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European Research Alliance
ERA Pesticide Free
Towards a chemical pesticide free agriculture

NEWSLETTER #2 SWITZERLAND

28 September 2023

Every two weeks, this newsletter will be prepared by a different Alliance member.

Today we are happy to share a contribution from [Agroscope](#) in Switzerland.

Project PestiRed : Co-innovation to reduce pesticide use

The [PestiRed project](#) is based on exchanges between scientists, extension services and farmers, and aims at promoting and implementing promising [agro-ecological practices](#) in combination to control weeds, diseases and pests, and so to reduce the pesticide use of 75% with a maximum yield reduction of 10%. These innovative cropping techniques have been implemented in optimized crop rotations (2020-2025) within a platform of participating farmers in three cropland regions of Switzerland. PestiRed is one of 7 major regional in co-creation developed projects with a main focus on crop protection in Switzerland.

Monitoring data have shown that the objectives are achievable, yet but more challenging for certain crop types. Mid-term results have shown that collaboration between scientists, extension services and farmers is essential. Every actor in that consortium is being aware that there are no simple solutions but only a combination of small steps forward, and that the [system approach](#) is fundamental.



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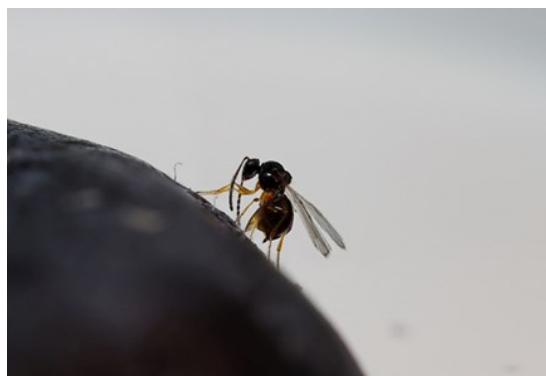
First experimental release of parasitic Asian wasp *Ganaspis brasiliensis* to control spotted-wing drosophila (*Drosophila suzukii*)

The invasive spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) is a devastating pest in berry, stone fruit and grape crops. A natural antagonist from the fruit fly's area of origin in East Asia has been released on 04.09.2023 in Switzerland for the first time by [Agroscope](#) and [CABI](#). CABI's research demonstrated that *Ganaspis brasiliensis* is specialized in SWD and is highly unlikely to parasitize native fruit fly larvae.

[The experimental releases](#) in the Cantons of Jura and Ticino aim to clarify whether this parasitic wasp can become established in Switzerland to regulate the SWD population and reduce production losses.



The invasive *Drosophila suzukii* on a strawberry
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The Asian parasitoid wasp *Ganaspis brasiliensis* deposits an egg in the larva of the invasive spotted-wing drosophila through the skin of a blueberry.
© Koichi Beltrando (CABI)

18th edition of ABIM, the Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting, 23-25 October 2023 in Basel, Switzerland



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ABIM (www.abim.ch), co-organized by [FiBL](#) and the [International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association \(IBMA\)](#), is the unrivalled meeting place for the biocontrol industry worldwide. Lucius Tamm, managing director of ABIM AG and newly appointed research programme coordinator at [Agroscope - good food, healthy environment \(admin.ch\)](#) draws attention to the role of biocontrol when it comes to sustainability: "Agricultural systems and processes must become more sustainable in the future. Biocontrol delivers crucial solutions and can shape this transformation process to sustainable agriculture successfully". Sessions and workshops cover topics like innovation, regulation, formulation, agricultural policy, food industry and transformation. Christian Huyghe, Scientific Director of Agriculture INRAE and chair of the European Research Alliance 'Towards a chemical pesticide-free agriculture' will present his visions on 'Transition towards chemical pesticide-free agriculture and the challenges and opportunities for the biocontrol industry in a key note address' followed by a panel discussion.

This is the newsletter of the European Research Alliance Towards a chemical pesticide free agriculture
Visit the Alliance's website: <https://www.era-pesticidefree.eu/>

This issue has been prepared by [Agroscope](#) as a member of this Alliance.
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