

Preventing *Meloidogyne graminicola* spread in European rice paddies (Melorisk)



Funding

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Research consortium

INIAV (PT), UoC (PT), AGES (AT), ILVO (BE), BFSA (BG), CREA (IT), NVWA (NL), MAFF (SI), Phytus (BR), CNR (IT), UNINA (IT), Cleardetections (NL), UB (ES), EOU (TR)

Goals

Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is the most important cereal crop worldwide since it provides food security for more than half of the world's human population. Root knot nematodes, *Meloidogyne* spp., and particularly *M. graminicola*, are serious pests of rice. Since its detection in 2016, in the Piedmont region, *M. graminicola* has further spread to other Italian regions, such as Lombardy. However, until now, it has not been recorded in other European countries. The aim of the project is to support countries to prepare for and manage *M. graminicola*.

Contact information

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Objectives

The objectives of the project are:

- To increase knowledge on the molecular dialogue established between the pest and the host plant
- To increase knowledge on risk pathways
- To monitor fields of rice and other crops (wheat, soy, corn, barley) for the presence/prevalence of *M. graminicola*
- To develop fast and reliable diagnostic tests that could be used in the laboratory and in the field
- To develop and/or validate strategies for the sustainable management of the nematodes.

Key outputs and results

The main expected project results are:

- Maps on the presence and distribution of the nematode in the partner countries
- Validated morphological/morphometrical, biochemical and molecular methods for the detection and identification of *M. graminicola*
- Validated strategies for pest management.