



European Research Alliance

ERA Pesticide Free

Towards a chemical pesticide free agriculture

NEWSLETTER #3 BULGARIA

11 October 2023

Every two weeks, this newsletter will be prepared by a different Alliance member.
Today we are happy to share a contribution from the [Agricultural Academy](#) in Bulgaria.

The final Conference of the National Scientific Program "Healthy food for a strong bioeconomy and quality of life" was successfully closed

On June 12, 2023, the final conference of the National Scientific Program "Healthy Food for a Strong Bioeconomy and Quality of Life" was held at the Agricultural University - Plovdiv, Bulgaria. The event was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science and all partners involved incl. Agricultural Academy aimed to present achievements, research findings and application of innovations in agro-food sector.

Within **Component 2 WP 2.3 Ensuring plant health and safety of plant production** were reported encouraging results from the testing of: microbial plant protection products with insecticidal activity; the fungicidal activity of essential oils from plants of the genus *Hypericum* and extracts from cyanobacteria, micro and macroalgae, higher aquatic plants, poisonous plant species. A technology has been developed for the production of small batches of fungal-based biopreparation to combat soil-borne pathogens in vegetable crops. A sustainable, ecological approach and biopreparation based on Bulgarian isolates from populations of entomopathogenic nematodes were elaborated to reduce the risk of both severe invasive pests *Ceratitis capitata* and *Drosophyla suzukii*.



National Research Program
"HEALTHY FOODS FOR A STRONG BIO-ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE"



A greener Bulgarian CAP Strategic Plan

Bulgaria's Plan aims to address a number of environmental and climate challenges that the agricultural sector is facing. The Plan introduces eco-schemes under which farmers can be paid for voluntarily implementing environmentally- and climate-friendly practices that go beyond legal requirements. The proposed eco-schemes envisage, for example, better crop rotation, use of climate resilient plant varieties, maintenance and improvement of biodiversity and the ecological infrastructure. The Plan will also focus on the development and expansion of the area under organic farming considering the current very low share (2.25%).

During the 2023 campaign, the greatest interest was observed for the scheme for reduction the use of pesticides, where 460% more than the planned areas were claimed. Next comes the scheme for preserving and restoring the soil potential with 282% more than expected.



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[Read more on the European Commission website dedicated to the CAP Strategic Plans by country](#)

"New genomic techniques - the future of modern agriculture" conference will be held in Sofia

The Association of the Seed Industry in Bulgaria, in cooperation with the European Seed Association, is organizing a conference on "New genomic techniques - the future" in Sofia on 26.10. 2023. The limitations and possibilities of plant breeding and the latest genome editing technologies as tools to address the challenges of sustainable agricultural will be presented and discussed. Scientists from Agricultural Academy- Bulgaria, Technical University - Munich, Georgia University - USA and European Seeds Association have been invited as speakers. The updating of EU legislation related to marketing of plants obtained by some new genomic techniques (NGTs) will be discussed, too.



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 the [Agricultural Academy](#) as a member of this Alliance. If you would like more information about this issue, feel free to [contact them](#).



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