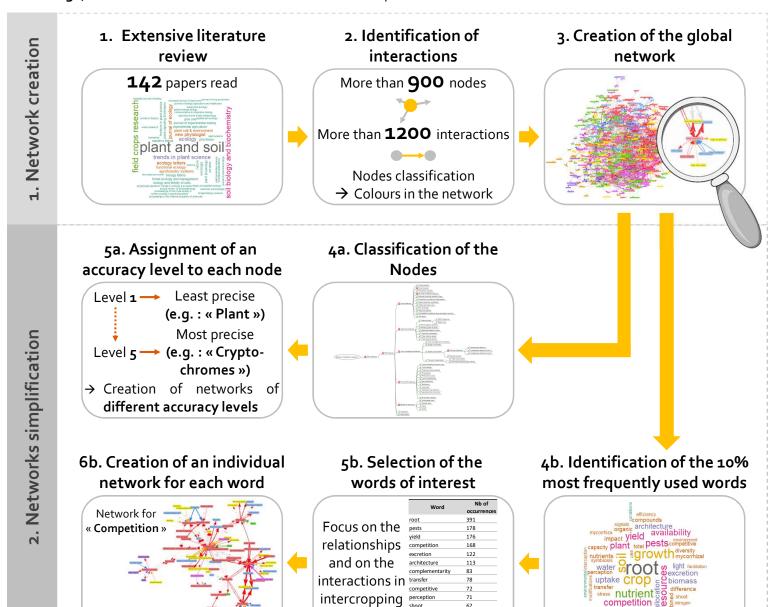
<sup>1</sup>EARTH AND LIFE INSTITUTE, UCLOUVAIN, BELGIUM

 ${\tt CONTACT:celine.chevalier@uclouvain.be}$ 

Intercropping (IC) consists in growing various crops on one single plot at the same time. Despite the wide range of advantages it is associated to, its adoption in Belgium remains low. In fact, many interactions can take place between two associated crops, which lead either to facilitation or competition. Despite several decades of research, the exact relationships leading to facilitation or competition and the conditions in which they occur are still unclear. Consequently, it is hard to predict the outcome of a given IC design in a given environment and to advise farmers.

In order to (i) better understand the mechanisms at work in intercropping and to (ii) identify the gaps in current knowledge, we made an extensive literature review and compiled the information in the form of networks of interactions.



edistributio

First conclusions perspectives

The network is based on sound scientific literature from major journals, which have different focus (e.g.: plant physiology, ecology, soil biology)

→ Intercropping is a focus of interest in many research fields Half of the links were added by ourselves, based on implicit knowledge (e.g. : Light

interception → Photosynthesis) & common sense (e.g.: Crop 1 → Height (crop 1)) → These implicit links do not emerge from literature review but provide consistency to the network

Next steps: finish simplifying the network and making it accessible to other researchers via an RShiny application

## Possible applications:

- → Identify the gaps in current knowledge about intercropping
- → Advise researchers and research funds on what to study in intercropping
- → Make a simpler network to serve as a basis for discussion with farmers





