

Special topic: "Research in organic control of olive fly"



Transnational Network for enhancing the Mediterranean organic olive-growing competitiveness



BIOLMED Newsletter
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Camí del Port s/n. Edificio ECA
46470 Catarroja - Valencia (España)
Tels: +34 961 267 200 - +34 627 343 399
Fax: +34 961 267 122
vgonzalvez@agroecologia.net www.agroecologia.net



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I. INTRODUCTION

by Maria J. Payà

I write these lines while the snow falls down gently on these lands of the Alicante mountain, in the East of Spain. The farmers have not gone today to the olive groves in spite of still many olives wait to be collected. The snow of middle December and the colds that brought with it harmed the crop, and the damages in broken branches join the loss of quality caused by the freezing of part of the olives. There is not a good start for the year in this zone. If oil prices remain low the result will be ruinous.

The organic olive growers will suffer slightly less the consequences of these colds. I refer not only to the agro-environmental aids, not to the minor costs of production, but to the positive effects of their mode of cultivation: The soils, with a slight green cover, are not degenerating as those of the naked olive groves, in which the machinery weight on the wet land is producing soil compaction and erosion; the plants, with lower nitrogen concentration, bear better the frosts; the superficial rootlets of the olive tree, protected by the vegetable cover and the organic matter of the soil, are not as affected by freezing. If in addition the organic olive oil continues raising in consideration among the consumers it will be sold at a decent price, adjusted for its actual costs of production rather than market speculation moved by other interests.

In our rural areas the future is in obtaining quality products, transforming them and commercializing them as far as possible. We have to be more competitive with healthy and free products. The ecological agriculture is the major exponent



of this potential of the rural zones, which can produce ecological food without changing excessively their modes of cultivation. To produce according to ecologically sustainable technologies not only is of benefit to the environment and to the health of the population, but it report economic benefits to the farmer since he is producing a differentiated product, of high quality and tied to the territory.

In this rural area from where I write, the organic olive grove is at once a challenge and an opportunity to dignify the profession of farming, protect the agricultural landscape and return to the field the role of producer of healthy, fair and clean food.

But the development of the ecological olive growing is not possible without an important effort in research, especially in topics as the managing of the soil and the control of plagues.

In this number of the Biolmed newsletter we show some of the investigations that are being carried out in the area of the ecological olive growing, including the experimental fields of the Biolmed network.



II. BIOLMED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

II.1 Biolmed Transnational Network

Work has begun to draft the statutes of the transnational network Biol Med. At the present moment statutes are in the draft stage and are available on the project website.



The minutes of the first meeting, held in Mallorca in September 2009, can be found at the web of the project.

II.2 Experimental fields on *Bactrocera oleae* control

The experimental fields, located in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, have been collecting data during the summer and the autumn, and the data have been updated to an specific web page to analyze the results.

At the Spanish experimental field, located in Cañada, the heat and dryness of this summer has prevented the olive fly from appearing. This fact has made impossible the comparison between preventive treatments with copper, kaolin and potassium bicarbonate. On the other hand, we have collected the temperature and humidity data that can help us in the future to foresee the *Bactrocera* behaviour.





III. BIOLMED PROJECT PARTNERS ACTIVITIES

III.1 Greece: ECOFESTIVAL fair, Athens

From 5 to 8 of november 2009 took place in the HELEXPO Palace of Athens the 12th edition of the ECOFESTIVAL.



Ecofestival is the largest exhibition of organic products and services in the Eastern Mediterranean with more than 200 exhibitors and about 20,000 visitors every year. The event is organised under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Agriculture, and supported by IFOAM, AgriBioMediterraneo, and leading trade associations and non-governmental organisations.

Ecofestival is an event for the development of organic agriculture in Greece, but it is also an integral part of the work of DIO.

The Opening Session of **Ecofestival Fair 2009** was made by Michael Karchimakis Secretary for Rural Development and Food, in the presence of Mr Spyros

Sgouros, President - General Director of DIO and the President of the Certification K.Vangeli Bourbos.

The **ECOFESTIVAL** was born when organic farming was little more than a bet, followed its development, grew year on year, acquired its own momentum and became the most authentic and reliable reference point in the world of organic agriculture in Greece.

Emerging as a unique bridge between business and consumers its main aim is to approach and attract an increasing public awareness for eco-living and to act as a meeting point of actors involved in organic farming and ecology in general.

The ECOFESTIVAL 2009 started with some interesting ideas:

- The green growth is the current proposal to end the crisis that shocked the world economy
- Organic farming is one of the key pillars of a sustainable model of economy, protect the environment, help reduce





energy consumption, create more employment opportunities and can act as a catalyst for local and regional development.

- Organic agriculture offers a safe and healthy food and protect consumers' health
- Organic farming has relatively stable prices to traders of organic products in defending the principles of fair trade.

The main objectives of this year's event were:

- Identifying and promoting the use of organic products and services as proposed in current excess
- The focus on the importance of environmental protection
- Creating fertile ground for communication between people in the industry and collective action
- The expansion of consumer confidence in organic products
- The association of organic products in other areas of 'green' development, eg renewable energy, recycling, agrotourism, etc.
- Strengthening the channel of communication with agencies and industry organizations, to create and support industry development



The ECOFESTIVAL 2009 has been supported for another year from the Mediterranean Section of IFOAM (AgribioMediterraneo), demonstrating the international character and developing stable relations with the wider European environment.

Year after year the program of parallel events ECOFESTIVAL becomes increasingly rich, both in broad themes, and a variety of presentations and participation.

ECOFESTIVAL 2009 organized workshops, competitions, tasting, cultural events, etc., covering a wide range of activities as the Contest Packing organic olive oil and the presentation of tasting wine from organic grapes.



III.2 Italy: edition of the BIOL prize 2009 catalogue

The 14th edition was held in the Municipality of Andria (Puglia, Italy), from 20 to 26 April 2009, while the awarding ceremony took place during the 2nd edition of BIOLFISH in the Municipality of Monopoli, from 21 to 28 June 2009.

The International BIOL Prize is unique: since 1996 it has become the first and most important event for the olive oil sector worldwide. The aim of BIOL is to taste extra virgin olive oil quality, not only from the chemical-analytical point of view, but also, and especially, from the point of view of aroma and taste so that all the biodiversity in variety and origin behind the taste of this product can stand out. With this goal, every year different experts (the International Board of Judges) taste the samples coming from all over the world and give them a score, not before having outlined a full taste profile that allows also those who do not know the product to be able to appreciate its qualities.



As every year BIOL gets together a large number of olive oil producers coming from all the countries where olive growing is present, for a total of over 350 producers. Next to the competition and to the different quality awards given, BIOL also promotes cultural and gastronomic events, as well as in-depths studies on relevant subjects and on the relationship existing between production, environmental sustainability and ethic.

Given to its international vocation BIOL carries out many events that take place in different countries and towns having a common interest for a right and healthy nutrition and love for nature and biodiversity; for this reason BIOL has implemented with CIHEAM-IAMB located in Valenzano (Bari) the BIOLMED project for the enhancing of a network among organic olive oil producers of the Mediterranean.



The main BIOL protagonists are the subjects promoting it and in particular:

- Region Puglia - Councillorship for Agriculture;
- CIBi, Consorzio Italiano per il Biologico;
- Chamber of Commerce of Bari that, together with the Municipality of Andria, promoted the first BIOL edition in 1996.

The high quality standard of the BIOL prize and its organization are guaranteed by the distinguished patronages of the Italian Ministry of Agricoltura and IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agricultura).

In particular, for the edition 2009, BIOL has been assisted by the partners of BIOLMED project within the Med initiative:

- CIHEAM - IAMB Bari, leader partner;
- Region Puglia - Mediterranean Councillorship;
- C.I.Bi. - Consorzio Italiano per il Biologico;
- DIO - Organic certification Body in Greece;
- ICEA - Institute for the Ethical and Environmental Certification;
- CAFAGE - Consortium of the Andalusia Region (Spain) that organizes ECOLIVA, an important international event on organic olive oil which is held in Andalusia, Spain;
- EKOLIBURNIA, no profit Croatian Association;
- SEAE - Spanish Society of Organic Farming;
- MGARR - Agricultural Ministry of Malta;
- TEI - Technological Education Institute of the Ionian Islands.



The BIOL Prize and the different awards are given on the basis of an assessment made by professional tasters using a scoring sheet prepared and arranged by BIOL in collaboration with Mr. Alfredo Marasciulo, Mr. Tonino Zelinotti, Head of the International Judges and Ms. Anna Neglia, coordinator of BIOL. Before the final event and during all the year, the different territorial groups and panel tests have been collecting the application forms and the olive oil samples with the help of AMEDOO and the different Local BIOL Committees. Their complex activity ended with the organoleptic pre-evaluation of samples, according to EC No 796/2002 by an acknowledged tasting panel that worked at local level. The final tasting by the International Judges took place from 21 to 24 April 2009, in Andria



(Puglia), under the beautiful landscape of Castel del Monte, a XIII Century Castle built by Frederick II, near the Municipality of Andria.

The prizes were awarded comparing the panel judgment with that of the chemical analysis. The BIOL Award Ceremony 2009 took place in Monopoli, in the Castle Charles V, during the final ceremony of the second edition of BIOLFISH. Furthermore, all the olive oils which received an excellent score by the local selection judges and by the international judges in the final, also received a High Quality certificate - they can show the BIOL logo on their labels following particular conditions. The BIOL assigned also Regional prizes for the best olive oils selected by the territorial BIOL Committees both in Italy and abroad and the jury's Special prizes for the particular characteristics of both olive oil and production method.



2009 BIOL AWARDS:

PRIZE	NAME	CITY-COUNTRY	WEB
Winner BIOL international prize 2009	Masoni Becciu	Villacidro, Cagliari - Italy	www.masonibecciu.it
2 nd place BIOL international prize 2009	Rincón de la Subbética Hojiblanco	Carcabuey, Cordoba, Andalucia - Spain	www.almazarasdelasubbetica.com
3 rd place BIOL international prize 2009	Primo da Agricoltura Biologica	Chiamonte Gulfi, Ragusa. Italy.	www.frantoicutrera.it
Winner BIOL BLENDED prize 2009	Bios	Spoletto. Italy.	www.monini.com
Winner BIOLPACK prize 2009	San Pietro	La Ligua, Petorca, Val de Valparaiso - Chile	www.sanpietrofoods.com
WINNER BIOLETHIC PRIZE 2009	Bioli Creta	Iraklio, Creta – Greece	biokalliergites@mirforthnet.gr



WINNER BIOLKIDS PRIZE 2009	Risca Grande Azeite virgem extra	Serpa. Portugal	www.riscagrande.com
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BIOLPHOTO competition, this year at its third edition, has been organized during BIOLFISH Prize and it based on two subjects. The first subject of BIOLPHOTO was "The olive tree in contemporary landscape". The idea is to seize the deep bond between production, culture and olive landscape. The competition was open to art and non-art pictures representing olive growing and olive oil production seen in all their aspects. The second theme was "Coastal landscape and its relation to sustainable fishing practices". All the photos presented (over 100) were collected in an exhibition open during the BIOLFISH event, in the castle of Charles V, in Monopoli.



Winner: "Pietà l'ignoranza non soffre mai" by Edison Bellantuono

Within the activities of BIOL, Tuesday 21 April 2009, at the Hall of the City Council of Andrea, took place the **BIOLMED International Conference** "Which future for the extra virgin olive oil: competition and cooperation among producers of the Mediterranean"

"Which future for the extra virgin olive oil: competition and cooperation among producers of the Mediterranean" was the theme of the annual conference organized by the Observatory on Organic Olive Growing - BIOL during BIOL 2009. The aim of the conference was to promote sustainable consumption, to fix prices against market speculations and to spread the culture for a sustainable



commerce based on the valorisation of relationships among people, local activities and resources, institutions and environment. The conference favoured the creation of a transnational network among organic olive oil producers in Italy, Malta, Greece, Spain and Croatia. A cooperation network destined to grow thanks to the presence of representatives from Turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia and Syria. The conference, facilitated by Luigi Caricato, Teatro Naturale, was opened by the Mayor of the municipality of Andria, Vincenzo Zaccaro, and introduced by the director of IAMB - Bari, Cosimo Lacirignola. Contributions by: Pina Eramo, Cia; Vito Savino, Faculty of Agricultural Resources of Bari; Bernardo De Gennaro, International Observatory, Faculty of Agricultural Resources, University of Bari; Enzo Perri, Olive growing Research Centre; Juan Manuel Luque, Epea; Kaouther Ben Hassine, Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture; Giuseppe Mauro Ferro, Region Puglia; Mauro Meloni, Consorzio di Garanzia Olio Extra Vergine di Oliva di Qualità; Publio Viola, medical nutritionist.



Other activities of BIOL 2009

- Workshop "Agriculture and Town or how the agriculture could help to live better"
- Presentation of the local, national and international olive growing situation by the coordinator of the International Observatory on Organic Olive Growing, Bernardo De Gennaro.
- First International training course for organic extra virgin olive oil tasters.
- First edition of the International Show "A WORLD OF OIL".
- BIOLFISH TAVERNS



- Bio-itineraries to Castel del Monte, the ancient town of Egnazia, the San Procopio rocky settlement and the marine reserve of Torre Guaceto.

The BIOL catalogue can be found in www.biolmednet.eu

III.3. SEAE Research Conference in Bunyola, Mallorca (Spain)

Organic farming is a viable alternative to save the Mediterranean.

This was one of the main conclusions of the XV Technical Symposium of SEAE held in Bunyola, Mallorca, from 16 to 19 of September 2009, organized by SEAE and sponsored by the Balearic Government and the MARM.



During these days of technical conferences, the governments of European and other Mediterranean countries were encouraged to promote organic farming as a solution to the strong problem that causes the change of regime rainfall, the change of agricultural land use, the urbanistic abuse in the Mediterranean coasts, and the pollution of the river deltas and

lagoons, that endanger the basic food production and impoverish the soils, mainstay of food production. Participants in the Technical Conference appealed to prevent the European residential model from moving to North Africa and other Mediterranean countries causing the environmental disasters that have occurred here, and demanded that organic farming was adopted as a sustainable development tool, ensuring food security of populations, drawing on local knowledge and experiences.

The XV Technical Meeting of SEAE discussed the challenges of the sector and proposed that the Mediterranean be declared non-GMO, proposal made by a board member of IFOAM following the example of various Mediterranean regions that have already done it in several countries. In this regard, there was support for the Spanish public certification entities of 14 autonomous regions that, after ordering an expert opinion, have agreed to operate with zero level of detection for the presence of GMOs in organic products, thus lowering the threshold of the new European regulation.

The **Biolmed project** was formally presented in this conference. The presentation was made by Teodoro Miano, the project manager, who talked about the importance of organic oliviculture research and dissemination among the Mediterranean countries.





The conference also urged governments to more actively promote public policies and measures to promote the organic farming, through local, regional or national action plans, following the examples given by some Mediterranean countries (Croatia, Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, etc.) and regions (Andalusia, Catalonia and other from Italy) contemplating measures such as the farming contract in Menorca which compensates farmers for environmental services provided by their practices, something that does not reward the market with the price. It also encouraged promoting short marketing channels under the control of producers and consumers taking advantage of the commercial tradition of the rich and famous Mediterranean diet. It was considered necessary to monitor the evolution of prices and trade margins along the marketing chain. The participants also urged the Union for the Mediterranean, an entity created by the European Commission by instigation of France, to actively support organic production as a tool for setting in the rural population in the area and avoid the migration that causes so many human losses.

Finally, it requested the International Center for Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), a multilateral organization with four locations, one in Zaragoza, to direct all their research and training in organic production, following the example of its headquarters in Bari (Italy) and to establish priorities with the support of the organic sector, according to the vision presented by the Technology Platform TP Organics of IFOAM EU Group, which reflect the specific needs of the sector in the Mediterranean.



Furthermore SEAE held its Ordinary General Assembly with the chairmanship of its president Juana Labrador in which, inter alia, agreed to give special mention to the investigator Dr. Pedro Montserrat from the Institute of Pirenaic Studies of the CSIC, special mention given to his career studying the ecological use of mountain pastures.



All the presentations of the last XV SEAE Conference on organic Farming in the Mediterranean countries can be found at www.biolmednet.eu

IV. MEDITERRANEAN AND ORGANIC OLIVE PRODUCTION NEWS

IV.1 IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo meeting

The IFOAM member "Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica" (SEAE) organised this September 2009 its XV Technical conferences, taking place in the well known Mediterranean island Majorca (Spain). This years topic was "Organic Faming in the Mediterranean". This context has been used to set up at the same time a meeting point for IFOAM member organizations from the Mediterranean countries with the support of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo, sponsored by the Balearic Government and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture. It counted on the participation of representatives from 13 costal countries of the Mediterranean basin but also on the participation of the IFOAM UE office and Fabio Piccioli from Italy, member of the IFOAM world board.

On Friday, 18th of September 2009 an expert workshop on "Organic Research under Mediterranean conditions" has been taken place within the XV Technical Symposium of SEAE "Organic production in the Mediterranean Basin" held in Bunyola, Mallorca (Spain). The workshop included experts' presentations and a final brainstorming, to list the potential areas of interest for future applied research in the Mediterranean countries. The presentation highlighted that there are many good initiatives:

- EU Framework Program, including ERANET
- Development of national action plan for organic agriculture research
- Research networks and platforms like MOAN, IFOAM ABM, ISOFAR, Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (SOCLA), Organic Research Centres Alliance (ORCA), TP organics and others.

After the presentations, the following question was asked to stimulate the participants' brainstorming:

- Which are the main problems of the organic agriculture in the MED?
- Can Mediterranean specificities and common interests be identified in organic farming research?
- Which are the research priorities for the organic in the Mediterranean region?

Organic agriculture in order to be sustainable has to be economic viable, ecological feasible, social just and cultural acceptable: an inventory of identities as inventory of cultures and of development models and relationship with the environment. Research in organic sector has to read the relationship between creativity/innovation within the tradition. In order to determine research priorities for the MED there is a need to:



- Improve the funding for research in organic farming for Med context
- Increase the participation of Mediterranean Research Institution in the research project, especially the EU contexts creating coordination of networking and information exchange between Mediterranean countries and in particular between the existing regional IFOAM group (e.i. IFOAM UE, ISO FAR, etc.) and others Institute (e.i. CHIEAM MAIB).
- Introduction of farmers prospective and experience in research program
- Increase the dissemination of research output trough conferences and publications

For further information, please contact the ABM Research Working Group Coordinator Paola Migliorini (p.migliorini@unisg.it)

IV.2. Farmers reaction to the draft of the andalusian law of olive grove.

The regional government of Andalusia (Spain) has recently released the draft for the future "law of olive grove" (Ley del Olivar). Farmers and agricultural organizations are at this moment giving their opinion about the text. (The text of the draft can be found at

http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/agriculturaypesca/portal/www/portal/com/bin/portal/SGAyG/AnteproyectoLeyOlivar/borrador_anteproyecto_ley_olivar_andalucia.pdf)

Next we include some objections made by a group of organic farmers from the Association for a Sustainable Living (Asociación para la Vida Sostenible), located in Beas de Segura, at the province of Jaen.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAFT OF THE OLIVE LAW

The various reforms to improve the olive grove have not addressed the need to foster the structural, technical and technological changes with transformations in the management and operation of the oil cooperatives. We believe that, in the text of the Act, should be highlighted the major importance of olive cooperativism, as it is the base that constitutes the sector of the andalusian olive grove.

Therefore, we consider to be indispensable that the Law of the Olive grove should present the need of transformation of the form of organization, management and functioning of the olive cooperatives, since only in this way it will be possible to approach satisfactorily, in the short term, the diverse proposals presented in the titles of the Law of the Olive grove.

For this we propose to know and to overcome the obstacles that prevent the change in the cooperatives, through the support of the Law to a participative management realized by the





associates in the cooperatives, in order that they could consider and assume the transition towards the sustainable olive grove.

To develop this initiative we propose the creation of groups of facilitators who promote the information, the formation and the advice of the associates of the cooperatives, in order that they take part satisfactorily and become the authentic protagonists in the integral management of the oil-mills, in the marketing, in the design of the agro-ecosystem of the olive grove; from the mutual aid among cooperatives, qualifying them to be represented in the governing organs that direct the Law and hereby, to do a follow-up of the application of the Law of the Olive grove.

The groups would consist of people trained in the workings of experience on olive trees, the mill operation, marketing, dinamisation, supplemented with other areas of social science knowledge, agricultural, scientific-technological, etc. Hereby, by means of the participative management for the transition towards the agro ecological sustainable olive grove, the cooperatives will be able to assume the protagonism that correspond to them, contributing in this way to the construction of a sustainable society of life.

Also it is important to establish priorities with regard to the value and utilization of the by-products of the olive oil elaboration, in support of the sustainability of the agro ecosystem like preparation of compost for soil fertilization of olive groves and increasingly degraded soils by substitution of agrochemicals, research on the use of pulp and olive seed or renewable energy production.



The grant of helps to the olive grove of major production, which incurs minor costs that the traditional one, has carried the economic, environmental and cultural non-sustainability. We think that the olive grove that is already profitable should not receive subsidies, if it is not to re-establish the sustainability of the agrosystem, which has lost in its unequal competition with the olive grove of minor production.

We want that the Law serves, therefore, to re-establish the sustainability and to overcome the impacts that have been produced in the agro ecosystem of the olive grove across the application of the PAC (doing act of self-criticism the own Administration).

Also there would be necessary to recover agricultural traditional labours that employ groups of population that now have lost it. These persons might assume the production, the elaboration, the marketing for the local consumption or the development of alternative cultures to the olive grove. The law must penalize the aggressions to the agro ecosystem and force to repair the negative externalities. Also it must foment the introduction of the training on olive growing and oil elaboration in the zones that live of the culture of the olive grove.

The Law of the Olive grove has to recognize and to distinguish the diverse social, economic, environmental and cultural areas, offering alternatives that re-establish the sustainability of the olive grove. The immense olive grove of Andalusia might be an authentic paradise, but for example, the ignorance with the one that is





managed, in a not participative way, as well as the injustice with which the economic helps are distributed, promote the unsustainability of the olive grove, in its economy, society, culture and environment.

With the deception that this supposes, the division arises, the lack of communication appears and the sector loses the spirit of mutual help for the reconstruction of this paradise that represents the possibilities of the agro ecosystem of the olive grove.

The transverse axis of the topics that proposes the new Law of the Olive grove should be the reconstruction of a solidary cooperativism (that transforms the cooperativism that makes us dependent on the multinationals of the agro chemistry, on the marketing ...); that is of participative management, which promotes the agro ecology of the olive grove and contributes this way to a society of sustainable life.

Beas de Segura, on January 7, 2010

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE LIFE

IV.3 Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change established

Climate change directly influences food production and food security. To address these new challenges, the Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change has been established on December 16, 2009, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

"Organic agriculture has a strong potential for mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon in the soils at high rates and by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases due to avoidance of synthetic fertilizers and optimal use of organic material, " said Urs Niggli, Director of FiBL and member of the Round Table.

The Round Table on Organic Agriculture and Climate Change (RTOACC) is a multi-stakeholder initiative with eight founding members. It brings together stakeholders and partners along the organic food production chain. The principal objectives of the round table are



- Initiate, support and facilitate research on organic agriculture and climate change.
- Advise the international community on organic agriculture and climate change issues,
- Develop a measurement method to enable reliable quantification and certification of carbon sequestration in organic agriculture.

To achieve these goals, the members agreed on an action plan for the years 2010 and 2011. The main activity in 2010 will be the development of a methodology for the carbon market that will comply with general development goals such as the benefits for smallholders in developing countries. The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL coordinates these activities.



Antonio Compagnoni of ICEA agrees that the round table is a kick-off for putting organic agriculture on the agenda of the negotiations on a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol and that it is an effort by the global organic community to make organic agriculture the leading system of sustainable agriculture.

More info at the [FIBL web page](#)

IV.4 Expert group for technical advice on organic production: Call for applications now published

The European Commission has published the [call for applications](#) regarding the expert group for technical advice on organic production (deadline for the application: 12/02/2010).

The evolution of the techniques and methods and the development of new rules in organic farming and processing could require amendments of the EU organic standard after duly evaluation.

A high degree of specialisation is required for this complex and time-consuming exercise of evaluation and systematic updating of the standard. In order to pursue this activity, the Commission may need technical advice; in the past, this was provided by ad-hoc expert groups working on a temporary basis (see section [ad-hoc expert group's recommendations](#)).

To rationalize this work, Action n. 11 of the European Action Plan for organic food and farming foresees the setting up of a group of experts for technical advice in the field of organic production.

The expert group will ensure an easy and systematic access to highly qualified technical expertise in a wide range of fields related to organic production. In particular, the group will also deliver independent, excellent and transparent technical advice to the Commission.

IV.5 EU organic logo: Online vote

Over 3400 students from all 27 EU Member States participated in the EU organic logo competition. Out of all of the submissions, the jury



made a pre-selection of the best 100 logos in the first judging round. In the following stage, three designs were selected (see picture).



These three designs can now be voted upon by the public. The public online vote on a new EU organic logo is open from 7 December 2009 until 31 January 2010 at the logo competition homepage.

More information: ec.europa.eu/organic-logo: [Logo competition homepage](#)
www.organic-farming.europa.eu: [Organic farming homepage of the European Commission](#)

V. SPECIAL THEMATIC: ORGANIC RESEARCH IN ORGANIC OLIVICULTURE.

V.1 Selection of last research studies (from 2007) in Bactrocera in the Biolmed project countries

Olive fly (*Bactrocera oleae*) activity, fruit infestation and temperature in an organic table olive orchard in southern Crete

Volakakis, Mr N.; Eyre, Dr M.D.; Kabourakis, Dr E. and Leifert, Prof C. (2008) Olive fly (*Bactrocera oleae*) activity, fruit infestation and temperature in an organic table olive orchard in southern Crete. Cultivating the Future Based on Science: 2nd Conference of the International Society of Organic Agriculture Research ISOFAR, Modena, Italy, June 18-20, 2008.

Summary



Olive fly activity and olive fruit infestation was monitored in a table olive orchard in southern Crete throughout most of 2006 using McPhail traps. Flies were trapped weekly for 40 weeks, starting at the beginning of February. The fly data was split into 10 four-week periods. Male, female and total fly activity was significantly related to sampling period, maximum temperature and relative humidity but the pattern of catches was not consistent. Activity increased from February until July but declined in August and was very low in September, October and November. The low activity in the last three months was reflected in low fruit infestation levels, with a maximum of 3.6% in October which contrasts with infestation levels usually around 30%. Olive fly mortality is high above 31°C and the average mean maximum temperature in the four months June-September was above 34°C. High summer temperatures, with low humidities, appear to have considerably limited olive fly activity and fruit infestation and pest control measures may have to be adapted to these conditions.



Bactrocera oleae (Gmelin) control in organic olive farming.

Iannotta, Nino; Belfiore, Tiziana; Noce, Maria Elena; Scalercio, Stefano and Vizzarri, Veronica (2007) *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) control in organic olive farming. *Ecoliva* 2007, VI Jornadas Internacionales de Olivar Ecologico, Puente de Génave (Jaén), España, 22-25 marzo 2007.

Online at:

http://www.ecoliva.info/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=17&Itemid=38

Summary

In the Mediterranean area the olive fly control, difficult to realise in conventional farming, becomes even more arduous in organic farming, owing to the restrictions laid down by Regulation. The EC Reg. 2092/91 which implements organic farming and its updates provide standards allowing only the use of natural origin substances for crop protection contained in annex IIB, forbidding the chemical pesticides use. The present study has been performed in Calabria (Southern Italy) in two different pedoclimatic olive areas (Mirto-Crosia and Terranova da Sibari) and in two observation years (2005-2006) in order to assess the efficacy of substances listed in the annex IIB as copper (antibacterial substance) and biopesticides azadiracthin and rotenone and the efficacy of kaolin and the antibacterial substance propolis. These substances were compared among them and with theses used as control (treated only with water) and in Mirto-Crosia field with conventional product dimethoate. The present research confirms the need to restrain the *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) infestation in olive areas of the Southern Italy. The results obtained in the two different investigated areas in both years indicated that kaolin has great potential for the control of *B. oleae* infestation. The use of copper and propolis showed a good efficacy both on adult and preimago population. Rotenone application confirms its known efficacy in Terranova da Sibari area while it does not appear very efficacious in Mirto-Crosia area. Azadiracthin turned out to be not so efficacious for olive fly control in both olive areas and years. On the basis of the results of the most recent studies, a revision of the Regulation is needed.



The effects of treatments against *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) on the entomo-fauna of the olive ecosystem



Iannotta, Nino; Belfiore, Tiziana; Brandmayr, Pietro and Scalercio, Stefano (2007) The effects of treatments against *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) on the entomo-fauna of the olive ecosystem. *IOBC/WPRS Bulletin*. [In Press , 2007]

Summary

Only a limited number of studies have examined the efficacy and environmental effects of treatments against *Bactrocera oleae* in organic production of olives, especially in terms of the insect community present in these ecosystems. Herein, we compared the effects of a conventional insecticide (dimethoate), used with a plant protection system allowed by organic legislation (mass trapping plus rotenone) against *B. oleae*, with an untreated control field. The experiments were performed in the Calabria region at Mirto Crosia (on the Ionic side of Cosenza province) in a grove with extensive active insect infestation. In two conventionally treated fields with a surface area of 2 hectares each, two treatments were performed (in August and September) utilizing dimethoate (150 g in 100 liters water). In another 2 hectare area, mass-trapping devices (attract and kill) were installed and treatment with rotenone (Rotena 300 g in 100 l water) was performed in September. The entomo-fauna present in the different areas was evaluated by insect capture utilizing cromotropic traps. The integrated protection system (mass-trapping plus rotenone treatment) led to a reduction in the total number of insects in comparison to the traditional method (dimethoate treatment). It proves the negative effect of the tested organic system on the olive ecosystem entomo-fauna.

Tests on the effectiveness of mass trapping by Eco-trap (Vyoril) in the control of *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) in organic farming

Caleca, Virgilio; Rizzo, Roberto; Battaglia, Isabella and Palumbo Piccionello, Manuela (2007) Tests on the effectiveness of mass trapping by Eco-trap (Vyoril) in the control of *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) in organic farming. *IOBC WPRS Bulletin*. [In Press , 2007]

Summary

Tests on the effectiveness of mass trapping by Eco-trap (Vyoril) in the control of *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) in organic farming were carried out in 2003 and 2004. The tests took place into two organic olive groves located in Agrigento and Trapani (Sicily); in both years the olive cultivar was Cerasuola. In Agrigento, it was considered the effectiveness of Eco-trap vs. bottle traps baited with diammonium phosphate; while in Trapani the effectiveness of Eco-trap





added to other products admitted in organic farming (two products containing kaolin and one containing copper) was evaluated. In 2003, year with a low *B. oleae* population density, no statistically significant difference resulted among Eco-trap, bottle traps with diammonium phosphate and control. In 2004 *B. oleae* infestations were high; although some statistically significant differences among plots with Eco-traps and plots without them emerged, the additional power of Eco-trap in controlling *B. oleae* resulted very limited in plots sprayed with kaolin products and more consistent in the plot with copper hydroxide. The economic advantage of the use of Eco-trap, also in comparison with repellent and antiovipositional products, still remains doubtful.

Tests on the effectiveness of kaolin and copper hydroxide in the control of *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin)

Caleca, Virgilio and Rizzo, Roberto (2007) Tests on the effectiveness of kaolin and copper hydroxide in the control of *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin). *IOBC WPRS Bulletin*. [In Press , 2007]

Summary

Repellent and antiovipositional products in the control of *Bactrocera oleae* (Gmelin) find a great interest in organic farming, because of the lack of effective products able to kill the olive fly preimmaginal stages.

In 2003 in Castelvetrano (Trapani province, Sicily), tests on the effectiveness of Surround WP, a product containing 95% of kaolin, were carried out on three table olive cultivars, Nocellara del Belice, Moresca and Tonda Iblea. In 2004, in the same field and on the same cultivars, BPLK kaolin was tested too. In the second year the two products containing kaolin were also tested on Cerasuola cultivar in an organic olive grove located in Trapani, comparing them with copper hydroxide.



At Castelvetrano both in 2003 and in 2004 *B. oleae* infestation levels of the plots treated with the two products containing kaolin were statistically lower than those of the control plots. In this site, in 2004 Surround WP protected olives significantly better than BPLK kaolin, limiting olive fly harmful infestation up to 17-23% vs. 68-87% of BPLK plots.

At Trapani in 2004, the two products containing kaolin and copper hydroxide showed statistically significant differences from the untreated



control, but not among themselves, limiting the harmful infestation up to 3-37% vs. 87% of the control.

The different results of 2004 recorded by Surround WP and BPLK kaolin in the two olive groves seems linked to the different rainfall of the period after the last treatment, 64 mm in three rainy days at Castelvetrano and 41 mm in eight rainy days at Trapani; BPLK kaolin was probably washed away more than Surround WP.

The tested products containing kaolin and copper hydroxide are effectively able to limit *B. oleae* infestation to a very good level for olive oil production, moreover, considering the earlier harvesting of table olives, these products give a new opportunity for controlling the olive fly also in the organic olive groves for table olive production

V.2 Organic research project with Mediterranean involvement

On October 14 and 15, 2009 an expert workshop took place at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (MAIB) within the framework of the INTERBIO Project 'Promotion of domestic and international demand for organic products', financed by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and coordinated by MAIB. The workshop is included in the project activities aiming at strengthening international networks on organic agriculture. The workshop, focusing on 'Organic Cooperation and Research in the Mediterranean' was organised in collaboration with the Mediterranean Organic Agricultura Network (MOAN).



The workshop was attended by 38 participants from 7 countries (Annex 1 – List of participants) and it included plenary sessions and experts' brainstorming, to list the potential areas of interest for future applied research in the Mediterranean countries. Several contributions have represented the starting point for the later discussion. Such contributions mainly focused on the preliminary

findings of a survey on organic research in the Mediterranean carried out by MAIB in collaboration with IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo, the situation of organic research in Tunisia and Turkey and some coordination initiatives recently launched in Europe and in the Mediterranean.

Several points were also debated by the participants, such as the lack of or limited domestic markets in the Southern side, where organic farmers are still organically growing only a few commodities for foreign markets. More efforts for improving the cultivation of other local crops were required. For other participants, the political support for organic agriculture is limited and contradictory, while the conventional sector still receives most of the resources.



Other aspects were related to the low level of formal education, which characterizes especially women, whose role in agriculture is increasing. Last but not least, was the limited number of researchers able to implement research on organic subjects, with a really new approach.

After the debate, a second round of consultation was carried out, with the same procedure described before to focus the research priorities for organic agro-food chains. Different suggestions were then grouped and commented. The need for a system, trans-disciplinary and holistic approach (socio-economic and agroecological), was considered by the participants as a 'must' for any research program in organic agriculture.

V.3 Organic research priorities in the Mediterranean

In December 2008 TP Organics, the **Technology Platform for organic food and farming**, officially published its Vision for Organic Food and Farming 2025. The Vision revealed the huge potential of the organic food production to mitigate some of the major global problems of the century - from climate change, to food security, to the whole range of socio-economic challenges in the rural areas. This important undertaking has been coupled at the same time with the establishment of the TP Organics with the core idea to streamline organic research into agreed priorities and to help translate these priorities into funding for concrete research programmes and projects.

TP Organics joins the efforts of industry and civil society in defining organic research priorities and defending them vis-à-vis with the policy-makers. It is a growing bottom-to-top initiative of EU umbrella organisations, enterprises, civil society organisations and national and EU-level public and private actors in the field of organic agriculture. The process of forming this coalition of partners started in June 2007, when several organisations from the organic food and farming sector got together to discuss the different scenarios for agriculture and food systems up to the year of 2025. The result, after a year of intensive consultations, was the publication of a Vision for an Organic Food and Farming Research Agenda 2025.

Vision on organic food and farming research agenda to 2025

This Vision was prepared on the basis of wide-ranging discussions with farmers' organisations, scientists, organic traders and retailers, and EU-wide umbrella organisations representing a variety of commercial, non-commercial and civil interests. Up to now, research projects and national framework programmes on organic agriculture have addressed immediate technology gaps in organic agriculture and food production. This has been politically expedient and has given rise to a greater number of producers and professional skills for the task of serving unexpectedly fast growing consumer driven markets.



However, many organic research projects had a short-term perspective. In contrast to this, TP Organics takes a long-term perspective on the research needs of organic agriculture and food systems. The three strategic research priorities presented in the vision focus in particular on the inconsistencies between economy, ecology and social cohesion in agriculture and food production and propose research activities and insightful learning concepts for organic and other farming systems. Taking into consideration the major challenges that human society will face over the next 20 years, we identified three priority thematic areas of research: (i) Empowerment of rural areas and economies, (ii) Ecofunctional intensification of food production, and (iii) Production of food for health and human wellbeing.

Organic agriculture is strongly and explicitly based on ethical values based on the underlying principles of health, ecology, fairness and care as defined by IFOAM and which are also reflected in the Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 on organic production. These principles provide a unique basis for developing complex assessment and decision-making tools, as well as for modelling future sustainable food and farming systems. Stakeholders along the whole food chain are able to participate in this development, since the civil society is closely involved in technology development and innovation.

The three thematic areas are:

(i) Empowerment of rural economies in a regional and global context:

By 2025, new concepts, knowledge and practices will halt or even reverse migration from rural areas to urban centres. A diversified local economy will attract people and improve livelihoods. Organic agriculture, food processing and eco-tourism will become important drivers of the empowerment of rural economies. The dialogue between urban and rural populations will improve considerably and intensified forms of partnership between consumers and producers will emerge.



(ii) Securing food and ecosystems by eco-functional intensification:

By 2025, the availability of food and the stability of food supply will be noticeably increased through eco-functional intensification, and access to food will be considerably improved thanks to revitalized rural areas. Knowledge among farmers about how to manage ecosystem services in a sustainable way will be much greater and animal welfare and environmentally sound





farming will be cutting-edge technologies in food production.

(iii) High quality foods – a basis for healthy diets and a key to improving the quality of life and health:

By 2025, people will have more healthy and balanced diets. Food and quality preferences will change: fresh and whole foods will be the ultimate trend and processing technology will produce foods with only minimal alterations to the intrinsic qualities. The specific taste and its regional variation will be more appreciated than artificially designed.



Full document can be found at the webpage of Biolmed

VI. MEDITERRANEAN AND BIOLMED NEXT EVENTS

AGENDA FOR 2010

Month	Activities	Place
January 28 th	Expert meeting on copper use in organic farming (organised by AIAB)	Italy
February 3-7	International Conference on Organic Agriculture in Scope of Environmental Problems, amagusta/Cyprus: http://organic.emccinstitute.org	Cyprus
February 17-20	Biofach Congress	Nuremberg, Germany
March 5	Biolmed Project Steering Committee meeting	Greece
March 18-19	European Meeting of the IFOAM EU Group	Malta
March 23	Symposium on Soil fertility (Organised by MOAN/ISO FAR)	Sousse, Tunisia
April 22-23	XVII SEAE Conference on domestic organic marketing (short chains). Workshop on greenhouses organic production standards	Almeria, Spain
May 27-28	European Conference on <i>New Green Deal for Europe: Organic innovations to enhance regional development and meet new CAP challenges</i> , Organized by SEAE and the IFOAM EU Group	Madrid, Spain
May	Biol Price	Bari, Italy



June	European conference on EU Organic Reg. (organised by IFOAM EU Group +ICEA)	Rome Italy
June	Ecoliva Fair and Conference (organised by CAFAGE)	Jaén, Spain
September	SANA	Bologna, Italy
October	IX Organic National Scientific Congress SEAE	Lleida, Spain
November	BioCordoba	Córdoba, Spain
November	Ecofestival	Athens, Greece
December	IFOAM EU meeting with the European Commission (?)	Brussels, BE

2VII PROJECT ADDRESSES

Country	Institution		Contact Person	e-mail
Italy	IAMB	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari	Teodoro Miano	miano@agr.uniba.it
			Vito Simeone	simeone@iamb.it
			Gianluigi Cesari	cesari@iamb.it
			Michele Tucci	tucci@iamb.it
	ICEA	Ethical and Environmental Certification Institute	Gaetano Paparella	presidente@icea.info
RPMD	Regione Puglia Mediterranean Department	Bernardo Notarangelo	b.notarangelo@regione.puglia.it	
	CIBI	Consorzio Italiano per il Biologico	Floriana Di Cintio	
Spain	SEAE	Spanish Society of Agroecology	Mariano Ojeda	marianojeda@gmail.com
			Víctor González	vgonzalvez@agroecologia.net



			María José Payá	mjpaya@gmail.com
	CAFAGE	Centre for education and training on organic farming	Noelia Rodriguez Aranda	gerencia@cafage.org
Malta	MLC	Mgarr Local Council	Christine Lewis	mgarr.lc@gov.mt
Greece	DIO	Inspection & Certification Organisation of Organic Products.	Charikleia Minotou	charmini@otenet.gr
Greece	TEI	TEI of the Ionian Islands	Aristotelis Martinis	amartinis@telion.gr

Authors of this newsletter:

*Víctor Gonzalvez
José Luis Moreno
María José Payá*