CONTACT: carinaproject.horizoneurope@gmail.com
VISIT: www.carina-project.eu

Press release – For immediate release

New cropping opportunities taking root across Europe: EU-funded CARINA project reveals its key research findings

14 October 2026, Brussels: *After four years of research and testing across Europe and North Africa, the Horizon Europe project CARINA is presenting evidence today during a final conference that camelina and carinata can offer farmers practical new ways to diversify crop rotations, make productive use of marginal and fallow land, and connect to emerging bio-based value chains. Tested across more than 400 demonstration plots in nine countries, the project's approach could potentially benefit around three million European farmers.*

CARINA's field trials identified practical systems that can work across very different farming conditions:

- **Winter camelina, sown as a double crop ahead of sunflower or legumes, emerged as the standout performer.** It was selected as the best-fit system in six countries thanks to its low input needs and drought tolerance.
- **Carinata found its niche on marginal and fallow land** in Bulgaria, Poland, Spain and Tunisia, putting underused land to productive use without displacing food crops.
- In Morocco, **camelina intercropped with legumes succeeded across all four tested regions**, despite differing soils and climatic conditions – providing evidence that these systems can be replicated beyond individual locations.

From field to new value chains

CARINA also looked beyond crop production to explore what happens to the biomass after harvest. In France, Italy and Spain, farmers and cooperatives visited biorefineries to see camelina and carinata oil converted into biofuel, animal feed and other bio-based products first-hand. This gave farmers a direct view of the value chains their crops could supply and the market opportunities that could emerge beyond the farm gate.

A dedicated farmer survey also found that improved seed varieties are farmers' top priority, highlighting where further breeding efforts could make the greatest difference.

CARINA's results point to a clear next step. The agronomy has now been tested and demonstrated across diverse conditions.

"*CARINA set out to prove that camelina and carinata are ready for European farms, not just the lab. Our Lighthouses and Living Labs showed how these crops can fit into farming systems across very different conditions, while the value chain (from oil to biofuel, feed and other bio-based products) creates real opportunities beyond the field. The evidence is now there. The next challenge is to ensure that markets, certification and policy frameworks give farmers the confidence to act on it,*" explains Prof. Andrea Monti, CARINA Project Coordinator, University of Bologna.

The final conference is open to EU and national policymakers, farmers and farmers' organisations, agricultural advisers, bio-based industry and value-chain actors, certification experts, researchers and bioeconomy networks. It takes place on **14 October 2026, from 14:00–17:00 CEST** at Press Club Brussels, Rue Froissart 95, 1040 Brussels.

About CARINA project
CARINA (2022–2026) is a Horizon Europe project exploring how camelina and carinata can support more diversified and sustainable farming systems while supplying feedstocks for the bio-based economy. Working

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across the full value chain, the project covers crop production, biomass valorisation, sustainability, certification and policy. CARINA is coordinated by the University of Bologna, uniting 19 partners and five affiliated entities from 13 countries, with €7.5 million in EU funding. More information: www.carina-project.eu

Contact - Project Coordinator:
Prof. Andrea Monti, Alma Mater Studiorum, Università di Bologna (Italy)
email: andrea.monti@unibo.it

Project Media officer:
Mrs Zuzana Okanikova, PEDAL Consulting s.r.o. (Slovakia)
email: z.okranikova@pedal-consulting.eu

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