



European Research Alliance

ERA Pesticide Free

Towards a chemical pesticide free agriculture

NEWSLETTER #4 GREECE

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

Today we are happy to share a contribution from the [Agricultural University of Athens](#) in Greece.

Project STELLA: Digital technologies for managing EU regulated plant pest outbreaks affecting agriculture and forestry

Agricultural University of Athens-Greece is the Coordinator (Prof. Dimitris Tsitsigiannis) of a new funded project under the HORIZON-CL6-2023-GOVERNANCE-01 call entitled “*Digital technologies for plant health, early detection, territory surveillance and phytosanitary measures - STELLA*” that will involve 16 partners across Europe and New Zealand (budget 5M euros).

STELLA will develop a **real time pest surveillance system** that will consist of an early warning system using novel forecasting models and IoT sensors, a pest detection system using drones, satellites, and a smartphone application, and a pest response system providing data-driven recommendations for containment and counteractive measures. The system will be tested in 6 Use Case Pilots across 5 countries, covering 8 various diseases of significant importance to the EU. Capacity building activities will be developed with a focus on providing training, education, and resources to farmers, agronomists, and stakeholders involved in crop protection. Policy recommendations generated by the project will aim to support the EU goals of **reducing pesticide use and managing priority plant pest outbreaks**.



Agri Innovation Expo 2023



The Agricultural University of Athens-Greece (AUA) organized the 2nd **Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer Exhibition** in its campus on September 21-23, 2023. The aim of the Agri Innovation Expo 2023 was to promote innovative research results with a significant impact on research, economy, society, and environment. More than 30 mature research results presented to the public, businesses, scientists, stakeholders, investment funds based on the cutting-edge Agri-food AUA research, key initiatives and projects carried out by the research groups as well as the University's start-up companies. Several **innovations** that were presented targeted the development and application of new technologies that help to **overcome problems related to plant protection and loss of biodiversity** i.e. biocontrol agents to control plant diseases and pests, smart systems to diagnose plant diseases, prognostic models for plant pests.

Innovations in Plant Protection for sustainable pest control

The Agricultural University of Athens-Greece (AUA) is coordinating a national Flagship Research Action entitled “*Innovations in Plant Protection for sustainable and environmentally friendly pest control*” on the development of novel methods, technologies and products for prognosis, diagnosis, smart spraying, and precision integrated plant protection strategies, for the sustainable production of fruits, vegetables and grapes without pesticide residues in products and the environment.



10 institutions of Greece participate in the implementation of the action, which will be carried out by >100 young researchers and scientists, who will be trained in novel plant protection strategies, directly connected to the labor market. The targeted dissemination of scientific research data in the farming sector will be a basic strategy for the implementation of integrated plant protection programs in Greece in the coming years. The action is coordinated by Prof. John Vontas and funded by the European Union-Next Generation EU, Greece 2.0 National Recovery and Resilience plan (budget around 5M euros).

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 University of Athens](#) as a member of this Alliance.

If you would like more information about this issue, feel free to [contact them](#).



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