Diversity is also a delight in the fields

More nutrients in the soil, more balanced moisture conditions and reduced erosion - these are the main results of a series of research studies carried out by the University of Pécs over several years. As part of the Europe-wide Diverfarming project, the people of Pécs investigated the possibilities of diversifying vineyards and asparagus plantations.

Modern agricultural production is typically monocultural, i.e. only one crop species grows in a given area at a given time. This practice has a number of negative environmental effects, ranging from faster depletion of soil nutrients to a general loss of biodiversity. In 2017, a project called Diverfarming, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 program, was launched in collaboration with 25 research institutions and agribusinesses from eight countries to find a solution to the problem by diversifying crop production. Coordinated by the Polytechnic University of Cartagena in Spain, the initiative, with a total budget of nearly €10 million, involves the University of Pécs and two companies from Hungary.