



Boosting functional biodiversity to maximize ecosystem services for Mediterranean crop production

The ECOBOOST project is celebrating its first year!

Dr. **Antonino Cusumano** from UNIPA (University of Palermo) organized the ECOBOOST kick-off meeting on October 17th, 2022 which was held in the aula magna “G.P. Ballatore” of the department of agricultural food and forest science (SAAF) at the University of Palermo, Italy. Although most of the participants were present in person, the meeting was held in hybrid mode to give the opportunity to interact also on-line



Collaborative activities between UGOE and DUTH

Dr. **Catalina Posada-Vergara** from prof. **Michael Rostas** 's group at UGOE (University of Gottingen) met prof. **Maria Pappas** and her team at DUTH (Democritus University of Thrace) in Greece last month, thrilled to be working on discovering local *Trichoderma* strains in soils of organic farms, potentially enhancing plant resistance to pests and diseases.



Surveys with farmers by IUAS

Prof. **Hasan Yilmaz** and his research team from IUAS (Isparta University of Applied Sciences) in Turkey are conducting a survey with farmers in order to carry out socio-economic analysis of the ECOBOOST project. In particular the survey conducted with tomato, pepper and eggplant farmers in Antalya province, which is the center of greenhouse production in Turkey, aimed to determine the level of knowledge of farmers about agro-ecological practices, their level of application as well as farmer's willingness to accept agroecological practices instead of conventional farming



Botanical survey of wild mediterranean plants by BPI

Benaki Phytopathological team conducted a botanical survey for suitable wild plant species to enhance plant and beneficial arthropod biodiversity in Solanaceous crops in Central Greece (Orchomenos-Voeotia and Marathonas-Attiki), spring 2023. See people in action during the field work



Rhizospheric Soil Sampling by UM5R



Prof. **Laila SBABOU** and her research team from the Laboratory of Microbiology and Molecular Biology at the Mohammed V University of Rabat in Morocco. They are conducting several samplings of Rhizospheric soil of Tomato at different stage of development. Pr. Laila SBABOU and PhD student Asmae HAMI did an info session of the project with several researchers of the IES Abroad visiting the Faculty of Science.



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