Hello

Welcome to the July edition of the CROPSAFE newsletter. This month we bring you highlights from our General Assembly in Alicante, our participation in EUBCE, updates from the blog, and a new project video.

## Highlights from EUBCE

In May, our colleagues from Universidad de Alicante represented CROPSAFE at the 34th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition in The Hague - the world's leading forum on biomass and the circular bioeconomy, bringing together over 1,400 researchers, industry leaders and policymakers from 63 countries.

EUBCE spans the full breadth of sustainable biomass use, from energy and materials to chemicals and beyond. Within that landscape, Dr María Gutiérrez-Pozo and Elena Georgiana Tane made the case for crop protection as a compelling and underexplored application — presenting research on valorising spruce bark, and turning forest, marine and coffee biomass into antifungal bioactives to tackle banana Fusarium wilt.

Visit our website to find out more about the results we presented.









Read more

## Our General Assembly meeting – latest project progress and next steps




In June, the CROPSAFE consortium came together in Alicante for our annual general assembly - three days of shared work, honest conversations, and the kind of progress that's much easier when you're in the same room.

What we got done:

🔬 This was our first in-person meeting since completing our bioactive down-selection milestone in March, and we took the opportunity to do a deep review of our results and plans across all our research workstreams — from biomass extraction to bioactive screening. Key decisions were made about the next phase of bioactive scale-up, formulation and greenhouse testing.

📋 Our field trials are scheduled to start next year and that means we have a lot of parallel workstreams that need to converge at the right moment. We're on track, and we left Alicante with a clear, shared picture of what needs to happen when to keep it that way.

🌐 We deepened our connections with sister projects ZELDA and OlinWASTE, strengthening the collaborative fabric of the wider EU research community tackling sustainable agriculture challenges.

Being in Alicante also gave us the chance to explore two agricultural sites that stayed with us. At the Elche agricultural test station, we visited an extraordinary pomegranate collection — a living library of varieties and research in progress. And at a nearby palm orchard, we saw historical agroforestry principles in practice: tall palms creating shade and humidity through their irrigation networks, fruiting trees growing beneath them, leafier

crops beneath those — a centuries-old example of working with a landscape's natural logic rather than against it. A fitting reminder of what inspires the work we do.

## Blog spotlight

They'reinvisible tothe eye but cost agriculture over $100 billion a year. Our recent blog post digs into the biology of root-knot nematodes — and how CROPSAFE is developing bio-sourced compounds to help tomato growers fight back.

Root-knot nematode blog



## IPM in focus: insights from our Alicante seminar day

Overcoming barriers to biobased pesticide adoption

As part of our General Assembly in Alicante last month, we hosted a dedicated IPM seminar day - bringing together seven researchers and practitioners from across the world to share their work on the pests and diseases at the heart of the CROPSAFE project.

The sessions covered a remarkable breadth of ground: from the molecular mechanics of fungal infection, to the practical realities of nematode management in commercial farming, to the experience of taking a biocontrol product to market in Nicaragua. What connected them was a shared conviction that effective, sustainable crop protection demands genuine biological understanding - of the pathogen, the host plant, and the wider ecosystem they're both part of.

We've brought the key themes together in a new article on the CROPSAFE website.

Full article here










# Dates for the diary




CROPSAFE will be represented at the 13th World Potato Congress in Kenya, in October 2026 by Dr James Price from the James Hutton Institute. James will be presenting on the topic of "PCN: Integration of Research and Policy".

Registration is still open if you'd like to join us there.

https://potatocongress.org

https://wpc2026kenya.com/registration

We've got lots of updates planned for our website over the coming months - look out for upcoming articles on potato cyst nematode, banana weevil and fusarium wilt to find out more about our target pests.

Also coming soon: our first CROPSAFE project video - a two-minute introduction to the mission, the science, and the team behind our project. Watch out for it on our website and LinkedIn next month.

# Thank you

Thank you for your continued support as we work toward safer, more sustainable crop protection. If you want to keep up to date with our project and mission, follow us on LinkedIn for regular updates.