

Sustainable agricultural practices to prevent Xylella fastidiosa in intensive olive and almond systems

What is it?

Xylella fastidiosa is a pathogenic bacterium that causes diseases in different woody crops. This pathogen has alarmed the whole of Europe since its detection in 2013 in olive groves in southern Italy, where it has infected more than 1 million olive trees, causing Olive Quick Decline Syndrome (OQDS).

LIFE Resilience pursues sustainable	
solutions aimed at reducing the	esta
propagation capacity of XF in intensive	a
olive and almond plantations. An	disea
important pillar of the project will	ch
focus on breeding varieties resistant to	
XF. Likewise, agronomic factors will be	СО
identified that decrease the	р
propagation capacity of XF and other	mi
quarantine pathogens.	







This plan will contribute to the ablishment of sustainable agricultural nd forestry operations that favour ase control and adaptation to climate hange. LIFE Resilience will develop strategies to reduce the water nsumption and carbon footprint of production systems, increasing the tigation and adaptation potential of agriculture to climate change.

Evaluate crosses between olive varieties to obtain new genotypes resistant to XF. These new varieties will be an alternative crop for producers in areas potentially affected by XF, minimizing the risk of losses due to this pathogen. Additionally, these new genotypes will produce olive oils with distinctive organoleptic and quality profiles, increasing competitiveness in the sector.

To provide a model of best practices applicable to the cultivation of olive, almond and other woody crops such as citrus and vines in Europe, increasing their capacity to adapt to climate change.







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Objectives

Prevent and mitigate the spread of XF through a more resilient and sustainable quality production system.

Perform crosses between olive varieties, evaluate offspring and select potential new varieties resistant to XF. These new genotypes will constitute cultivation alternatives for the areas currently affected and an extremely valuable resource in the case of a hypothetical advance of the disease.

Demonstrate that sustainable farming practices, including natural vector control methods, will help prevent the spread of XF by making intensive plantations less vulnerable to attack by pests and diseases.

Project Actions

Involve multidisciplinary actors in a transnational cooperation that provides new strategies for the prevention of XF and the adoption of EU environmental policies.









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Project duration: 01/07/2018 - 30/06/2022

Identify best practices and sustainable technologies for intensive olive and almond cultivation (250 ha included in trials in Spain, Italy and Portugal). These practices should increase biodiversity and reduce water consumption, carbon footprint and the incidence of pests and diseases without compromising project exploitation performance.



