



1st DIGITAL NEWSLETTER



Why do we need BRESOV?



The increasing world population and the growing demand for a more sustainable agriculture in a climate and environmental change scenario will be the challenge of the next decades. Against this backdrop, **BRESOV** intends to support organic production by pre-breeding and breeding activities in order to increase the availability of organic seeds and varieties for organic vegetable production. **BRESOV** involves a consortium of partners from different countries in Europe, Africa and Asia and brings together researchers, private breeders, seed companies, farmers and interested groups from civil society organisations along the whole agronomic value chain.

The research will take advantage from various agro-climatic zones involved and from the multi-actor approach which will be developed by the cooperation among partners with different skills. **BRESOV** aims to implement the resilience, efficiency and sustainability of organic vegetable production not only by exploitation the wide agrobiodiversity, which is until now not well utilised for broccoli, snap beans and tomato, but also to adapt them to the innovative organic protocols supported by the use of bio-stimulants and natural bioactive compounds.

Prof. Ferdinando Branca, University of Catania

BRESOV in a Nutshell



Budget

€ 6 Mio.



Duration

48 months



22 partners

13 countries



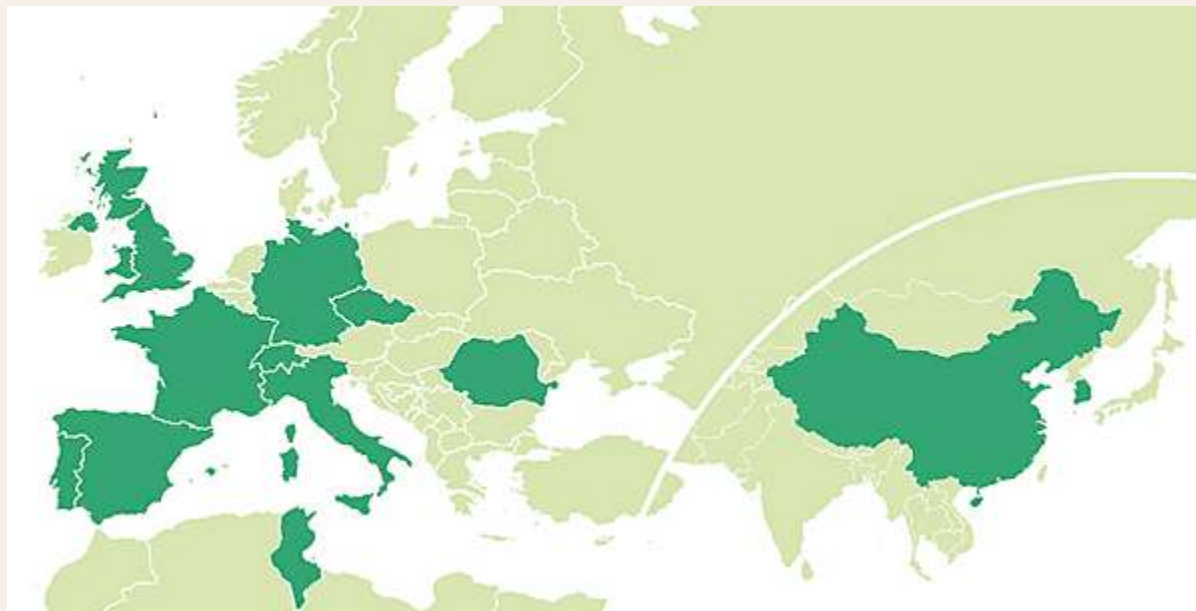
Multi crops

3 BRESOV crops

BRESOV (Breeding for Resilient, Efficient and Sustainable Organic Vegetable production) is a 4-year project which received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It started in May 2018 and involves 22 partners from the EU and beyond.

BRESOV aims to tackle the nutritional challenges of a growing world population and changing climatic conditions by enhancing productivity of different vegetable crops in an organic and sustainable farming infrastructure. **BRESOV** works on broccoli, snap bean and tomato as those staple vegetable crops have significant roles in meeting our global food and nutritional security goal, and under organic conditions can contribute to storing carbon and introducing nitrogen improving organic soil quality.

- Learn more about **BRESOV**: **Factsheet**
- Discover **BRESOVs' Partners**
- See all the **BRESOV** scientific **Publications**



Improving the competitiveness of bean, broccoli and tomatoes in an organic environment

Organic production is an overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental and climate action practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources and the application of high production standards in line with the demand of a growing number of consumers.

Over the last decade, organic food and farming has continued to grow year after year across Europe. The total organic agricultural area in the EU-28 was 11.9 million hectares in 2016 and that is still expected to grow in the coming years. From 2012 to 2016, the share of organic area in the total agricultural area within the EU rose from 5.6% to 6.7%. The vegetable sector represents a minor part of the organic area: 145.639 hectares in 2015.

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Latest News

Where has the BRESOV team been?

BRESOV 1st Annual Progress Meeting



BRESOV at 1st Annual Progress Meeting in Ancona, Italy.

From 18-20 June 2019 the **BRESOV** consortium gathered for its 1st Annual Progress Meeting in Ancona (Italy). The meeting was hosted by the **BRESOV** partner Prof. Roberto Papa of the Polytechnic University of Marche (UNIVPM). During the meeting the group discussed the progress, status quo and outlook in the scientific work packages and respective crop groups. On 20 June 2019 the consortium partners met with local farmers and agronomists from the Marche region to discuss breeding and management strategies to provide climate-resilient cultivars addressed to organic vegetable production systems.

Further information about the meeting is **available here**.

BRESOV at LIVESEED 2nd project meeting



BRESOV at LIVESEED 2nd annual meeting.

The **BRESOV** coordinator attended the second annual project meeting of the sister project LIVESEED, taking place in Zelechow, Poland, on 14-16 May 2019.

BRESOV meets farmers in Valencia

On 16 April 2019 **BRESOV** partner Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) met with 25 farmers from the Valencia region to discuss the enhancement and establishment an association of farmers of a local tomato variety (Valencian tomato).



BRESOV meets farmers in Valencia.

BRESOV at EUGrainLeg Activity meeting, Bucharest

BRESOV was presented on 10 April 2019 in Bucharest in the frame of the meeting of the EUGrainLeg project funded by European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR).



EUGrainLeg Activity meeting.

BRESOV at EUGrainLeg Activity meeting, Bucharest

The ECPGR workshop, organised on 2-3 April 2019 in Durres, Albania, was focusing on the establishment of a European Evaluation Network (EVA) on vegetable crop. General information about the **BRESOV** project and the ongoing genotypization/phenotypization activities in tomato were presented.

ESA Section on Vegetables welcomes BRESOV

BRESOV was presented at the ESA section on Vegetables, meeting in Brussels on 12 March. The presentation focused on the project status for high quality organic seed production activities.

BRESOV made it to the Tunisian Association of biological sciences



BRESOV presented in Tunisia.

On 25-28 March 2019 the project coordinator Professor Ferdinando Branca from University of Catania UNICT gave a presentation of the progress of **BRESOV** at the meeting days of Tunisian Association of biological sciences.

BRESOV at ESA Research and Innovation Working Groups

BRESOV coordinator presented the latest developments of the project at the Working Group on Research and Innovation at ESA on 20 February 2019.

Joint Projects' Meeting: BRESOV, LIVESEED, ECOBREED

BRESOV project coordinator was invited to the joint projects' meeting with LIVESEED and ECOBREED to discuss synergies and common challenges and opportunities. The meeting took place in Brussels on 21 February 2019.

University of Liverpool shows Brassica crop collection Victoria Gallery and Museum



BRESOV crop collection at the Victoria Gallery and Museum.

On 21 February 2019, the group of Dr. Peter Walley (University of Liverpool) were at the Victoria Gallery and Museum to showcase a display of cultivated brassica crops, and their crop wild relatives to demonstrate how over many years the weedy *Brassica oleracea* crop wild relatives have been domesticated and bred into so many different vegetables through selection.

BRESOV at BIOFACH, Germany 13-16 February

BIOFACH is the world's leading trade fair for organic food. At this year's fair there was a special organic breeding exhibition "Organic right from the start", where various organisations presented their work initiatives. **BRESOV** was also represented with its partner projects LIVESEED and ECOBREED. During many talks and discussion at the BIOFACH Congress there was a clear focus on organic breeding and seeds especially in view of the new organic regulation to discuss the basis for organic production through high quality and organically bred seeds.



BRESOV at BIOFACH fair.

News from the fields

Sowing of tomato in France and Switzerland

On 18 March 2019 **BRESOV** partners Terre d'Essais and FiBL have sown tomato seeds as part of their project activities in order to determine optimal agronomic conditions for organic seed production.



Sowing of tomato in France and Switzerland.

Broccoli variety trial in Switzerland

In April, **BRESOV** partner FiBL planted 12 varieties of broccoli in order to evaluate them and select the best varieties for the multi-site on farm trials starting in 2020.



Broccoli variety trial in Switzerland.

Starting of a tomato trial in France and Switzerland



Starting of a tomato trial in Brittany, France.

In April, **BRESOV** partner Terre d'Essais started a tomato trial on its site in Brittany, France. FiBL started the same trial on-farm in Therwil, Switzerland. The trial is performed as part of **BRESOV's** work to evaluate the effect of formulations of microorganisms and local compost on crop performance of tomato.



Starting of a tomato trial in Therwil, France.

Transplant of tomato in Spain

On 11 March 2019 **BRESOV** partner UPV transplanted the core collection and breeding set tomato materials in an organic field in Catarroja (Valencia) in order to perform their characterization. Plants are growing at full blast!



Transplant of tomato in Spain.

BRESOV project in full swing in Sicily

Project partners UNICT and ITAKA, both located in Sicily, are performing experiments to determine the optimal agronomic conditions for high seed production in tomato, brassica and snap bean. Since December 2018, brassica plants are growing in a greenhouse near Vittoria and on field on Catania's plain (Belpasso) and the effects of different plant densities and of plant nutrition on seed production are under evaluation. Cauliflower, broccoli, kale and savoy cabbage cultivars were flowering a few weeks ago and will soon be harvested. UNICT has also started the phenotyping and genotyping of Brassica core collection for water stress.



BRESOV project in full swing in Sicily.

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What's next?

- August 2019: **ERFA Days by FiBL will host BRESOV presentation**
- 13-15 September 2019: **BRESOV** presentation at XVI Solanaceae Conference (SOL2019) in Jerusalem, Israel
- 13-15 October 2019: **BRESOV** presented at **ESA annual meeting**
- 20-26 March 2020: **14th European Farming Systems Conference** (IFSA – European Group)
- 5-8 October 2020: **BRESOV at ISHS III International Organic Fruit Symposium and I International Organic Vegetable Symposium**



III International Organic Fruit Symposium and I International Organic Vegetable Symposium
Catania (Italy), October 5-8, 2020

The ISHS III International Organic Fruit Symposium and I International Organic Vegetable Symposium will take place in Catania on 5-8 October 2020 organized by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment (Di3A) of the University of Catania. The OrgHort 2020 Symposium will define a short, medium- and long-term vision for improving organic farming agroecology and organic food chains, and will establish an active international network involving all the stakeholders interested in a very actual topic.

Further information about the symposium and registration is [available here](#).

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