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BIOVEXO February 2023 Newsletter

Dear BIOVEXO newsletter subscribers,

We are pleased to release the February 2023 newsletter. As we continue to develop biological solutions to limit the impact of the disease on the trees affected by *Xylella fastidiosa*, we are happy to have you with us on this important mission.

BIOVEXO is now approaching its third year of the project, and our project partners continue with the large scale field trials.

We hope this newsletter provides you with valuable information on BIOVEXO activities from 2022, as well as recent developments and status quo of *Xylella* in Europe, this time with a greater focus on the Balearic Islands.

A word from BIOVEXO Scientific Coordinator (SCO), **Stéphane Compant** from AIT *Austrian Institute of Technology*:

"Welcome! Since 2020 with the beginning of BIOVEXO, we made strong advances in development of biopesticide solutions targeting either the insect vector of Xylella, Philaneus spumarius or Xylella fastidiosa itself. Formulation development, upscaling of biopesticides, some toxicity tests as well as studies on some modes of actions have been carried out in addition to the analyses of small scale field trials. We are now in the process of analysing effects for several years in large scale field trials in Spain and Italy to increase TRL development of each biopesticide product and to be close to market entry by the end of the BIOVEXO project.

Enjoy our news!

Yours sincerely,
Stéphane Compant"

To read the full editorial that summarises the work carried out in BIOVEXO in 2022, please see below.

Video: BIOVEXO in Mallorca

While Mallorca is famous as a touristic dream island, the mainstay of the Mallorcan economy is the agriculture. As is Apulia, Mallorca is also hit by the arrival of *Xylella f.* Whereas in Apulia olive trees took the hardest hit, in Mallorca the impact is still relatively mild and the worst impact is on almonds and grape wine. In the BIOVEXO project, Mallorca is represented by organic farm **AIMERIT.** See video above to learn more from the farm owner, **Pilar Puig**.

Our latest blog

The threat of *Xylella* in the Balearic Islands

Published on January 2023

Talks on #Xylella, pruning of #olive trees, cultural heritage, olive oil #production challenges, & promising EU-funded projects, such as the BeXyl project.

Learn More

BIOVEXO Stakeholder Event 2022

A second face-to-face stakeholder event, “Xylella Forum 2.0”, took place on the 20th April 2022 for another region struck heavily by Xylella fastidiosa - Alicante/Valencia, in Spain. The focus has been on the crops affected in mainland Spain, i.e. on almond trees. The event has been attended by approximately 30 Spanish researchers, local public administration and representatives of the local almond producing industry, who also had the opportunity to raise important issues during a round table discussion.

Learn More (EN)

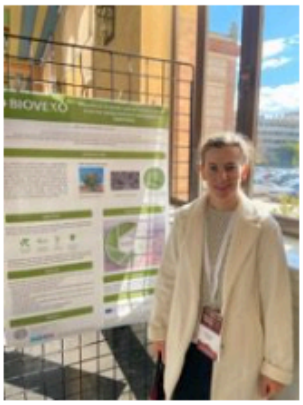
What's new on our social media channels?

BIOVEXO 101 series

Yes - we know most of our audience already knows what *Xylella* is, but raising awareness is a continuing process in our mission to act together in saving olive and almond trees.

As we aim to grab the attention of wider audience, BIOVEXO101 series were introduced in November to explain the main issues and break down the scientific terminology to a simpler understanding.

In 2022, BIOVEXO project partners participated in and attended numerous events. Here are some of the highlights.



Angeles Jos (University of Sevilla) at the **XXIV Congreso Español de Toxicología y VIII Iberoamericano** with a poster presentation, November 2022

Pasquale Saldarelli (CNR) presenting the BIOVEXO project at the **Horizon Europe Infoday on European Partnerships**

AIT and **Globachem** at the **Plant BioProTech 2022**

EU Corner at the European Summit for Industrial Biotechnology (ESIB) 2022, Graz, Austria

Specialists with remarkable #science and #industry background and more than 600 people attending this year's edition truly marked an important accomplishment for #industrial #biotechnology. BIOVEXO presented a poster in the EU corner.

International Olive Council (IOC), Lisbon & Evora, Portugal

In September 2022, BIOVEXO participated in the **IOC International Workshop on "Initiatives to increase the resilience of the olive sector"**. Within the framework of the sustainability of the olive value chain, this workshop covered different matters related to fostering the resilience of the olive sector.

*For a complete list of events, please visit our **Events page** on the official BIOVEXO website.*

Latest *Xylella* news

Xylella fastidiosa detected in 75 species in Portugal

27 January 2023

Worrying #information from #Portugal #Xylella has been detected in 75 plant species, including citrus, olive groves and #vineyards. This endangers the country's #biodiversity and #agricultural production.

Learn More (ES)

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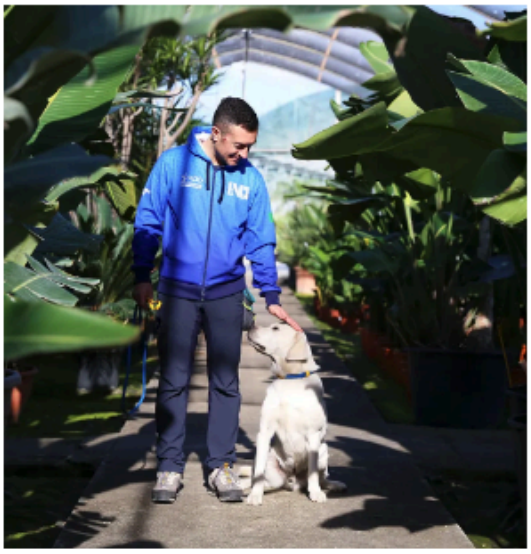
efsa
European Food Safety Authority

EFSA: *Xylella taiwanensis* fulfills the criteria to be a potential quarantine pest in the EU

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has concluded in a paper on the pest categorisation of the pathogen that *Xylella taiwanensis* fulfills the criteria to be a potential quarantine pest in the European Union.

Learn More



BBC: Dogs could detect *Xylella*?

18 January 2023

BBC Future Planet published an article on 'the plan to save Italy's dying olive trees with dogs', using dogs' extremely heightened sense of smell in order to detect *Xylella* in infected plants.

Photo credit: Agostino Petroni

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Where to find us next?

ICPP 2023
Lyon, France

BIOVEXO will participate in the 12th International Congress of Plant Pathology, to be held from 20-25 August 2023 in Lyon, France. BIOVEXO will be represented by the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) and Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR).

Learn More

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Visit BIOVEXO official website

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