

**Question for written answer E-007442/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Pulses and climate change

2016 is the 'International Year of Pulses'. According to the FAO, 'unless urgent and sustainable measures are established, climate change will continue to put pressure on agricultural ecosystems, particularly in regions and for populations [that are] especially vulnerable'. However, it seems that pulses are climate-smart as they simultaneously adapt to climate change and contribute towards mitigating its effects. It is estimated that globally, close to 190 million hectares of pulses contribute to five seven million tonnes of nitrogen in the soil. Since pulses can fix their own nitrogen in the soil, they need less fertilisers, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Including local pulses in crop rotations reduces the risks of erosion and depletion. Furthermore, multiple cropping systems, such as intercropping or crop rotation using local pulses, have a higher soil carbon sequestration potential than monocrop systems.

Is the Commission promoting or intending to promote the production of local pulses as a key to increasing resilience to climate change? If so, in what ways?