authorship**

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**Abstract (max 250 words)**

NASSTEC - the NATive Seed Science, TEchnology and Conservation Initial Training Network is a Marie Curie project funded by the EU under FP7. It is training 11 PhD students and one post-doc researcher in native seed science adopting a cross-cutting approach that integrates academia and industry in an effort to conserve, produce and use sustainably and effectively native seeds for grassland restoration. NASSTEC partners include four academic institutions from Italy and the UK and three private companies from Spain, the UK and the Netherlands. The individual PhD projects are organised into 3 sub-programmes that mimic the plant reintroduction cycle: A. In situ seed sampling, B. Seed biology characterisation, and C. Production and deployment of seeds. A special focus is on technology transfer from academia to industry within and outside the network reaching out to all interested stakeholders, especially native seed producers. The project outputs are driven and informed by the needs of the European native seed community that were specifically assessed through a survey. Project outputs will include an online platform to facilitate the species selection for restoration activities, handbooks and manuals, germination and production protocols on selected species as case studies, suggested standard procedures for certification, a policy whitepaper and a discussion forum to nurture a thriving native seed community.

**Category**

Objective 4.2: Partnerships: Working together

**Presenter Bio**

Italian from Rome, Marcello's interest in nature and its amazing mechanisms started early in his life and he was able to feed it with university studies in biological and ecological sciences at Sapienza University of Rome (Italy). The Doctoral Course in *Ecology and Management of Biological Resources*, attained at Tuscia University of Viterbo (Italy), was then fundamental to strengthen his scientific and networking skills and to take the first steps in the world of Research. For the last eight years, he has worked in and collaborated with many germplasm banks around Europe and specialized in native seed science for plant conservation. He is currently based at one of the UK's leading native seed companies, Scotia Seeds (Angus, Scotland) in the position of Experienced Researcher in the NASSTEC project. His work is aimed at facilitating knowledge transfer and collaboration among different native seed stakeholders, especially academia and industry.

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