

# Trends in research in the oil crops-to-products chain

FEDIOL General Assembly Conference

Brussels, June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

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FOOD & BIOBASED RESEARCH  
WAGENINGEN **UR**

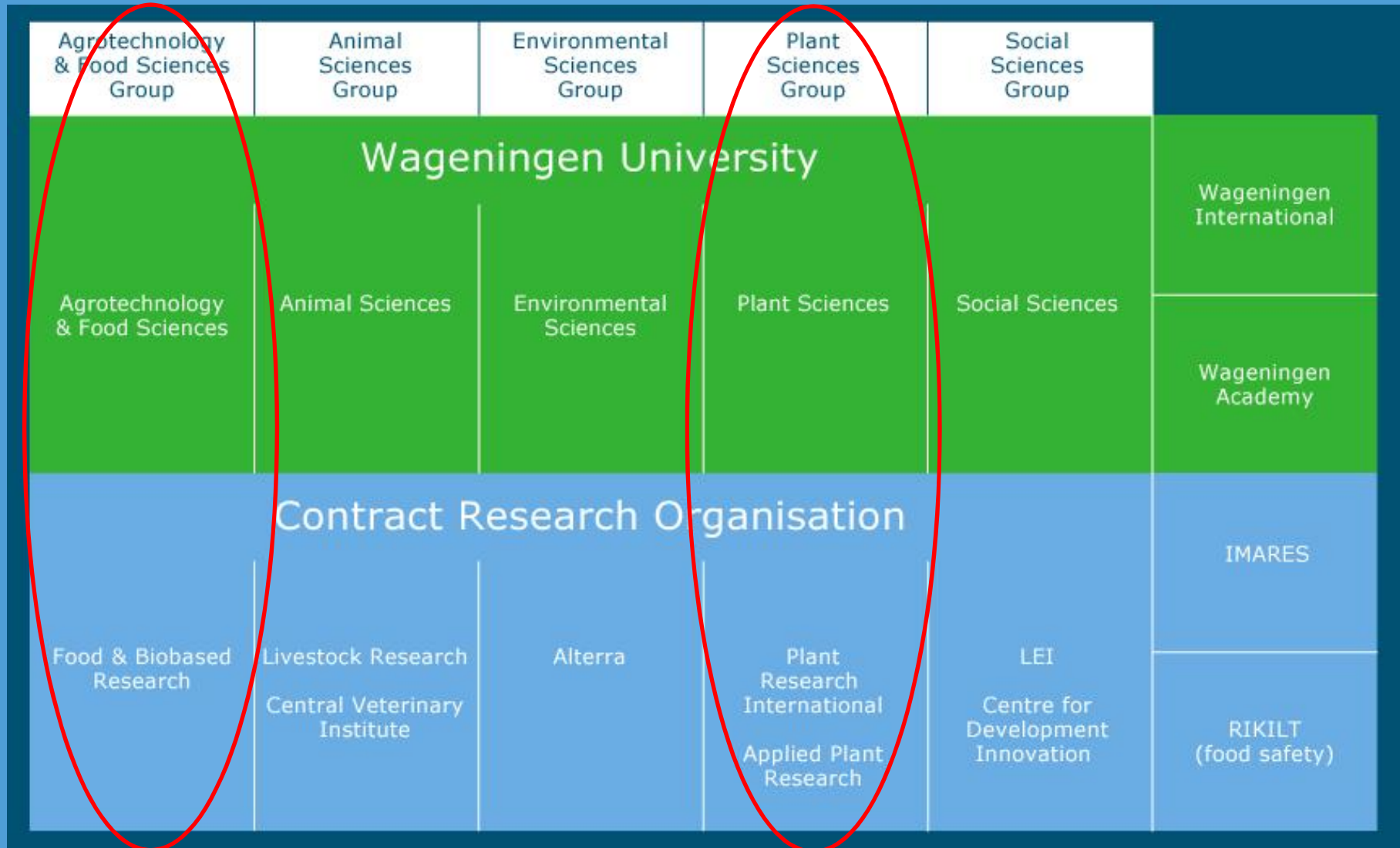
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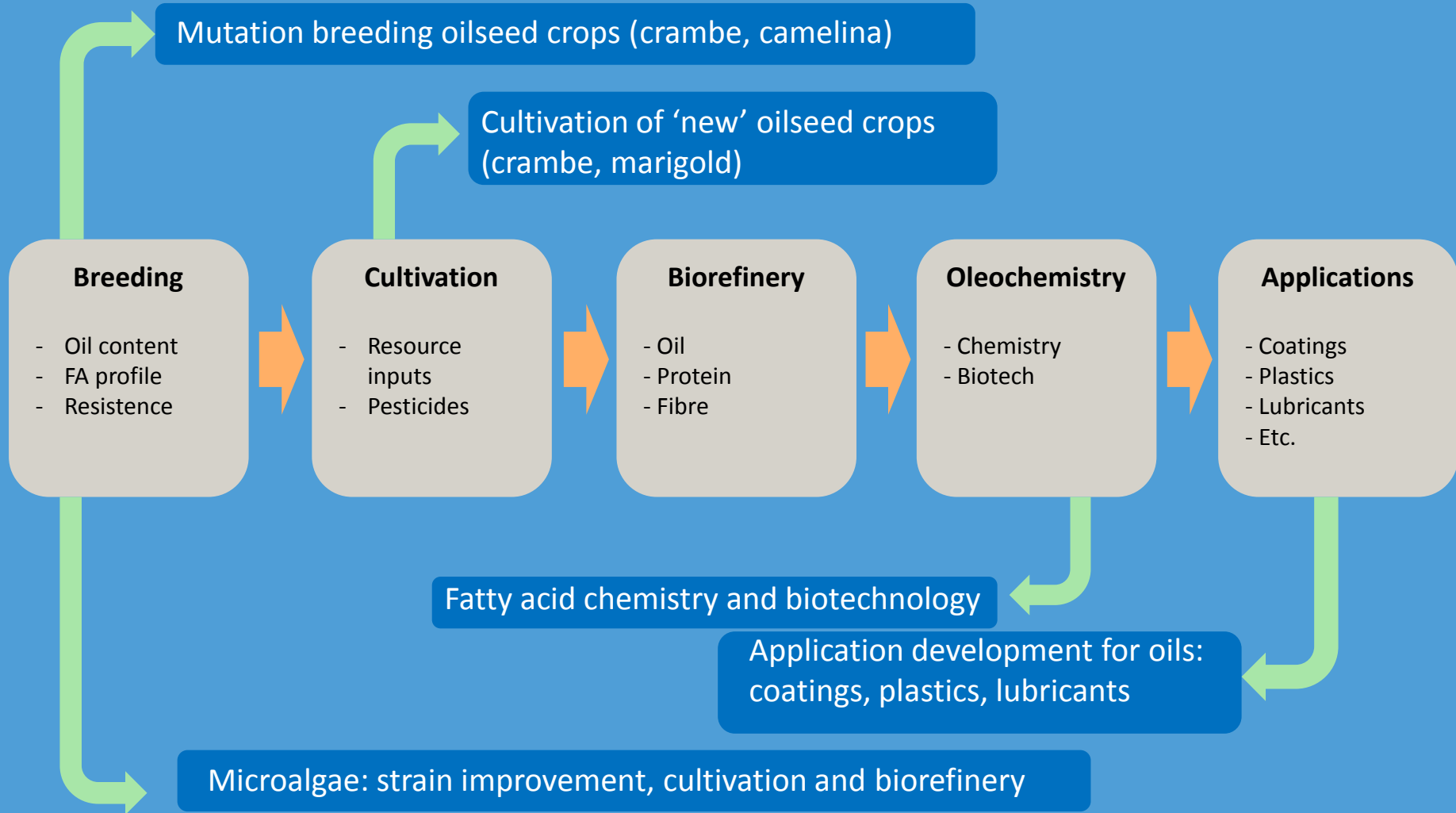
- Introduction Wageningen UR
- Research areas within the oil crops-to-products chain
  - Breeding, cultivation, biorefinery, (bio)chemistry and applications
- The COSMOS project (EU, Horizon 2020)



# Wageningen UR



# Research areas within the chain



# R&D topics

## ■ **Breeding:** high content of monounsaturated FA (MUFA)



- food: *'high oleics'* : oxidative stability, less need for hardening ('trans fats')
- technical: oleic, erucic acid, etc., as feedstock for oleochemical products

## ■ **Cultivation:**

- New oil sources: *microbial oils* (microalgae, oleaginous microorganisms)
  - CO<sub>2</sub> and sugars conversion to oils
  - High biomass production and isolation costs
  - Microalgal proteins



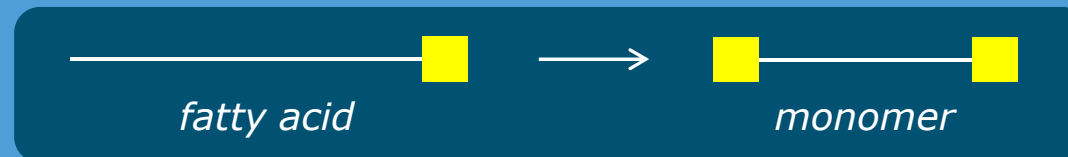
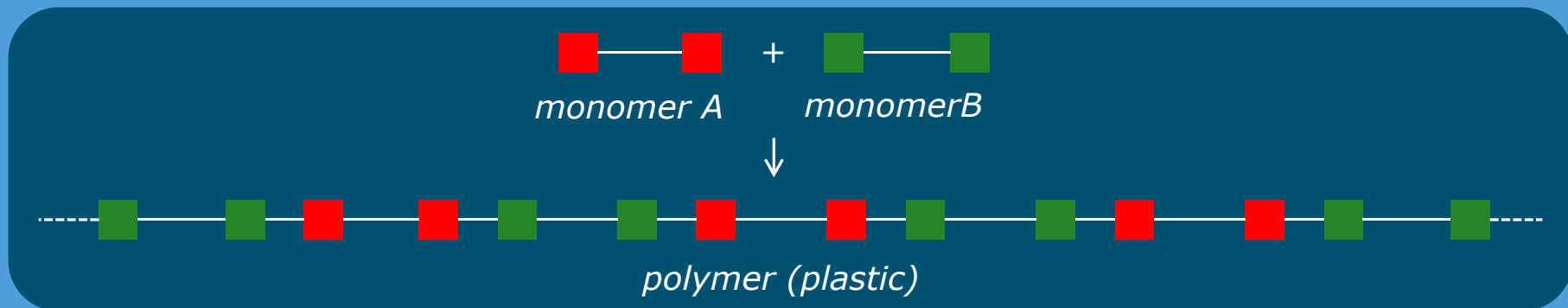
# R&D topics (continued)

## ■ Biorefinery:

- Easier / more efficient separation of oils and proteins
- Increased value of protein fraction

## ■ Oleochemistry:

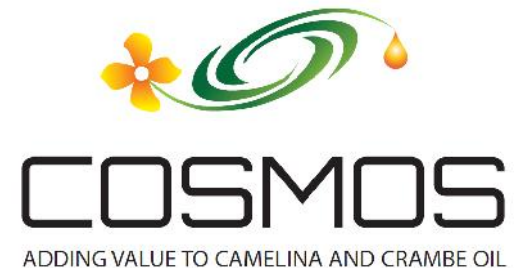
- Glycerol as feedstock for chemicals
- *MUFA conversion to building blocks for plastics:*



**COSMOS: Camelina and crambe Oil**  
crops as **Sources** for **Medium-chain Oils**  
for **Specialty oleochemicals**



Funded by the Horizon 2020  
Framework Programme of  
the European Union





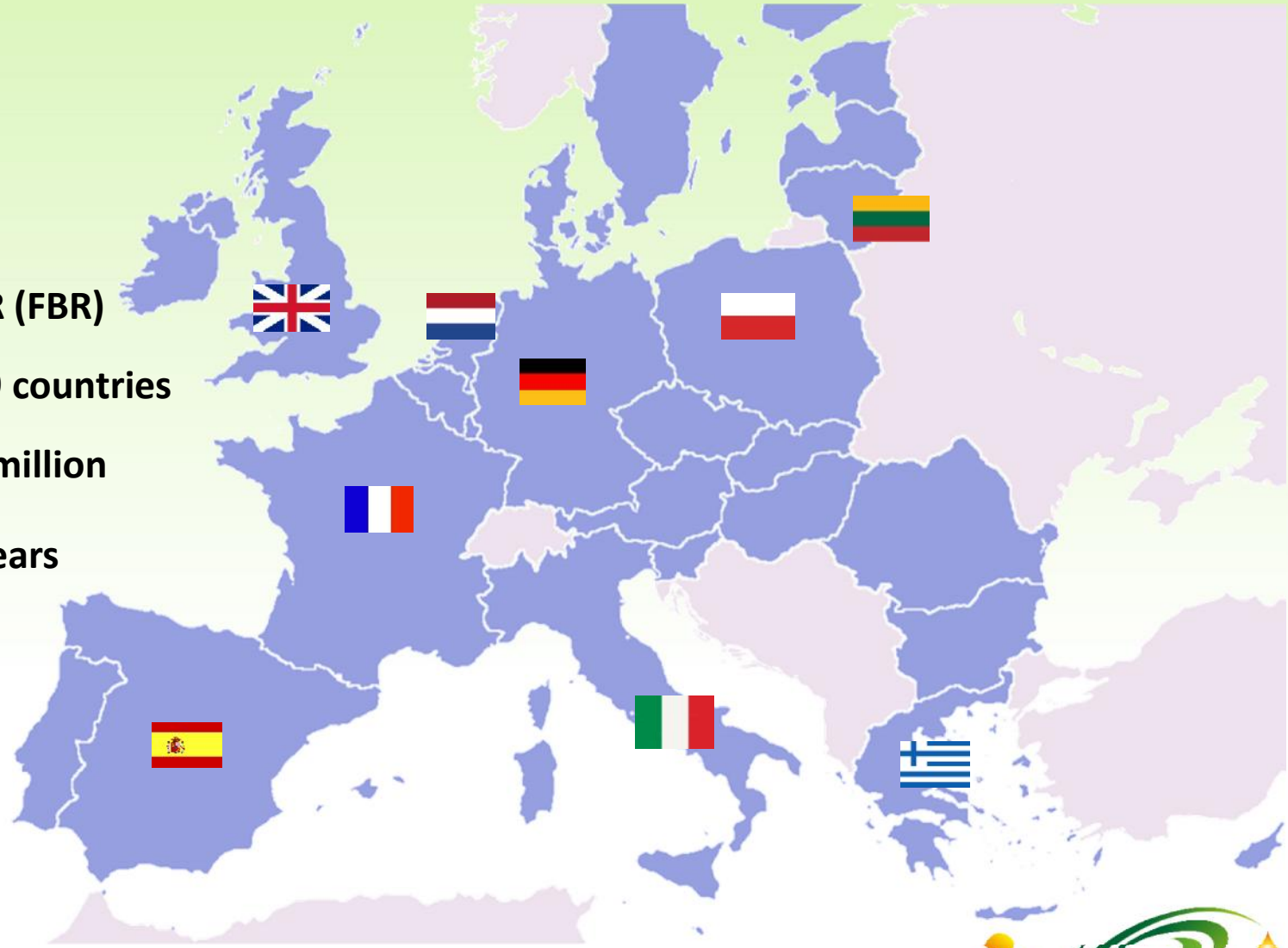
# COSMOS

**Coordinator:**  
**Wageningen UR (FBR)**

**18 partners in 9 countries**

**Budget: € 10.8 million**

**Duration: 4.5 years**





# COSMOS: primary aim

- To reduce Europe's dependence on imported tropical oils (palm kernel, coconut, castor) as sources for medium-chain-length oleochemical surfactants, lubricants, polymers and other high-value products, by:
  - turning camelina and crambe into profitable oilseed crops
  - creating and optimizing sustainable value chains



# COSMOS consortium



# COSMOS consortium



## Food & Biobased Research

- *management*
- *biotech*
- *biorefinery*



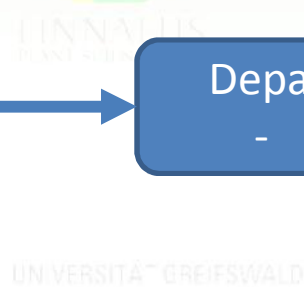
## Plant Research International

- *breeding*
- *cultivation*

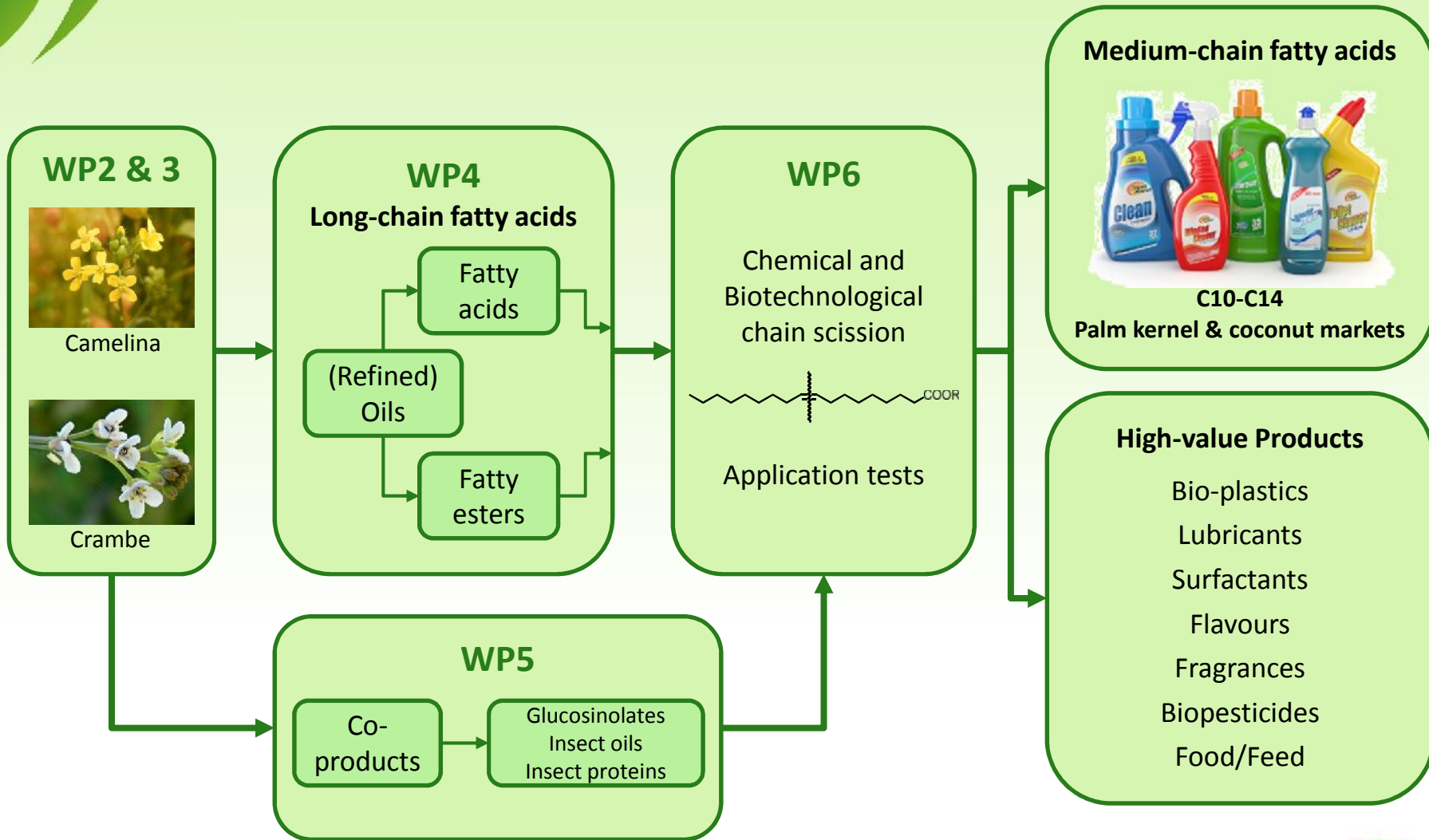


## Department of Entomology

- *insects*



# Approach



# Expected results

- Improved crops (oil/hectare, FA composition, etc.)
  - Non-GM crops: many industries do not accept GM oils
- Fatty acid separation technologies (MUFA vs PUFA)
- FA cleavage technologies
- High-value oleochemicals
  - Bio-plastics
  - Lubricants
  - Surfactants
  - Flavours and fragrances
  - Bio-pesticides
- Insect growth on crop residues and insect biorefinery
- Sustainable value chains





# Thank you

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- The COSMOS project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 635405.
- The COSMOS presentation reflects only the author's view. The Research Executive Agency of the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.



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