Objectives

Contribute to the early diagnosis of HLB by developing a marketable early detection kit.

To test new rootstocks resistant to pathogens and tolerant to heat that can be adapted to the production of Mediterranean citrus and thus increase the resilience of the plants.

Demonstrate effective techniques to control the spread of vectors and increase defense throughout the ecosystem with sustainable agricultural practices, while providing other environmental benefits.

Promote international cooperation and involve the EU's outermost regions in strategies Create a replicable model of agricultural practices for vector / disease prevention for citrus producers in the EU, while increasing their capacity to adapt to climate change.

PARTNERS

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LIFE VIDA FOR CITRUS

Life for Citrus

Development of sustainable control strategies for citrus under the threat of climate change for the prevention of the entry of HLB into the EU

This project is co-financed by the European Union through the LIFE Programme
LIFE18 CCA/ES/0001109

Citrus fruits are vulnerable to a disease called Huanlongbing (HLB) or “citrus greening”, caused by Candidatus Liberibacter spp, a bacterium that is spread by insects. One of these vector insects, the African citrus psyllid (Trioza erytreae), has already been found in Spain and Portugal. This disease currently has no known cure and current means of control have a high environmental cost.

Life Vida For Citrus was born with the aim of developing a kit for the early detection of the disease as well as developing plants resistant to this disease while promoting the use of improved cultivation practices. Life For Citrus plans to develop practices in nine citrus farms in four countries: Portugal, France, Italy and Spain.

The project will save 1,000 tonnes of CO2 and sensitize 450,000 people across the EU.

Actions

New rootstock testing

Selection and evaluation of at least 3-4 new disease-tolerant citrus rootstocks.

Get a combination of tolerant + productive rootstocks.

Generate a potential for replication of the process with other crop species.

Contribute to the development of best management practices in both agricultural production systems and cities

Limit the transmission of the disease through vectors: increase biodiversity and effectiveness with auxiliary flora and fauna.

Increase soil and plant health: Use of beneficial microorganisms / biostimulants. Use of ground covers.

Production efficiency: Better management of soil and phytosanitary products.

Consolidate natural vector control methods

Development of the early detection kit.

Implement on a large scale, production systems and cities.

Map vector behavior and distribution and share knowledge through technology.

Impact

Increased resistance: Rootstocks and stronger plant ecosystems to combat pests, pathogens and the effects of climate change.

Food security: New types of plants compatible with sustainable production systems.

Greater sustainability: Lower carbon footprint, soil improvement, and increased biodiversity. Implement on a large scale, production systems and cities.

Map vector behavior and distribution and share knowledge through technology.