

**ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE**



OPERATIONAL GROUPS AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS



Unión Europea
Fondo Europeo Agrícola
de Desarrollo Rural
Europa invierte en las zonas rurales



RRN RED
RURAL
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OPERATIONAL GROUPS AND INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

EsRuralEsVital

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Introduction

This publication is a compilation of Operational Groups and Innovative Projects on organic farming carried out in Spain. The National Rural Network (NRN) supports and disseminates innovative initiatives in rural areas and fosters the exchange and transfer of knowledge between the main stakeholders in terms of research and its application in practice.

Today, innovation plays a leading role in European, national and local public policies.

The main instrument to promote innovation in rural areas for agricultural productivity and sustainability is the European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability. The EIP-AGRI intends to speed up innovation in the agri-food and forestry sector in rural areas, and therefore in rural areas, as well as disseminating successful examples of experience in the territory through specific innovative projects. In addition, it seeks to match the range of science available to the demand from different sectors and help solve specific problems or make the most of opportunities in order to help increase competitiveness and improve living conditions in rural areas.

Operational Groups (OGs) are groups of stakeholders from different sectors: agriculture, livestock, forestry, agri-food and forest-based industries, from public or private R&D&I centres, training and consultancy centres, technology centres, non-profit institutions, and more. These parties get together to solve a problem or make the most of an opportunity using an innovative, multisectoral and collaborative approach via an innovative project. Their work is subsidised by EAFRD through national and regional rural development programmes to set up the group and prepare its innovation project, as well as to implement it.

Furthermore, in the European context, there are other policies with synergies appearing out of their commitment to innovation in rural areas. The Horizon 2020 research framework programme covers matters related to the agri-food and forestry sectors. Under this umbrella, there are thematic networks and research projects.

This dossier gives the results from the exchange of experiences between Operational Groups and Innovative Projects on organic agriculture, organised by the NRN; and information units describing the Operational Groups and Innovative Projects, fostered by Measure 16 of the rural development programme in Spain in this matter, and Horizon 2020 projects, whether or not they participated in the conference with the aim of helping to disseminate them and enabling the various stakeholders to consult them.

Organic Agriculture Operational Groups and Innovative Projects

The NRN organised an exchange of experiences on 25 February 2020 for Operational Groups, Innovative Projects and Horizon 2020 working on organic farming. More than 70 people attended, representing research centres, agricultural organisations, cooperatives, companies, and different Spanish Autonomous regions. The conference was hosted by the Directorate General of Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-food Training of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Objectives

The meeting was held with the following aims:

- To compare the stages of development of different Projects, connect their respective actors, and establish synergies that allow tested solutions and ideas to cross from one territory into another.
- To facilitate the transfer of results obtained with support from Measure 16 of the Rural Development Programmes and National Rural Development Programme.
- To give visibility to the results of these projects across the territory.
- To facilitate communication among European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) Operational Groups and the European Horizon 2020 Framework Programme projects working on the same themes.



Conference held in two stages:

- The importance of organic agriculture at the national level was discussed, showing the evolution of operators and area registered in Spain under this production model since 1991. Spain leads the European Union in terms of the organic agriculture production model.
- Emphasis was placed on the organic sector's role in developing green jobs in rural areas, acknowledging the economic, environmental and social challenges faced by those territories.
- Innovative organic agriculture solutions were shared. Twelve presentations were made by Operational Groups, in which they discussed their innovative projects, and by Horizon 2020 projects.

Key ideas:

- The transfer of knowledge and solutions among different actors involved in innovation is a challenge in organic production, which is why it's critical to create networks and synergies that connect stakeholders.
- The creation of networks, the transfer of knowledge, the development of activities with a multidisciplinary focus, and creative problem-solving are what will drive organic production.
- The majority of Operational Groups report uncertainty about whether they can continue their projects when public aid ends (EAFRD, Horizon 2020). Specifically, they ask for a longer time period to develop their projects.

For more information about the conference, click [here](#)



TRIGOPANECO. Improving the quality of organic wheat

1

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP - National

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

NEIKER A.B - Instituto Vasco de Investigación y Desarrollo Agroganaderos

PARTNERS

INTIA - Instituto Navarro de Tecnologías e Infraestructuras Agroalimentarias

ITACyL - Instituto Tecnológico Agrario de Castilla y León

IRTA - Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentàries

EH Kolektiboa - Laborari eta Herritar Agroekologikoen Kolektiboa Elkartea

Molinos del Duero y Compañía General de Harinas S.L. Grupo AN S. Coop.

CAyCSA - Cereales de Aragón y Cataluña S.A.



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Description

Demand for organic products is growing, including basic foods like bread. To ease the scarcity of organic wheat for flour, given growing demand, the operational group TRIGOPANECO was formed. Its objective is to achieve an increase in the quality and quantity of organic wheat produced, using appropriate varieties and applying appropriate agricultural practices. The group focuses on the participation of different actors in the value chain of organic wheat, from research and production to flour mills and bakeries.

Objectives

- Debating among members of the group the necessity of including the following criteria in the concept of organic production quality:

Agricultural: competitiveness against weeds, resilience to diseases, detection of plant genetic resources, productivity guarantee.

Processing: level and type of proteins in the grain, type of dough and type of bread generated.

Nutritional and health for human consumers.

- Sharing the project results to improve knowledge among producers as well as processors (millers and organic bakeries).
- Improvement in the quality and added value of these products (grain, flour, bread).

Expected results

- ▶ Increased amount of land dedicated to organic cereal production for human consumption in Spain.

"The participatory methodology requires a lot of time, collaborative effort and synthesis of different ideas, which means the group needs to be efficient in meeting deadlines and carrying out tasks".



Operational Group for innovation in organic production of date palm

2

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP - National

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ANSE Asociación de Naturalistas del Sureste

PARTNERS

Glen Biotech S.L.

Asociación para el Desarrollo Comarcal del Nordeste de la Región de Murcia

Universidad Miguel Hernández

Associació per al Desenvolupament Rural del Camp d'Elx (ADR)

Unión de Uniones de Agricultores y Ganaderos



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Description

The date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*) is one of the most significant crops in the southeastern Iberian peninsula in terms of biology, culture, history, heritage and landscape. However, the decline of its cultivation has been accentuated by the arrival of the red palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*). Insecticides such as neonicotinoids have been widely used to control this pest. However, due to their toxicity for pollinators, these pesticides are highly restricted in the EU except in greenhouses. This Operational Group aims to substitute fungus for neonicotinoids, allowing the date palm to be grown without toxic chemical products and adding value to the fruit by avoiding the presence of chemical residues. The group also aims to promote this crop, improving its commercialisation.

- Establishing protocols for organic production.
- Training professionals to manage the crop in this setting and provide them with certified tools.
- Differentiating within the marketplace: involve consumers in the distribution channel, connect them directly to producers and to the history of this crop.

Expected results

- ▶ All key palm sector actors have been put in touch with each other.
- ▶ Palm date production is visible and professional.

"If we reach the goals we've set, it means the same results can be achieved across the entire Mediterranean basin".

Objectives

- Evaluating the state of palm groves in south-eastern Spain.
- Making palm varieties in declining use available to professional palm growers through stewardship tools and selection and promotion of local varieties.



RACS: Agricultural Network for Sustainable Crops

3

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP - National

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

SEO/Birdlife

PARTNERS

PATRIMAGRI S.L. (GRUPO TRANSA)

Explotaciones agrícolas San Miguel S.L.

Finca Sant Vicenç S.L.



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Description

The complexity of organic agriculture requires that workers have specific training and knowledge that is applicable on the ground. To this end, the operational group RACS was formed to improve knowledge exchange among growers, agriculture advisors, NGOs and scientists (R&D&I centres). The objective is to increase the resilience and productivity of different types of crops in various parts of Spain, laying the groundwork for the recovery of auxiliary fauna, which are insects and mites that parasitise or predate on other harmful insects and mites that invade our crops. This effort will increase crops' natural defences and reduce the use of associated inputs.

"The objectives of companies and NGOs have been united to achieve gains for the common good: improving biodiversity while maintaining agricultural production".

Objectives

- Summarising empirical and scientific knowledge on improving biodiversity in different types of crops at a national level.

- Summarising knowledge on improving productivity and crop resilience by promoting auxiliary biodiversity leading to an increase in natural defences of crops and a reduction in different associated inputs.
- Creating a national network of innovation groups working in agriculture to share their experiences.
- Establishing an online platform to exchange knowledge in Spain.

Expected results

- ▶ Expansion of the Agricultural Network for Sustainable Crops (RACS) to new partners.

"It's important to do projects in two phases, so they can be reformulated during the process".



ECOPIONET: Innovation and bioeconomy in the rural environment

4

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP - National

YEAR CREATED

2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas

PARTNERS

Irnasa | MNCN | Fundación Cajamar, Comunidad de Valencia | SEAE | ASAJA | COAG | UPA | OFISET S.L. | Volterra | Emilio Esteban



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Description

Organic production is presented as an alternative that is profitable and sustainable over time for crops grown in dryland regions of Spain. First, current intensification of agriculture is not sustainable, and second, it is cheaper to produce a kilo of organic grain in dryland regions of Spain than in more humid climates in central and northern Europe. Organic production has a market niche with continuously growing demand.

This Operational Group seeks to promote organic production through ECOPIONET, a network made up of organic farmers, technical advisors and researchers who guide farmers through the process of converting to organic agriculture. This guidance and knowledge transfer will be delivered through a 4.0 platform and include personalised advice, continuing education, and workshops on agriculture and rural development.

Objectives

- Creating a network for sharing knowledge among actors with different profiles using diverse dissemination methods.
- Promoting agricultural associations and improving negotiating capacity among producers, the first link in the chain.

- Promoting bioeconomy in rural areas: sustainable income, stable population and reactivation of rural economic flow.

Expected results

- ▶ Growers have joined a network that brings organic production knowledge to the field.
- ▶ Creation of an Organisation of Organic Farmers of extensive arable crops to increase negotiating power, thereby generating a sustainable and lasting source of income derived from agricultural activity.

“These projects support the growth of organic production. Many growers want to change their farming model toward this one, but their uncertainty often prevents them from making the leap”.



IDEAS: Implementing organic practices for sustainable agriculture

5

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NRDP - National

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

FEDERACIÓN DE COOP AGRARIAS DE MURCIA

PARTNERS

FECOAM | COEXPHAL | AGRÍCOLA MARESME
SEGLE XXI | SURINVER | INTERSEMILLAS |
FUNDACIÓN CAJAMAR | Research centres:
IMIDA, IFAPA e IRTA



<https://www.goideas.es/>



info@goideas.es

Description

This project seeks to restore biodiversity and the service it provides in regulating pests in areas of intensive agriculture, which will in turn reduce the use of pesticides and improve the landscape. IDEAS will install Organic Infrastructure such as: hedges of native vegetation, nesting boxes for insectivorous vertebrates (bats and birds), and nests for pollinators on selected farms with greenhouse vegetable crops, in order to improve natural biological control and biodiversity in protected horticulture.

Objectives

- Optimising the use of plant protection products, reducing the need to use them by promoting biological controls through conservation.
- Optimising protocols for integrated pest management to identify practices that interfere with the activities of auxiliary fauna.
- Promoting the implementation of these strategies in the production sector through existing agri-environmental financial aid.

Expected results

- ▶ Reduced use of pesticides.
- ▶ Increased functional biodiversity.
- ▶ Decreased use of mineral fertilisers.
- ▶ Increased soil biodiversity.
- ▶ Development of best practice manuals to promote biodiversity and its services.

"The more growers apply for agri-environmental "greening" grants, the more capacity we'll have to take advantage of agri-ecological infrastructure".



The water footprint of the Andalusian organic sector

6

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Andalucía

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ECOVALIA

PARTNERS

ceiA3

Consulting (CO2CO)



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Description

The organic production sector is aware that sustainability is necessary to long-term development, especially as it relates to water and soil. This sustainability is necessary from the point of view of agriculture, which needs to ensure its production capacity won't be limited by a lack of resources as time passes, and from the standpoint of organic consumers, who care about ethical management and use of water.

Many growers now make efforts to improve the sustainable use of water resources across their farms and industries, but their efforts are not recognised in the market. Demand for environmental information about agri-food products has been increasing, and the sector wants to have tools that allow it to evaluate and demonstrate its efficient use of water through standardised indicators recognised by the market. To this end, ISO 14046 water footprint is suggested as a recognised standard indicator for assessment purposes.

Objectives

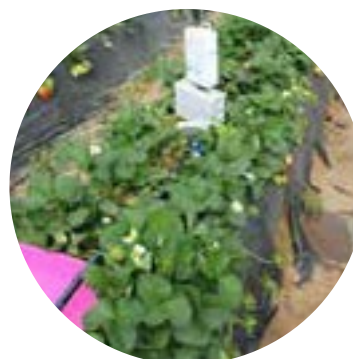
- Creating a network for sharing knowledge among actors with different profiles using diverse dissemination methods.

- Promoting agricultural associations and improving negotiating capacity among producers, the first link in the chain.
- Promoting bioeconomy in rural areas: sustainable source of income, stable population and reactivated economic flow.

Expected results

- ▶ More sustainable and efficient use of water resources for agriculture.

"It's possible to expand the scope of action to the agri-food industry and to apply the results of the project to other crops".



Asturfarm2M: Integrated Smart Agriculture system for organic farms off the electrical and broadband grids

7

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Asturias

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Ecoshaftsat

PARTNERS

Coordinadora Asturiana de Agricultura Ecológica (CADA E)

Táctica TIC S.L.

Distribuciones solares del Principado S.L.

Asociación Centro de Desarrollo Alto Narcea Muniellos



www.facebook.com/Asturfarm2M/

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- Monitoring and controlling machinery and facilities in real time by adopting new and faster data networks.

Description

The rugged terrain that characterises the Principality of Asturias has functioned as a brake on mechanisation, automation and the incorporation of information and communication technologies in local agriculture, translating into a competitive disadvantage compared to better-situated agricultural lands. This project seeks to provide isolated organic farms with a package of technology solutions based in renewable energy, robotics for agriculture, wireless communications and artificial intelligence.

Objectives

- Implementing an autonomous energy system for machines and tools that jointly applies different “zero emission” solutions (photovoltaic, solar, wind, pico-hydro, geothermal, etc.).
- Reducing the physical workload of farm workers and streamlining the most complex tasks, improving precision, rational use of inputs, order and cleanliness.
- Making reliable Internet access available at low cost in order to connect the devices that make up the system.

Expected results

- ▶ Reduction of the carbon footprint.
- ▶ Increased profitability of isolated farms
- ▶ Making rural work-life balance easier, contributing to a more stable rural population.

“The project was useful for getting to know firsthand how public administration works and for learning about the newest technologies”.



Organic horticulture: Improvements in production, sector organisation and supply of locally-grown, high-quality organic fruits and vegetables

8

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Asturias

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

AGRECOASTUR

PARTNERS

Asociación el Terruño

Asociación Varagaña

Catasol

Coordinadora Asturiana de Agricultura Ecológica

Finca El Cabillón, S.L.U.

COPAE



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Description

This project aims to improve production and sector organisation and achieve a stable supply of locally-grown, high-quality organic fruit and vegetables in Asturias by optimising the use of our resources through short supply chains. This will also contribute to mitigating the effects of climate change.

Objectives

- Recovering local varieties: take advantage of local fruits, vegetables and fruit trees. Recovering and highlighting the value of traditional varieties available in Asturias and identifying other varieties of interest for organic farming to improve the sector's productivity.
- Propagation and dissemination of local varieties: promote propagation and availability of traditional varieties for Asturian farmers.

Expected results

- ▶ Contributing to a stable, sustainable, supply of diverse, seasonal organic foods by improving the sector's organisation and structure and optimising production, variety, and supply of local organic fruits and vegetables.
- ▶ Promotion at both the level of consumers and institutions of local, seasonal organic fruits and vegetables.

"The countryside is the past and the future. Organic agriculture is an advancement".

Eco-llevat: Pilot project to produce organic yeasts for sparkling wine

9

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Cataluña

YEAR CREATED

2016

PROJECT COORDINATOR

INNOVI

PARTNERS

Juvé & Camps

Gramona

Torelló

Freixenet

Segura Viudas



<https://www.innovi.cat/>



info@innovi.cat

Description

Use of native, isolated strains of yeast unique to an individual winery is currently very limited due to elevated cost. This means that the majority of yeasts used in the production of wines and sparkling wines are commercially prepared at large scale by companies that supply oenological products, leading to uniformity in the final product since many winemakers use the same yeasts.

Additionally, very few commercial yeasts are certified organic. This project aims to obtain native organic yeasts through pilot tests at laboratory scale and follow their use in wineries participating in this Operational Group, in order to achieve better control of fermentation and more differentiated products.

Objectives

- Differentiating and personalising high-quality wines and cavas from different wineries by using native yeasts.
- Multiplying three strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (P29, Freixenet and Segura Viudas) with known behaviour under organic conditions.
- Improving the population and final viability of the yeasts, thus increasing control over fermentation.
- Optimising preservation of the yeasts over time.

Expected results

- ▶ Inclusion of one or more yeasts with possible organic certification.
- ▶ Contribute unique characteristics to wines.
- ▶ Incorporation of sustainability and authenticity as differentiating product characteristics.

"The duration of the Operational Group is very short for the development of a research project in viticulture. More time is necessary to fine tune the process".



ECOLLEVAT

MACMHER: Alternative methods to control weeds in organic vineyards

10

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Catalunya

YEAR CREATED

2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR

CLUSTER FEMAC

PARTNERS

CODORNIU, S.A

UNIVERSIDAD DE LLEIDA

DON JESUS S.A

ADV RAÏMAT



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Description

Weed control is one of the great challenges in agriculture, especially in organic farming, because of limitations on the use of chemical products such as herbicides and the possible economic losses from those limitations. This project aims to evaluate the efficiency of alternative methods for controlling weeds in organic vineyards. Specifically, it will study the use of mulches and bioherbicides to control two rapidly-spreading, species (*Conyza bonariensis* and *Aster squamatus*).

Objectives

- Evaluating the effect of different mulches on the two selected weed species as well as others that may grow under row.
- Identifying the possible effects of extracts from the plant material used as mulch and analysing its success rate in inhibiting the growth of selected weed species.
- Evaluating the effect of different bioherbicides, applied at different rates and phenologic stages, on the selected weed species.

- Comparing the efficiency of control methods based in mulch or bioherbicides compared with the use of traditional cultivators.
- Gauging possible inhibition of vine vigour and production due to the use of mulches and bioherbicides.

Expected results

- ▶ Economic evaluation of implementing the tested treatments with other types of vines.
- ▶ Integration of biological and agronomic knowledge obtained through this research.
- ▶ Development of new strategies that help in taking decisions and with the transfer to the winemaking sector.

"In the vineyard, mulch not only reduces the weed population, it also improves soil quality indicators such as humidity and structure".

GOIAEX: Improving the shelf life of organic fruit through the innovative application of biological control agents

11

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Extremadura

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Extremadura Sana S.L.

PARTNERS

Asociación para el desarrollo de la comarca de Lácara, ADECOM-LÁCARA.

Agrícola Ecológica S.A.

Fuensana Bio S.L.

Centro Tecnológico Nacional Agroalimentario Extremadura (CTAEX).



<https://ctaex.com/transferencia-tecnologica/GOr-innova-agroeco-ex>



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Description

Organic producers have very few tools to confront pests and pathogenic fungi that lower crop quality. To avoid this in the post-harvest phase, application of a biological yeast allowed in organic farming is an effective option.

This project looks at applying different yeasts on fruit as a pre- and post-harvest biological control agent that protects the fruit and increases its defences against pathogenic fungi. The yeasts used are *Metschnikowia pulcherrima*, which competes for nutrients and also in direct parasitism, and *Hanseniaspora uvarum*, which produces volatile antifungal compounds.

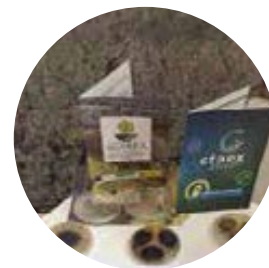
Objectives

- Checking the effectiveness of yeasts at controlling mould in a laboratory setting, with the goal of finding a new pesticide that controls diseases in the field.
- Improving the shelf life of harvested fruit.
- Obtaining fruits with fewer pesticide residues.
- Bringing safe, flavourful fruit to market.

Expected results

- ▶ Increased shelf life of organic fruit translating into greater economic benefit for the sector.
- ▶ Sustainable production: in terms of reduction in soil and water pollution.

"The application of yeasts post-harvest doesn't significantly alter the majority of physiochemical parameters of the fruit, showing an improvement in the skin colour of plums in the first five weeks".



PTAEEX: Technological platform for organic agriculture in Extremadura

12

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Extremadura

YEAR CREATED

2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR

ECOANIME Foundation

PARTNERS

Fundecyt-PCTEX

Haciendas Bio

Extremadura Alimenta

Ganadec



www.ptaeex.org/



info@ptaeex.org

Description

The agri-food sector is the biggest contributor to Extremadura's GDP. However, the sector is undeveloped and its potential is limited because actors in the supply chain are dispersed across the territory.

This project seeks to bring together all stakeholders in the region's organic sector, connecting research centres, consulting services, businesses and public administration through meetings and workshops. The aim is to create a network so that information flows to all relevant actors in the organic sector.

Objectives

- Developing a strategic innovation agenda by identifying the key processes to improve production efficiency.
- Development of a cooperation plan between agents and stakeholders in the sector to improve technology transfer.
- Identifying training needs and developing training paths related to organic farming.

Expected results

- ▶ Creation of a network that serves the specific needs of the agri-food sector in Extremadura.
- ▶ Contribution to the flow of knowledge among relevant actors in the agriculture sector.

"It's a project that seeks resources and support to implement innovation and technology through cooperation and interaction".

"Communication among stakeholders, the creation of networks and cooperation are all very important".

Innovative new management processes and cleaning practices for organic, local varieties of wheat

13

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Illes Balears

YEAR CREATED

2016

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Associació de Varietats Locals

PARTNERS

Camp Mallorquí, SCL

Apaema, Associació de la Producció Agrària Ecològica de Mallorca



<https://www.varietatslocals.org/>



info.varietatslocals@gmail.com

Description

Grain harvested manually or mechanically always contains impurities that can attract and support insects and microorganisms, so the cleaning process is critical for conservation. This project seeks to launch a cleaning protocol and service for local varieties of organic grain in Majorca, improving the process by addressing problems that have already been identified.

Expected results

- ▶ Keep the project going for at least three years in order to increase the number of customers and increase the likelihood that it will be able to continue into the future.

"It's very important to maintain ongoing communication with all members of the Operational Group".

Objectives

- Carrying out grain cleaning tests with different members of the group in order to plan for the next season and improve hygiene.
- Improving grain storage and the profitability of organic production.



Biological pest control for mushrooms: alternative methods for controlling two-winged flies

14

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - La Rioja

YEAR CREATED

2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Asociación Profesional de Productores de Sustratos y Hongos de La Rioja, Navarra y Aragón (ASOCHAMP-CTICH)

PARTNERS

Herchamp

Champirioja S.A.T.



 biotecnologia@ctich.com



Description

This project seeks to give mushroom growers effective biological controls in the fight against pests specific to the crop (*Sciaridae* and *Phoridae*). The biological controls must be commercially viable and certified under the Royal Decree 951/2014 of 14 November 2014 on other means of plant defence.

It is estimated that these pests can cause up to a 30% drop in production, both directly, when the pest is in larval state, and indirectly, when adults serve as a vector for other pests and diseases. This makes tools for biological control especially relevant for the sector.

Objectives

- Potential authorisation of effective biological controls for mushroom pests.
- Commercialising traps baited with fungus.
- Continuing the search for other potential natural enemies.

Expected results

- ▶ Increased teamwork across the sector and with other sectors.
- ▶ The results of research projects are shared among end users and the rest of the population.

"We can achieve sustainability in agriculture through research and by sharing knowledge".



Mushroom Control

Building networks to support agro-ecological innovation and recovery of La Huerta de Murcia

15

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

RDP - Región de Murcia

YEAR CREATED

2015

PROJECT COORDINATOR

La Compañía del Agua, GIS y Energía, S.L.

PARTNERS

CEOM Asociación para la Integración de Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual

Colectivo Paréntesis

AMURECO (Asociación Murciana de Restauración y Compañía)

Asociación Huerta de Murcia

Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros Agrónomos de la Región de Murcia

Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros Técnicos Agrícolas y Graduados en Ingeniería Agrícola de la Región de Murcia



<http://www.tejiendoredes.eu/>



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Description

“La Huerta de Murcia” refers to a fertile valley with historic irrigation channels in the district that encompasses the city of Murcia. It is being transformed and degraded at a fast pace, a phenomenon commonly observed in this kind of agricultural spaces. Between 1935 and 2012, more than 46% of the area’s arable land under traditional irrigation was lost as a consequence of urban development. In this context, the project Tejiendo Redes seeks to maintain the fertility, productivity and sustainability of La Huerta de Murcia from a social, economic, cultural and environmental standpoint, strengthening the security and sovereignty of Murcia’s food sources.

Objectives

- Launching a pilot initiative to innovate in processes related to production, trade and distribution of local agricultural products in the area around La Huerta de Murcia.

- Promoting citizen governance and participation in the agricultural sector of La Huerta de Murcia.
- Promoting agro-ecological farming on plots registered with the project.
- Generating distribution and consumption channels for products grown on project plots.
- Contributing to a minimised use of resources and waste generation on project plots.

Expected results

- ▶ Creation of awareness and appreciation of the agro-ecological potential of La Huerta de Murcia.
- ▶ Design and implementation of branding for the agro-ecological products from La Huerta de Murcia.

“Building networks to protect the productive agricultural space of La Huerta de Murcia and surrounding towns”.

LIVESEED: Boosting organic seed and plant breeding across Europe

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HORIZON 2020 PROJECT

YEAR CREATED
2017

PROJECT COORDINATOR
IFOAM Organics Europe and FiBL Switzerland

PARTNERS

Aegilops; AGES; Agrológica; Agoscope; AREI; ATK; Bingenheimer Saatgut; Bionext; Fundación BIOSELENA para la Agricultura Orgánica Bioselena; Asociación BNN de procesadores orgánicos; Consejo CREA; Cultivari; Se Beersche Hoeve; Wageningen Plant Research; Feldsaaten Freudenberger; FiBL Alemania; INRAE; Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra; ITAB; Instituto IUNG; Sementes Vivas; Louis Bolk Instituut; ÖMKI; Centro de Investigación Orgánica; Rete Semi Rurali; Sativa Rheinau; SEAE; L&F Seges; NARDI; UBIOS; Università Politecnica Delle Marche; Universität Kassel; Vitatis Organic Seeds; Universidad Politécnica de Valencia; Demeter Internacional; Instituto para el Desarrollo Sostenible; Poma Culta; Getreidezüchtung Peter Kunz; Kultursaat; ECO-PB; Arable Orgánico; Arcoiris; Ecovalia; Asociación Rumana para la Agricultura Sostenible; COCEBI; Biocer; Dottenfelderhof; Getreidezüchtungsforschung Darzau.



Description

For a product to be certified organic, the Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 requires the use of organic seeds. However, untreated conventional seeds are still used to a greater or lesser extent in various countries. The varieties adapted to agroecosystems are key for developing the whole potential of organic agriculture across Europe. That said, few organisations invest in organic breeding programmes, mainly due to a low rate of return.

This project aims to improve transparency and competitiveness in the organic seed sector and encourage more widespread use of organic seeds.

Objectives

- Fostering harmonised implementation of the European Union regulation on organic seeds.
- Strengthening databases for organic seeds across the EU.
- Researching socioeconomic aspects related to production and use of organic seeds.
- Improving the quality and availability of organic seeds.
- Developing guidelines for organic cultivar testing and registration and innovative growing techniques to widen the choice of organic crops.

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Expected results

- ▶ Increase in the quality and number of organic seeds used that are obtained from sources appropriate for organic agriculture.
- ▶ Stimulation of innovation related to seeds and breeding in the organic sector.

“LIVESEED is a unique opportunity to increase the quality and quantity of organic seeds in Central and Eastern Europe”.



LIVESEED received financing from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement ID 727230 and from the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) under contract number 17.00090. The information contained here reflects the author’s opinion only. The European Research Executive Agency is not responsible for how this information may be used.

RELACS: Replacement of contentious inputs in organic farming systems

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HORIZON 2020 PROJECT

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

FIBL

PARTNERS

IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE; Fondazione Edmund Mach di San Michelle all'Adige; JKI; SRUC; University of Copenhagen; University of Hohenheim; CIHEAM IAM BARI; itab; THÜNEN; NIBIO; ÖMKI; Trifolio-M; SUBTAINTEC; bi-pa; University of Trento; Økologisk Landsforening; Bioforum Vlaanderen; Bioselena; Naturland; Ecovalia; Soil Association; FederBio; Öko-Obstbau Norddeutschland; EMSA; iteipmai; FEVEC; Institut d'Élevage (IDELE); Adage 35.



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Description

Organic farming methods are of great interest because they substitute contentious inputs as well as expand organic cultivated areas.

The RELACS project seeks to develop and enable the adoption of tools and technologies that are cost-efficient and environmentally safe, to gradually phase out organic farming's dependence on inputs considered controversial. The project will offer viable alternatives for organic production that reduce the use of copper and mineral oil, recycled fertilisers and conventional manure, antibiotics and synthetic vitamins.

Objectives

- Generating an overview of the use and critical evaluation of the need for external inputs in organic agriculture and livestock production and distributing tools to reduce or eliminate them.
- Evaluating products and management practices in different weather and farming conditions, in different territories and for each input previously specified.
- Developing options for phasing out inputs with the aid of experts.

Expected results

- ▶ Providing different approaches and alternatives, with the involvement of experts and other stakeholders/interested parties, in order to reduce the use of contentious inputs in organic production.

"Organic agriculture needs to continuously improve in order to comply with stated objectives. RELACS stimulates the development and adoption of cost-efficient and environmentally safe tools and technologies".



RELACS received financing from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement ID 773431. The information contained here reflects the author's opinion only. The European Research Executive Agency is not responsible for how this information may be used.

OK-Net Ecofeed: Organic knowledge network on monogastric animal feed

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HORIZON 2020 PROJECT

YEAR CREATED

2018

PROJECT COORDINATOR

IFOAM

PARTNERS

ICROFS; Organic Research Centre; ITAB; FiBL; Bioland; AIAB; DS Austria; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences; Soil Association; CIHEAM BARI; CRAPL; FNAB; ITAVI; IFIP; Bioland eV; DS Serbia; Universidad de Córdoba; (IDELE); Adage 35; ECOVALIA.



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Description

In organic agriculture, the production of animal feed and livestock happens in different regions. One of the aims of organic agriculture is for products to be consumed near where they are produced. However, this is complicated in much of Europe. Feed must often be imported from regions far from where animals are raised, and organic varieties of high-protein feed may not be available at all.

The OK-Net EcoFeed project seeks to help organic pork and poultry farmers reach 100% organic, locally-sourced feed. To achieve this, the project aims to create a European network of innovation groups to facilitate the exchange and creation of knowledge among farmers and other stakeholders.

Objectives

- Synthesising available scientific and practical knowledge about production of regional organic feeds for monogastric livestock.
- Creating a European network of innovation groups to facilitate exchange and creation of knowledge among stakeholders.

- Collecting end-user materials for organic sector workers and developing new tools adapted to their needs and those of other stakeholders.

Expected results

- ▶ Increase in the use of and access to regional organic feed for monogastrics.

“OK-Net EcoFeed is made up of 11 partners and 8 third parties across 11 European countries”.



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The NRN is the hub connecting all of the people and entities related to the rural environment with the aim of raising awareness of Rural Development Programmes and providing access to them. At the same time, its purpose is to make the population aware of the importance of the rural environment for our present and our future.

The unit responsible for the NRN is the Subdirectorate General for Rural Revitalization within the Directorate General of Rural Development, Innovation and Agri-food Training of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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ORGANIC AGRICULTURE



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