



## **SAFWA** - *Alternative Biopesticides for **SAFe** Integrated Pest and **WA**ter Management around Mediterranean*

### **THE PROJECT**

SAFWA aims to release to the market an innovative solution combining a new competitive biopesticide to cultural trainings with the goal of mitigating land and water pollution through innovative agricultural methods. The specific challenge SAFWA faces aligning with EU regulations for registering safe biopesticides while fostering an agricultural environment that promotes reduced pollution of water and land resources. SAFWA's primary objective is to mitigate the risks associated with chemical pesticides. Additionally, SAFWA plans to train farmers on new agricultural practices across three experimental farms situated in the Mediterranean region (Tunisia, Spain, and Turkey). Biopesticides, based on two sporulating (BLB1, LIP) and one non sporulating (S22) *Bacillus thuringiensis* strains, will be used in the field assays to treat olive, citrus and pomegranate trees as well as tomato to protect these different cultures against five pest species.

### **SAFWA KICK OFF MEETING**

The Prima Safwa Project started in June 2023. The kick off Meeting took place at the Citrus Technical Center and Laboratoires MédiS in Tunisia. This project focuses on new biopesticides and agricultural practices to minimize the risk associated to chemical pesticides.



## PRIMA PROGRAM MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP

Our partner in SAFWA project, Baltasar Escriche from Universitat de València, attended the Prima Project Day in Sitges (Barcelona) which was held on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, in (Sitges) Barcelona.



## DAY OF DISSEMINATION AND EXPERIENCE SHARING FOR PRIMA PROJECTS

On March 5th, the Day of Dissemination and Experience Sharing for PRIMA Projects took place at CBS. This event, jointly organized by PRIMA projects SAFWA (LB-CBS/Coordinator) and AgrEcoMed (LBAP/Partner) with the PMO-CBS. The event brought together over fifty researchers from CBS and the University of Sfax. It was an insightful session filled with valuable information, feedback, and testimonials on PRIMA projects.



## PUBLICATIONS

We are pleased to highlight the first two publications stemming from our project. Both articles are authored by Elena Fusar and Michele F. Fontefrancesco from the University of Gastronomic Sciences (Pollenzo, Italy).

The first, titled ["Pesticide: A Contemporary Cultural Object"](#) delves into the social and cultural interpretations of pesticides in modern society. This narrative review explores the intricate connections between pesticide use and societal power dynamics, environmental risk perceptions, and cultural heritage. It underscores the role of pesticides as more than agricultural tools, offering insights into their complex socio-cultural implications.

The second publication, ["Trends in the Implementation of Biopesticides in the Euro-Mediterranean Region: A Narrative Literary Review"](#), addresses the urgent need for sustainable agricultural practices in response to global challenges. Focusing on Spain, Tunisia, and Turkey, the study examines the structural barriers to biopesticide adoption. Despite their ecological benefits, biopesticides face hurdles such as technical issues, market constraints, and regulatory challenges. The paper calls for comprehensive strategies involving farmers, producers, and regulators to enhance biopesticide availability and efficacy, promoting a shift towards sustainable pest management.

## PROGRESS MEETING AT THE UNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA JULY 8TH TO 9TH, 2024

The SAFWA project held its first Progress Meeting on July 8-9, 2024, at the Universitat de València. The agenda included WP updates on management, coordination, and scientific progress, as well as discussions on production, formulation, field assays, efficacy, and regulations. Key sessions addressed farmers' cultural practices, civil society engagement, communication, dissemination, and exploitation strategies. Participants reviewed past activities, planned upcoming events, and discussed strategies for sustainable agriculture. The meeting aimed to facilitate collaboration and ensure the project's continued success.







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