BIOVEXO

Newsletter #1

BIOVEXO is off to an excellent start! Here's what you need to know to keep up-to-date.

The BIOVEXO partners welcome you to the first BIOVEXO newsletter!

Devastated region in Apulia with uprooted olive trees Image credits: CNR

Editorial from the Coordinator - Stephen Webb, RTDS Group

Welcome! First and foremost, the **RTDS Group** is very proud to be coordinating the BIOVEXO Project together with the **AIT Austrian Institute of Technology**. *Xylella fastidiosa* is currently one of the most dangerous plant pathogens. The European Commission has identified it as one of the top priority quarantine pests as there is no solution to the current devastation caused by the *Xylella* outbreak in southern Europe. As the project progresses, we look forward to taking the latest European research on *Xylella* from the lab to the market – and make a difference to society!

Editorial from the Scientific Coordinator - Dr. Stéphane Compant, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology

Since we started the BIOVEXO Project six months ago, with **RTDS Group** as coordinator and together with all our consortium partners we have made some significant advances in our first attempts to control *Xylella*. Our ambitious goal is to save olive production and trees in Europe, to safeguard our European cultural heritage and to provide support to local agricultural communities. Albeit more product development is still needed, we contribute with promising biological solutions, high-end technology developments and scientific proficiency to confer protection against damage to our olive trees, to the benefit of farming and our society.

Before we get started, don't forget to follow us on social media!

Project Progress since May 2020

Latest BIOVEXO Meetings

The official Kick-Off-Meeting was held on the 12-13th of May 2020. The second Consortium Meeting took place on the 22nd of September 2020. Click here for more information on events.

KICK OFF MEETING
12-13th May 2020

2nd CONSORTIUM MEETING
22nd September 2020

BIOVEXO Website is up & running

The BIOVEXO website is successfully running since July 2020. The website includes detailed information on the project such as the research plan, project scope, objectives, partners, deliverables, blogs & more.

Milestone 2 reached - First decision on promising compounds made!

As testing continues, the BIOVEXO Consortium members have successfully reached the 2nd Milestone of the Project with early results gathered from the small-scale field trials.

Jose G. Madero from DOMCA SA Image credits: DOMCA SA

SUBMITTED DELIVERABLES

Summary Report on available biocontrol solutions against *Xylella*

Xylella fastidiosa is a vector-transmitted bacterial plant pathogen associated with serious diseases in a wide range of plants. It is therefore urgent to find measures to directly control, not only the vector but also the bacterium. The bacterium known to cause Pierce's disease in grapevine was detected on olive trees ...

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A key strategy in reducing *Xylella fastidiosa* infection in olive trees is to limit transmission of the pathogen by the xylem-sap feeding *Philaenus spumarius* ('meadow spittlebug'). This polyphagous insect is the main *Xf*-vector in Italy and on almond in Mallorca and is widespread throughout Europe....

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NEWS & MEDIA

Dangerous *Xylella fastidiosa* in Occitanie - 'Olive killer' found for the 1st time in lavender in this region!

Xylella fastidiosa in Occitanie **confirmed!** In August 2020, the "**olive killer**" has been confirmed by the regional plant protection services of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food... Read more

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9 *Xylella fastidiosa* symptoms you should know about

The bacterial pathogen *Xylella fastidiosa* causes plant disease and can be hosted by approximately **600 plant species**. Since its first appearance in Italy back in 2013, *Xylella fastidiosa* symptoms... Read more

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Threat of *Xylella* - 7 reasons why you should care!

Threat of Xylella - Is it really that conspicuous? For the last decade, Xylella fastidiosa has become known among farmers and plant pathologists as one of the **most important issues** which ... Read more

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3 cool ways how to pronounce *Xylella fastidiosa*

Now that *Xylella* is making headlines all over the world, there is this **one question which still baffles all**. This question is in fact one of the most searched online phrases regarding *Xylella*.... Read more

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What is Xylella fastidiosa?

What is Xylella fastidiosa? Xylella fastidiosa is a plant pathogen transmitted by xylem feeding insects, which causes a **serious disease** in a range of plants..... Read more

Check out the latest BIOVEXO videos which you can share!

Introducing the BIOVEXO project & *Xylella fastidiosa*

How to pronounce Xylella?

For more videos about our project, partners and *Xylella*, check out our Youtube channel.

We hope you enjoyed our first newsletter!

As promised, our DEC leader Magdalena Kovacova has created a simple animated illustration which can be used by our subscribers freely. **Handy tip**: Free space was intentionally given on the top right for your customised content / messages.

This image was inspired by the illustration created by Peter Shrank (The Economist).

ON THE RADAR

What can you expect next

- Joint publication on biocontrol solutions with **latest EU policy insights** - Q1 2021
- Visual *Xylella* impact campaign for the **International Year of Plant Health 2020**
- Synergies with related projects

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Our mailing address is:
biovexo@rtds-group.com

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