

Improving knowledge, skills and capacity building to ensure plant health in more sustainable agricultural systems

Collaborative research and knowledge sharing on basic substances as an environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic plant protection products for plant protection

Gianfranco Romanazzi - Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy
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Date

June

5



3-11 June 2023

**#EUGreenWeek
PARTNER EVENT**

In 2015, the UN Member States adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Agenda 2030



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Farm to Fork Strategy

For a fair, healthy and
environmentally-friendly
food system

#EUGreenDeal

Ask question at [slido.com](https://www.slido.com)
with [#PlantHealth_GW2023](https://twitter.com/PlantHealth_GW2023)

WITHIN 2030:

+25% organic agriculture

**-50% food waste (including fresh
fruit and vegetables)**

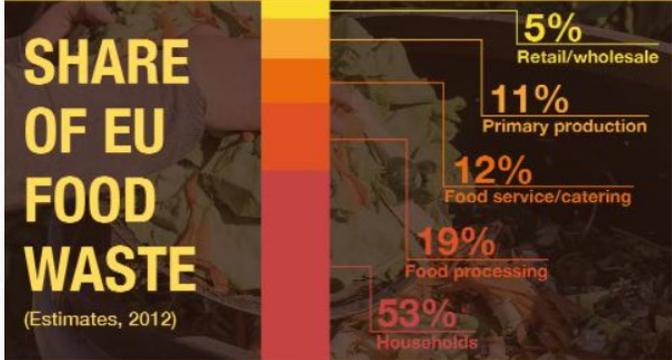
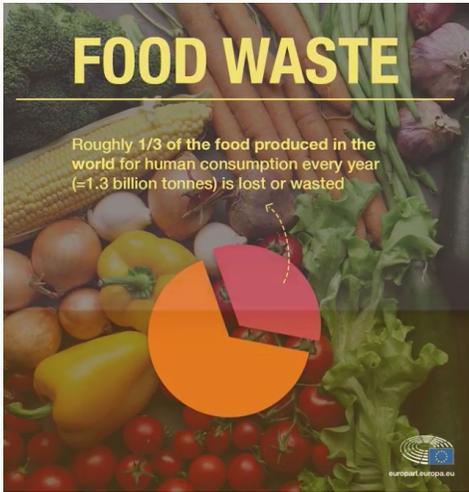
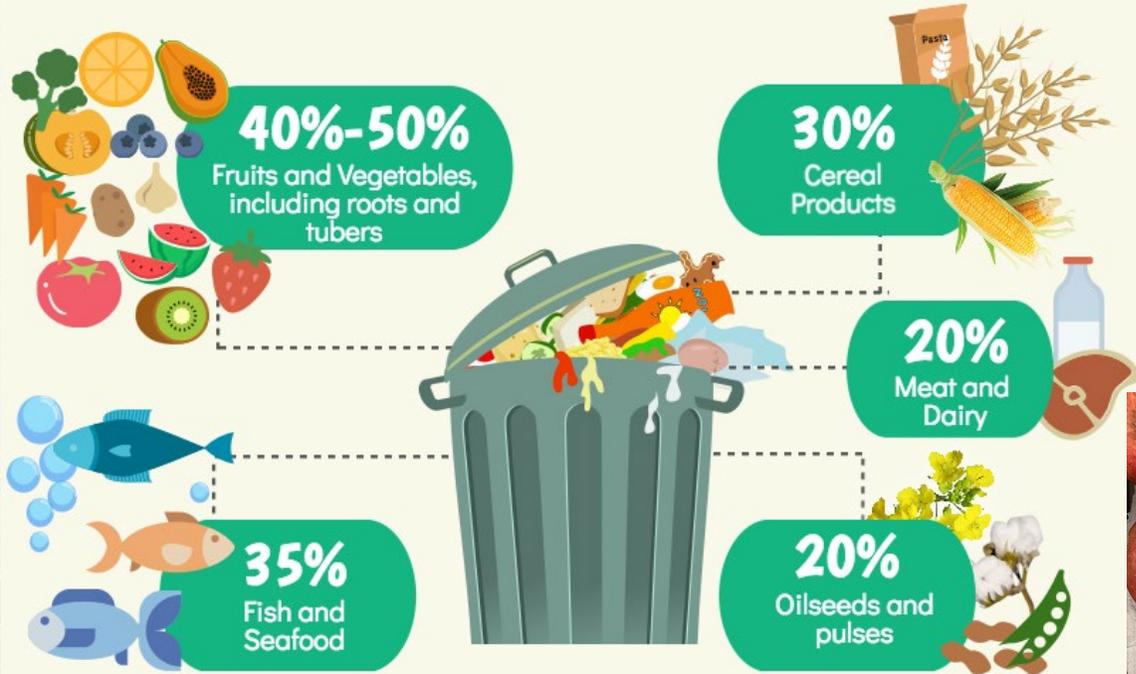


-50% use of synthetic pesticides

Annual loss and waste along the food chain

(occurring during harvest, post-harvest, distribution, processing and/or distribution)

source: FAO



www.stopmedwaste.net

[StopMedWaste1](#)

[StopMedWaste](#)

[StopMedWaste](#)

[StopMedWaste](#)

[StopMedWaste](#)

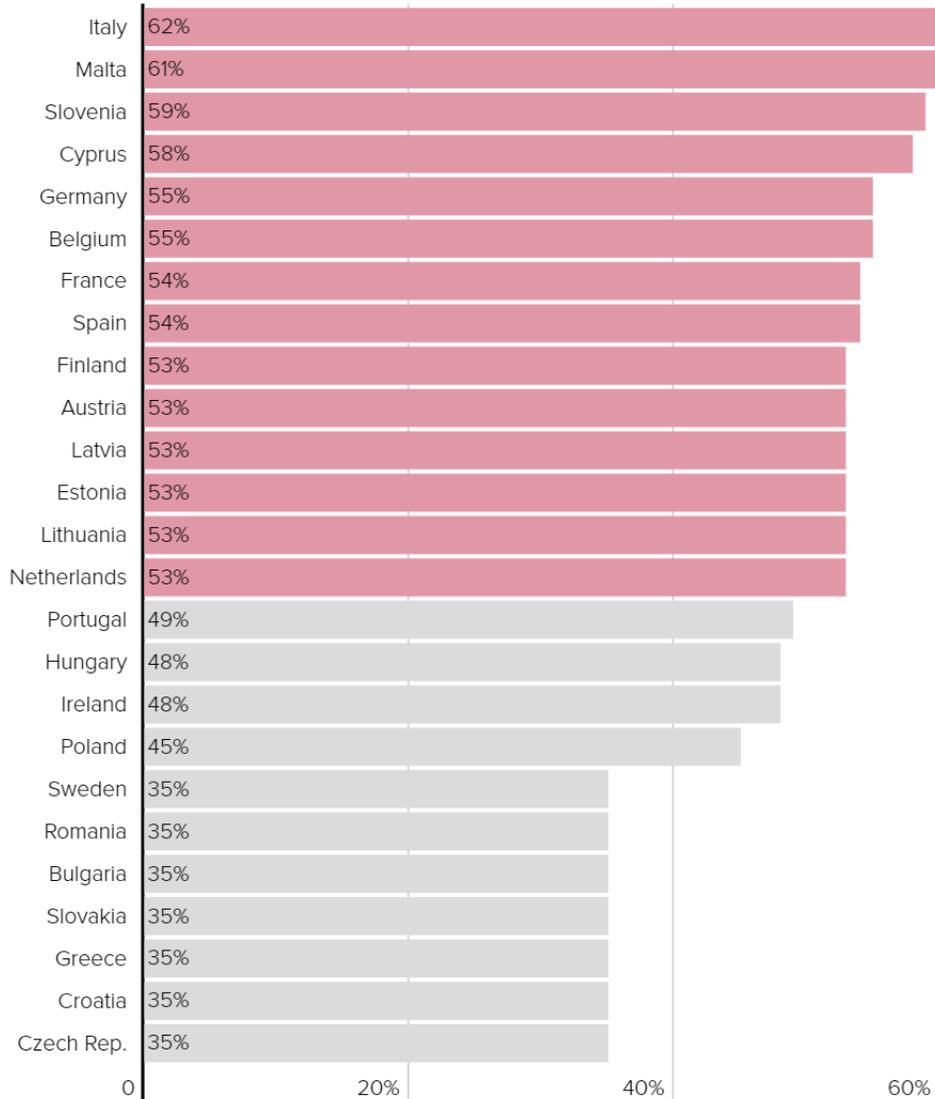


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REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/215

Overall use and risk of chemical pesticides



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Review

Basic Substances, a Sustainable Tool to Complement and Eventually Replace Synthetic Pesticides in the Management of Pre and Postharvest Diseases: Reviewed Instructions for Users

Gianfranco Romanazzi ^{1,*}, Yann Orçonneau ², Marwa Moumni ¹, Yann Davillerd ² and Patrice André Marchand ²

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Abstract: Synthetic pesticides are widely used to protect crops from pathogens and pests, especially for fruits and vegetables, and this may lead to the presence of residues on fresh produce. Improving the sustainability of agriculture and, at the same time, reducing the adverse effects of synthetic pesticides on human health requires effective alternatives that improve the productivity while maintaining the food quality and safety. Moreover, retailers increasingly request fresh produce with the amounts of pesticides largely below the official maximum residue levels. Basic substances are relatively novel compounds that can be used in plant protection without neurotoxic or immune-toxic effects and are still poorly known by phytosanitary consultants (plant doctors), researchers, growers, consumers, and decision makers. The focus of this review is to provide updated information about 24 basic substances currently approved in the EU and to summarize in a single document their properties and instructions for users. Most of these substances have a fungicidal activity (calcium hydroxide, chitosan, chitosan hydrochloride, *Equisetum arvense* L., hydrogen peroxide, lecithins, cow milk, mustard seed powder, *Salix* spp., sunflower oil, sodium chloride, sodium hydrogen carbonate, *Urtica* spp., vinegar, and whey). Considering the increasing requests from consumers of fruits and vegetables for high quality with no or a reduced amount of pesticide residues, basic substances can complement and, at times, replace the application of synthetic pesticides with benefits for users and for consumers. Large-scale trials are important to design the best dosage and strategies for the application of basic substances against pathogens and pests in different growing environments and contexts.

Citation: Romanazzi, G.; Orçonneau, Y.; Moumni, M.; Davillerd, Y.; Marchand, P.A. Basic Substances, a Sustainable Tool to Complement and Eventually Replace Synthetic Pesticides in the Management of Pre and Postharvest Diseases: Reviewed Instructions for Users. *Molecules* **2022**, *27*, 3484. <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules27113484>

Academic Editor: James Barker

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Table 5. Examples of requests from the retailer of the amount of the Maximum Residue Level (MRL) and Acute reference doses (ARfD).

Retailer	Max. %MRL/Active Substance	Max. Sum %MRL/Sample	Max. %ARfD/Active Substance	Max. Sum %ARfD/Sample	Max. Number of Active Substances /Samples
ALDI/HOFER 	70%	80%	70%	80%	3–5
ALBERT HEIJN 	50%	-	50%	-	-
ASDA 	80%	-	-	-	-
BILLA 	100%	-	100%	-	-
DOHLA 	-	70%	-	70%	3–5
EDEKA 	70%	-	100%	-	5
EDEKA OWN BRANDS 	50%	-	70%	-	5
GLOBUS 	70%	-	70%	100%	5
LIDL 	33.3%	80%	100%	-	5
KAUFLAND 	33.3%	80%	50%	50%	5
NORMA 	-	70%	-	70%	5
METRO 	50%	80%	70%	100%	5
MIGROS 	-	-	-	-	6
NETTO 	70%	-	100%	-	5
REWE 	50%	100%	70%	100%	5
REWE OWN BRANDS 	50%	100%	50%	-	5
TEGUT 	70%	-	70%	-	Max. 4 (>0.01 mg/kg)
TENGEL MANN 	70%	150%	70%	100%	-

How we can measure the amount of pesticides to decrease the risk?

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NOT ALL PESTICIDES HAVE THE SAME WEIGHT

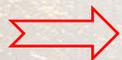
Low-risk active substances		Other compounds		Candidates for substitution		Provisional authorization
A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Microrganisms	Chemical compounds	Microrganisms	Chemical compounds	List n. 1	List n. 2	
20 (3 IT)	13 (7 IT)	48 IT	359 IT	71 IT	12 IT	?
1		8		16		64

Basic substances are not included into the list

Article 51

Extension of authorisations for minor uses

1. The authorisation holder, official or scientific bodies involved in agricultural activities, professional agricultural organisations or professional users may ask for the authorisation of a plant protection product already authorised in the Member State concerned to be extended to minor uses not yet covered by that authorisation.



Provisional authorization

European Commission > Food, farming, fisheries > Food Safety > Plants > Pesticides > EU Pesticides database

Search Active substances, safeners and synergists

Search options

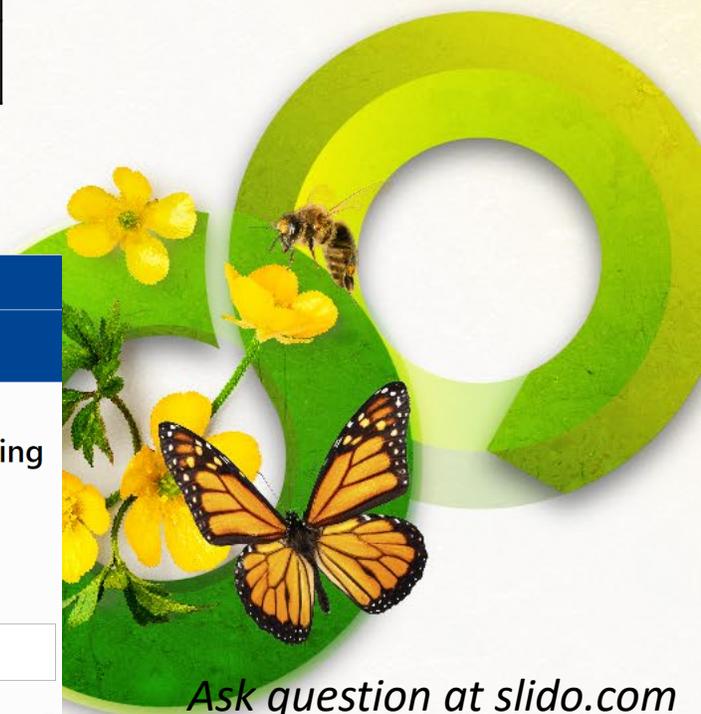
Category:

Type:
 Basic substance
 Low risk Active substance
 Candidate for Substitution

Active substances, safeners and synergists (1464 matching records)

[Export Active substances](#)

(4Z-9Z)-7,9-Dodecadien-1-ol NOT APPROVED



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1. Content of the 'Topic Description' document

1.1. Topic area

Management of pests/vectors

1.2. Links to the Euphresco Strategic Research Agenda

The topic addresses the following objective(s) of the 2017-2022 Euphresco Strategic Research Agenda (*Please keep only relevant objectives*).

- Objective 2017-R-3.1: to identify and evaluate (horizontal) risk reduction options (effectiveness, feasibility and cost)
- Objective 2017-R-7.1: to validate cost-effective and socially acceptable phytosanitary measures for consignments (pre-border and at border)
- Objective 2017-R-7.2: to validate cost-effective and socially acceptable phytosanitary measures at the place of production (inland) for plants, plant products, water and soil

1.3. Topic title

Basic substances as an environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic pesticides for plant protection (BasicS) (*Objective 2017-R-7.1+ -R-7.2 + 2020-C-353*)

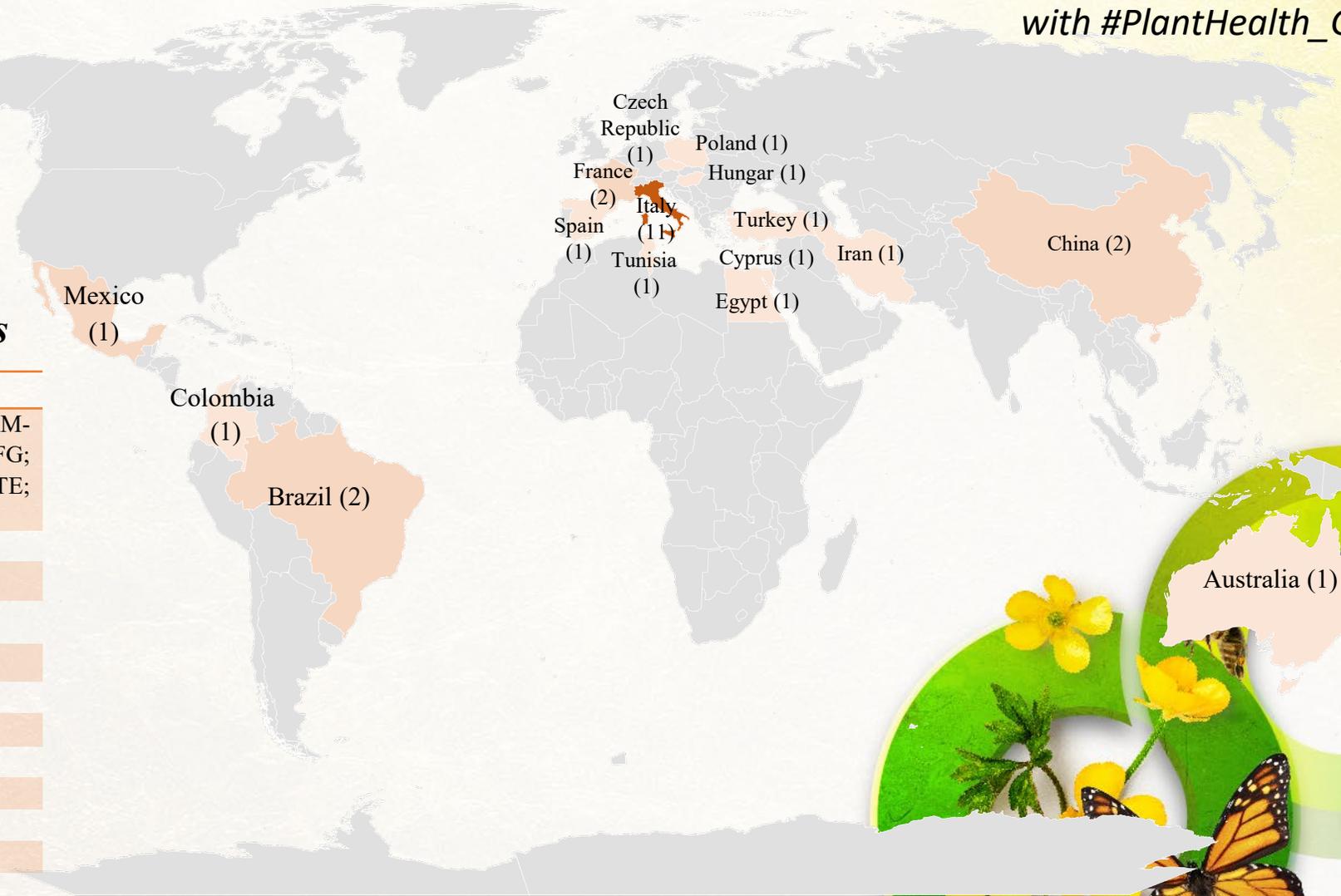


May 2021 - August 2023

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30 Research Units, 16 Countries

Country	Research units
Italy	UNIVPM; CREA; CIHEAM-Bari; UNIBA; UNIBO; UNIFG; UNIMI; UNINA; UNITE; UNITO; UNIVR
France	ITAB; EPPO
Australia	NSW
Brazil	UEL; UNESP
China	SZPT; SCAU
Cyprus	CUT
Colombia	UDA
Czech Republic	CRI
Egypt	ARC
Hungary	UNIDEB
Iran	AZAD
Mexico	NPI; ITT
Poland	IPP
Spain	CSIC
Tunisia	INRAT
Turkey	UE



Number of research units  1 11



Budget 618 kEuro (in kind)

EUPHRESKO BASICS ACTIVITIES

WORK PACKAGE TITLE (WP)	LEADER	CO-LEADER
WP0: Project management and co-ordination	UNIVPM (IT)	
WP1: Review on applications of basic substances*	UNIVPM (IT)	NPI (MX)
WP2: Review on the applications of potential basic substances*	UNIVPM (IT)	NSW (AU)
WP3: Testing basic substances and potential basic substances to manage diseases and pests in the field*	UNIMI (IT)	ARC (EG)
WP4: Testing basic substances and potential basic substances to manage postharvest diseases and pests*	UNIBA (IT)	UNIVPM (IT)
WP5: Testing basic substances and potential basic substances to manage seedborne pathogens and pests*	CREA (IT)	INRAT (TU)
WP6: Investigation on mechanisms of action of basic substances*	CSIC (ES)	UNIVR (IT)
WP7: Drawing reports for approval or extension of use	ITAB (FR)	UNIDEB (HU)
WP8: Drawing reports for EPPO	ITAB (FR)	UNIVPM (IT)
WP9: Communication of project activities	UNIVPM (IT)	EPPO (Int)

**in progress review of the state of the art on applications of BS and PBS*



The phytosanitary purpose is secondary for basic substances, since they are product with foodstuff properties and have a side effect in the control of plant pests and pathogens

Some basic substances (e.g., vinegar, sodium bicarbonate, chitosan, nettle extract) have already been tested for plant disease management



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 Open Access
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Citation: Marchand et al., 2021. BasicS, an Eupresco international network on renewable natural substances for durable crop protection products. Chronicle of Bioresource Management 5(3), 077-080.

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Conflict of interests: The authors have declared that no conflict of interest exists.

Keywords:

Basic substances, biopesticides, biocontrol agents, international project

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Review

Basic Substances, a Sustainable Tool to Complement and Eventually Replace Synthetic Pesticides in the Management of Pre and Postharvest Diseases: Reviewed Instructions for Users

Gianfranco Romanazzi ^{1,*}, Yann Orçonneau ², Marwa Moumni ¹, Yann Davillerd ² and Patrice André Marchand ²

<https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules27113484>

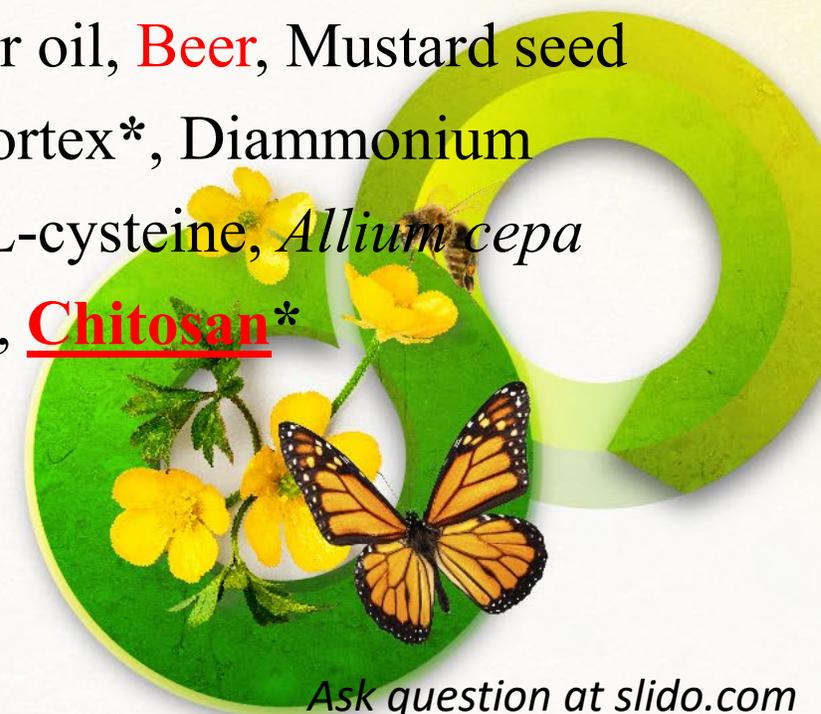
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Basic substances

Calcium hydroxide, *Equisetum arvense* extract*, Chitosan hydrochloride*, Sucrose*, Vinegar, Fructose*, Cow milk*, *Urtica* spp. extract*, Sunflower oil, Beer, Mustard seed powder, Onion oil, Sodium hydrogen carbonate*, Salix cortex*, Diammonium phosphate, Hydrogen peroxide*, Sodium chloride*, Whey*, L-cysteine, *Allium cepa* extract, Lecithins*, Talc E553b, Clayed charcoal*, Chitosan*

**8 BASIC SUBSTANCES OUT OF 24 CAN
BE USED ON STRAWBERRIES
(*13 ON GRAPEVINE)**



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BasicS

Euphresco Project

Chitin related food science today (and two centuries ago)



THE DISCOVERY OF CHITIN (IN A BOTANIC GARDEN).

In 1807 Henry Braconnot was appointed director of the Botanic Garden and Professor of Natural History in Nancy. The four-century old University of Nancy, as well as the University of Strasbourg, had been suppressed by the Assemblée Générale, and in Nancy the Medical School and the Academy were the only learned structures. Actually, the Garden and the Chair were part of the Medical School because of the interest in official plants. Those years were crucial for the connections between botany, chemistry and medicine. For example, morphine was isolated by Serturmer in 1806, quinine was discovered by Pelletier and Caventon in 1823 and atropine was crystallized in 1833. The discovery of the anaesthetic action of nitrous oxide, diethyl ether and chloroform started a revolution in surgery. Braconnot had access to very modest means for doing research, also due to the continental embargo consequent to the Napoleon's wars. Nevertheless, while taking care of the heavily damaged Garden discovered chitin in 1811 started large scale cultivation of the sugar beet and the extraction and purification of sugar with the intention of alleviating food shortage. This activity was abruptly put to an end by the changed political situation which permitted to import sugar from tropical countries. He went on, however, with his idea of extracting sugars from plants and remarkably anticipated the modern approaches by directing attention to *Heliantus tuberosus* from which inulin is extracted today. Braconnot was interested in the definition of the nutritional value of mushrooms. Braconnot wrote that poor countrymen considered mushrooms a manna given free as a gift of providence, and eagerly waited for the mushroom seasons. Today *Agaricus bisporus* is widely cultivated. Systematic sulfuric acid treatment of a large number of substances led him to isolate two amino acids, glycine and leucine, in 1820. This discovery brought a certain renown to him. The direction of the Garden and the relevant problems (risky use of gas for heating the hothouses, fights against military plans to build caserns inside the Garden) prevented Braconnot from exploiting his chemical discoveries. He was a precursor of Chevreul with his studies on fats, but he had no means to identify the fatty acids; he brought forward the idea of plant alkali but he could not isolate the alkaloids. On the theoretical ground, he expressed the view that hydrogen and oxygen together with fire were the fundamental constituents of the universe, and plants can produce a number of elements from light and water. Braconnot published 112 papers in the form of memoirs of the Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts of Nancy, also known as Academy of Stanislas, the King of Polish origin who ruled the Lorraine region. Other publications are in the *Annales de Chimie et Physique* and *Journal de Chimie Medicale*. He was also

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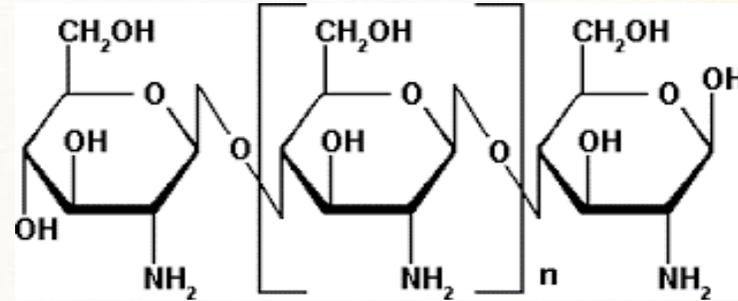
appointed corresponding member of the national Académie des Sciences, after Wollaston. Braconnot certainly was an eminent chemist, as D.A. Codron, his successor, wrote, but he profused many energies in botany. Actually his teaching was according to Linnée, in a time period when novel theories on cellular structure, plant sexuality and alternate generations were being brought forward, as a consequence of the studies done on enormous collections of previously unknown plants. For instance the Flinders expedition (1801) made available 4000 unknown species of plants from Australia. In 1852 the 14,100 m² Garden had 3452 plants species, including some from New Zealand and Reunion Island provided by Empress Josephine. Braconnot took into account the novel views in botany, but dimmed sight forced him to refrain from teaching for several years before retirement. He left everything to the City of Nancy. The discovery of chitin was essentially based on some reactions carried out on raw material isolated from *Agaricus volucaeus*, *A. acris*, *A. cantarelus*, *A. piperatus*, *Hydnum repandum*, *H. hybridum* and *Boletus viscidus*. The existence of chitosan in nature remained unknown until 1954, when it was discovered in the yeast *Phycomyces blakesleezens*. Chitosan occurs as the major structural component of the cell walls of certain fungi, mainly of the *Zygomycetes* species. However, to date, chitosans have been commercially produced by alkaline deacetylation of crustacean chitins.

MODERN APPLICATIONS OF CHITOSAN IN FOOD SCIENCES

Antibacterial Activity

The antibacterial activity of chitosan was originally documented by Muzzarelli et al. (1990) who published electron micrographs showing the alterations produced in the bacterial cell wall and organelles. Those results were brilliantly confirmed more than a decade later by Helander et al (2001). Chemical and electrophoretic analyses of cell-free supernatants of chitosan-treated cell suspensions showed that interaction of chitosan with *E. coli* and the salmonellae involved no release of lipopolysaccharide or other membrane lipids. Highly cationic mutants of *S. Typhimurium* were more resistant to chitosan than the parent strains. Electron microscopy showed that chitosan caused extensive cell surface alterations and covered the outer membrane with vesicular structures. Chitosan thus appeared to bind to the outer membrane, explaining the loss of the barrier function. This property makes chitosan useful for food protection (Helander et al., 2001). It was also found that the antibacterial activity of quaternized chitosan against *E. coli* is stronger than that of chitosan (Jia et al., 2001). The antibacterial activity may be either bactericidal or

What's chitosan?



Chitosan is a natural biopolymer obtained from deacetylation of crab shells or extracted from fungi (e.g. *Aspergillus* sp.) with threefold activity

Antimicrobial properties (35-45%)



Eliciting properties (30-40%)

Film-forming properties (20-30%)

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Special Highlight: Chitin/Chitosan | KNOX/Infodiv | University of Marche | September/October 2003



Chitosan, a Biopolymer With Triple Action on Postharvest Decay of Fruit and Vegetables: Eliciting, Antimicrobial and Film-Forming Properties

Gianfranco Romanazzi^{1*}, Erica Feliziani¹ and Dharini Sivakumar²

¹ Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy, ² Department of Crop Sciences, Postharvest Technology Group, Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa

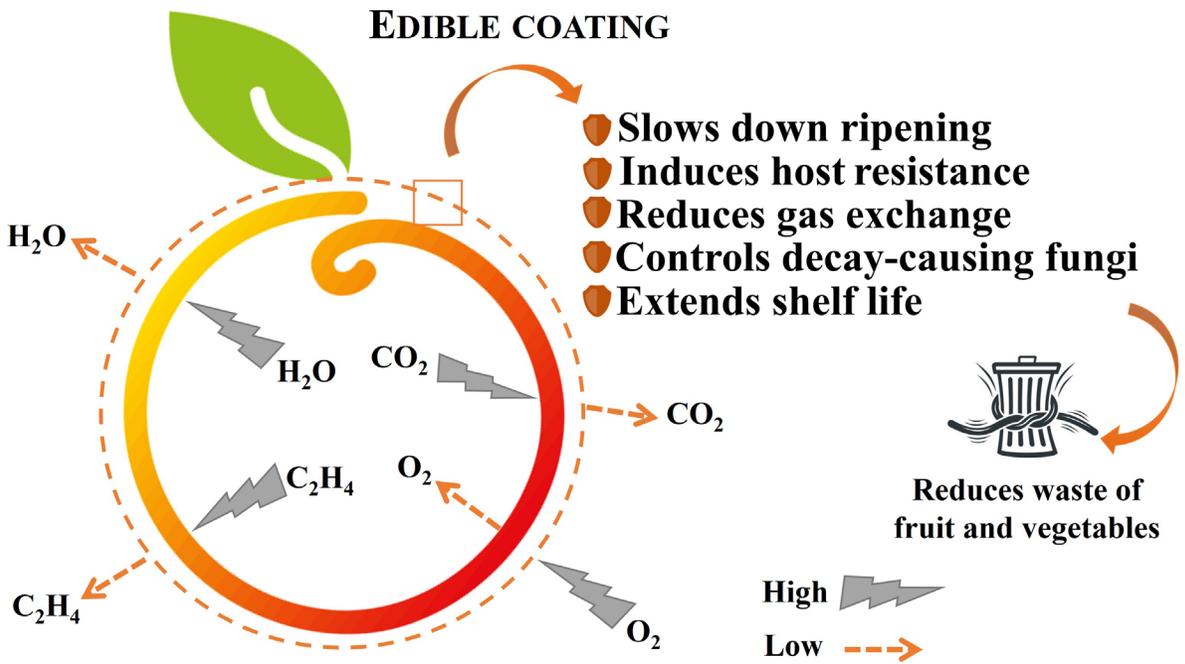


Figure 1. Main proprieties of edible coatings applied on fruit and vegetables, affecting the permeability to ethylene (C₂H₄), water (H₂O), oxygen (O₂), and carbon dioxide (CO₂).

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with #PlantHealth_GW2023

Romanazzi and Moumni, 2022
Current Opinion in Biotechnology
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copbio.2022.102834>

Table 2. Examples of chitosan-based commercial products that are available for the control of diseases of fresh fruit and vegetables (modified by Romanazzi et al. [17]).

Product trade name	Company (Country)	Formulation	Active ingredient (%)
Chito Plant	ChiPro GmbH (Bremen, Germany)	Powder	99.9
Chitosano	Agrilaete (Palmanova, UD, Italia)	Powder	100
Chitosano denso		Liquid	50
OII-YS ¹	Venture Innovations (Lafayette, LA, USA)	Liquid	2
KaitoSol	Advanced Green Nanotechnologies Sdn Bhd (Cambridge, United Kindom)	Liquid	12.5
Armour-Zen	Botry-Zen Limited (Dunedin, New Zealand)	Liquid	14.4
Biorend	Bioagro S.A.(Chile)	Liquid	1.25
Kiforce	Alba Milagro (Milano, Italy)	Liquid	6
FreshSeal	BASF Corporation (Mount Olive, NJ, USA)	Liquid	2.5
ChitoClear	Primex ehf (Siglufjordur, Iceland)	Powder	100
Bioshield	Seafresh (Bangkok, Thailand)	Powder	100
Biochikol 020 PC	Gumitex (Lowics, Poland)	Liquid	2
Kadozan	Lytone Enterprise, Inc. (Shanghai Branch, China)	Liquid	2
Kendal Cops	Valagro (Atessa, CH, Italy)	Liquid	4
Mastgrape	Enoceca (Vegrar, VR, Italy)	Liquid	5
Prevatect	Ascenza (Saronno, VA, Italy)	Liquid	5
Chitosano Serbios	Serbios (Badia Polesine, RO, Italy)	Liquid	5
Chitosano	Bioplanet Srl (Cesena, Italy)	Liquid	1.9
Chitosano DC	Dal Cin Gildo Spa (Concorezzo, MB, Italy)	Liquid	2
Ibisco ²	Gowan Italia s.r.l. (Faenza, RA, Italy)	Liquid	15

¹ Contains 6% yucca extract

² The formulation is based on an average of 12.5% of COS (chito-oligosaccharides)-OGA (oligo-galacturonides), with a chitosan concentration of 15%



UNIVERSITY OF BARI ALDO MORO

Prof. Antonio Ippolito, Dr. Annamaria Mincuzzi



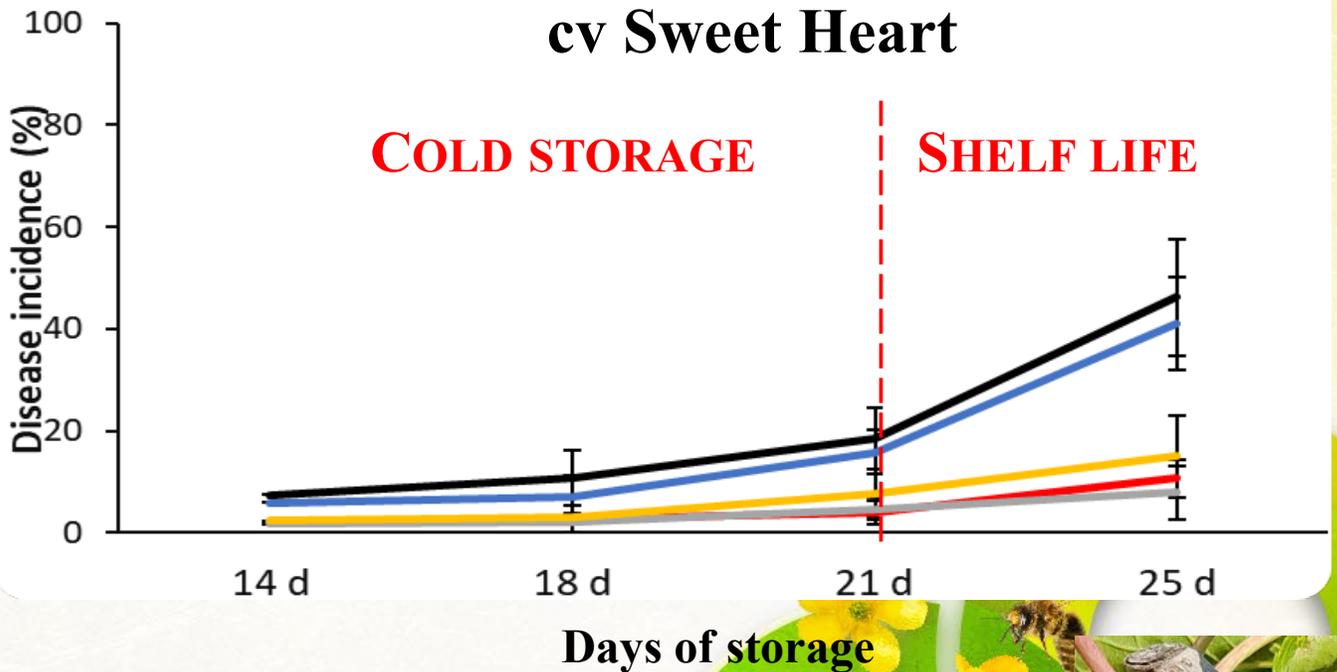
Sweet cherry cultivars: **Lapins** and **Sweet Heart**

4 treatments: 3 blooming stage + 1 preharvest

Basic substances: 1. **Chitosan**

2. **Sodium bicarbonate**

21 days of cold storage (1 ± 1 °C) and **4 days of shelf life** (20 ± 1 °C) in **microperforated plastic bags**



Alternaria spp.



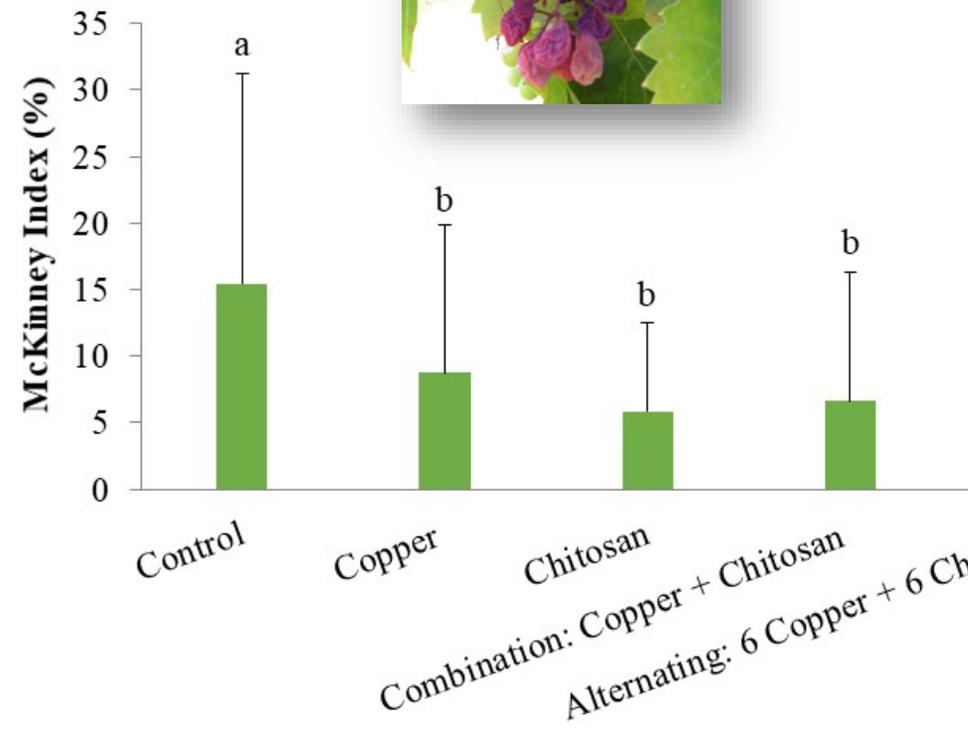
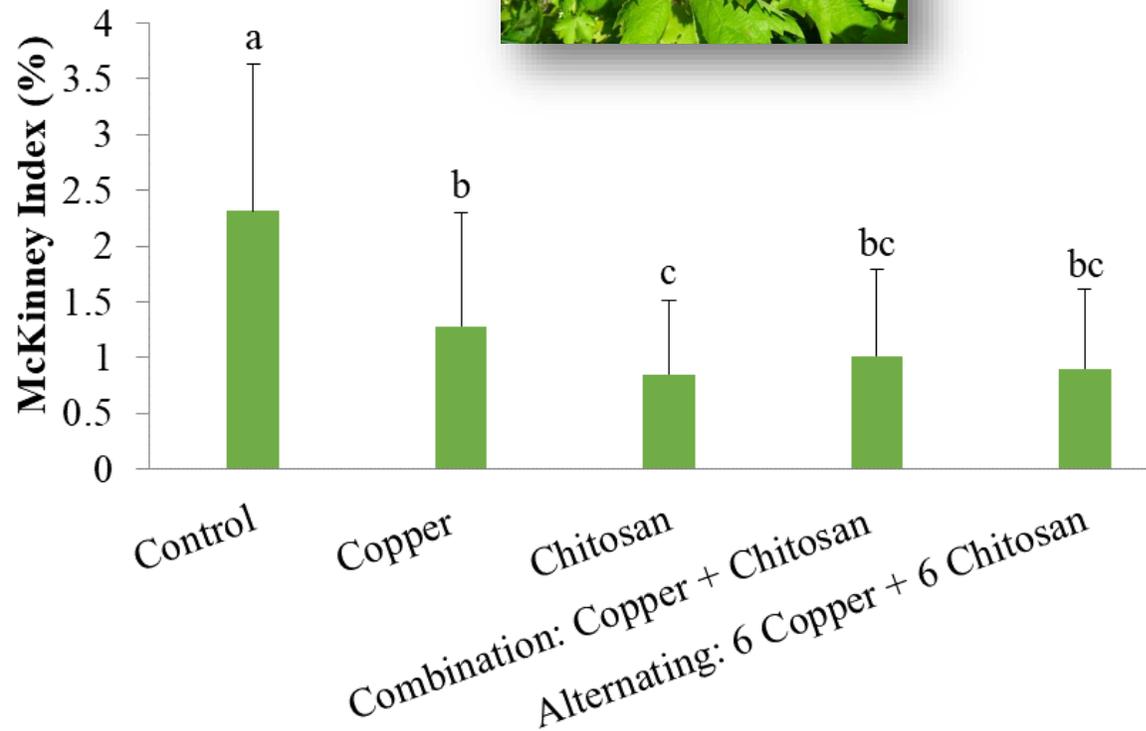
Botrytis cinerea

— CONTROL — SEAWEED EXTRACT — CHITOSAN
 — SODIUM BICARBONATE — MICROORGANISMS

Reduction of disease incidence and severity

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Effects of chitosan treatment, alone – combined with copper and alternated – on grapevine downy mildew on leaves and clusters of cv. Verdicchio

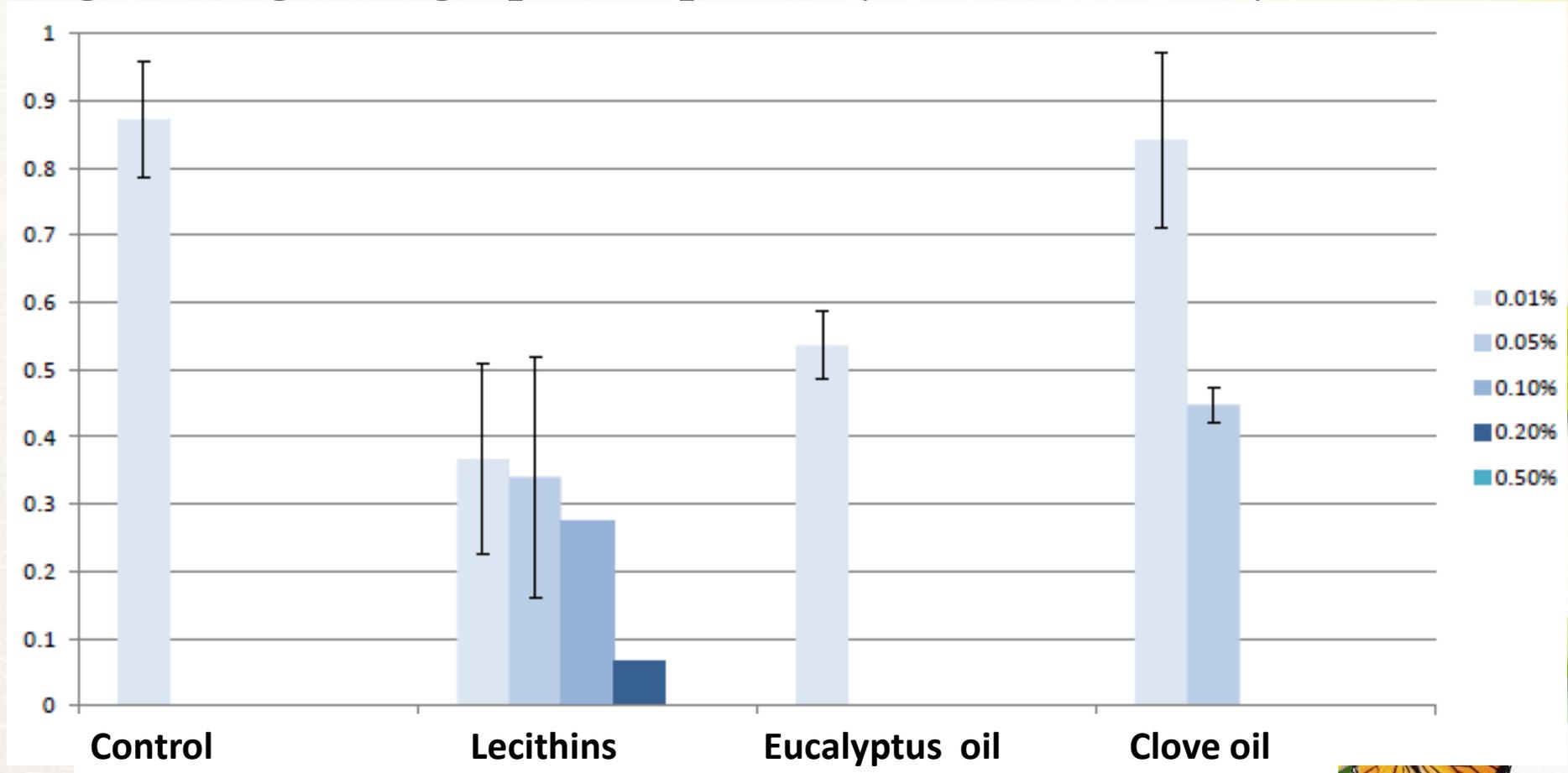


Lecithins

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Fungicide against grapevine powdery mildew in vineyard

ITAB got approved 19 out of 24 basic substances, and Patrice Marchand is member of Anses (F) evaluation Committee



Marchand P.A., 2016. Basic substances under EC 1107/2009 phytochemical regulation: experience with non-biocide and food products as biorationals. *Journal of Plant Protection Research* 56, 312-318

Fungicide activity of milk and whey powders towards *Erysiphe necator*, the causal agent of powdery mildew of grapevine

Bugiani¹, R., Cavazza^{2*}, F., Landi², M., Preti², M.

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² Astra Innovazione e Sviluppo Test Facility – Via Tebano, 45, 48018 Faenza, Italy

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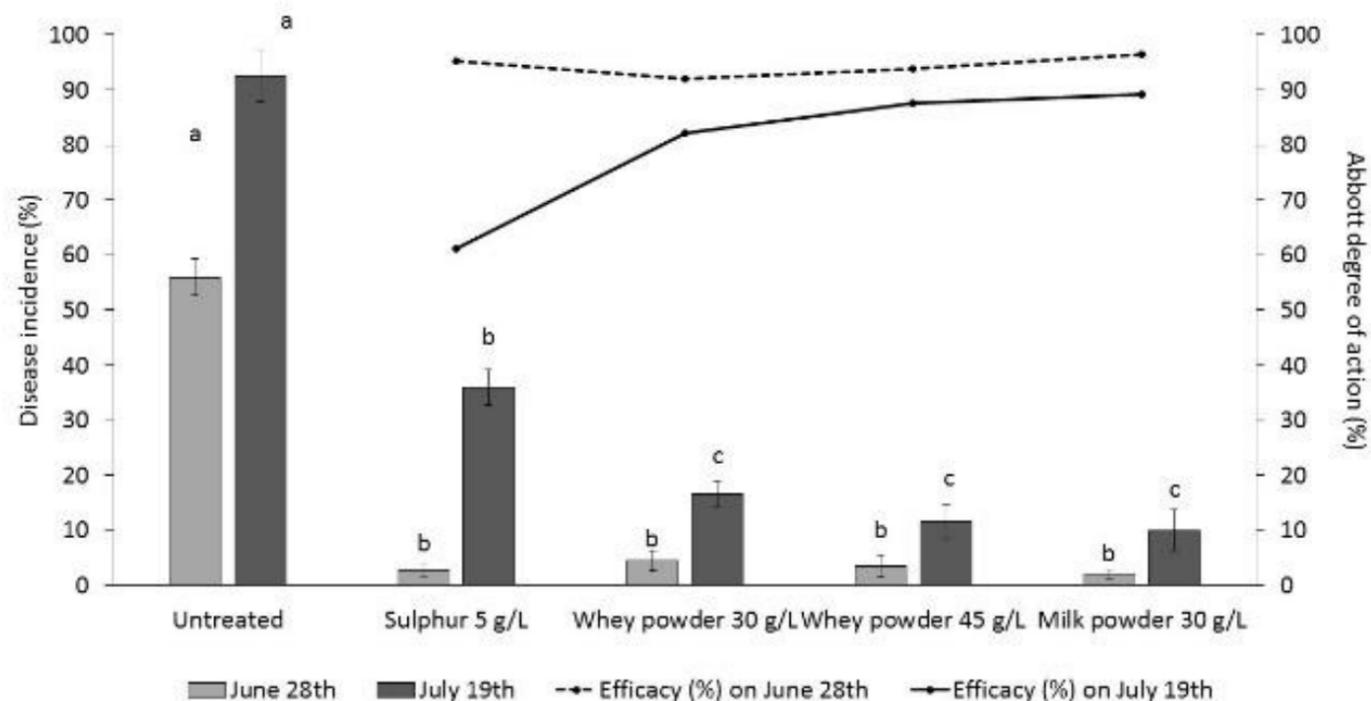
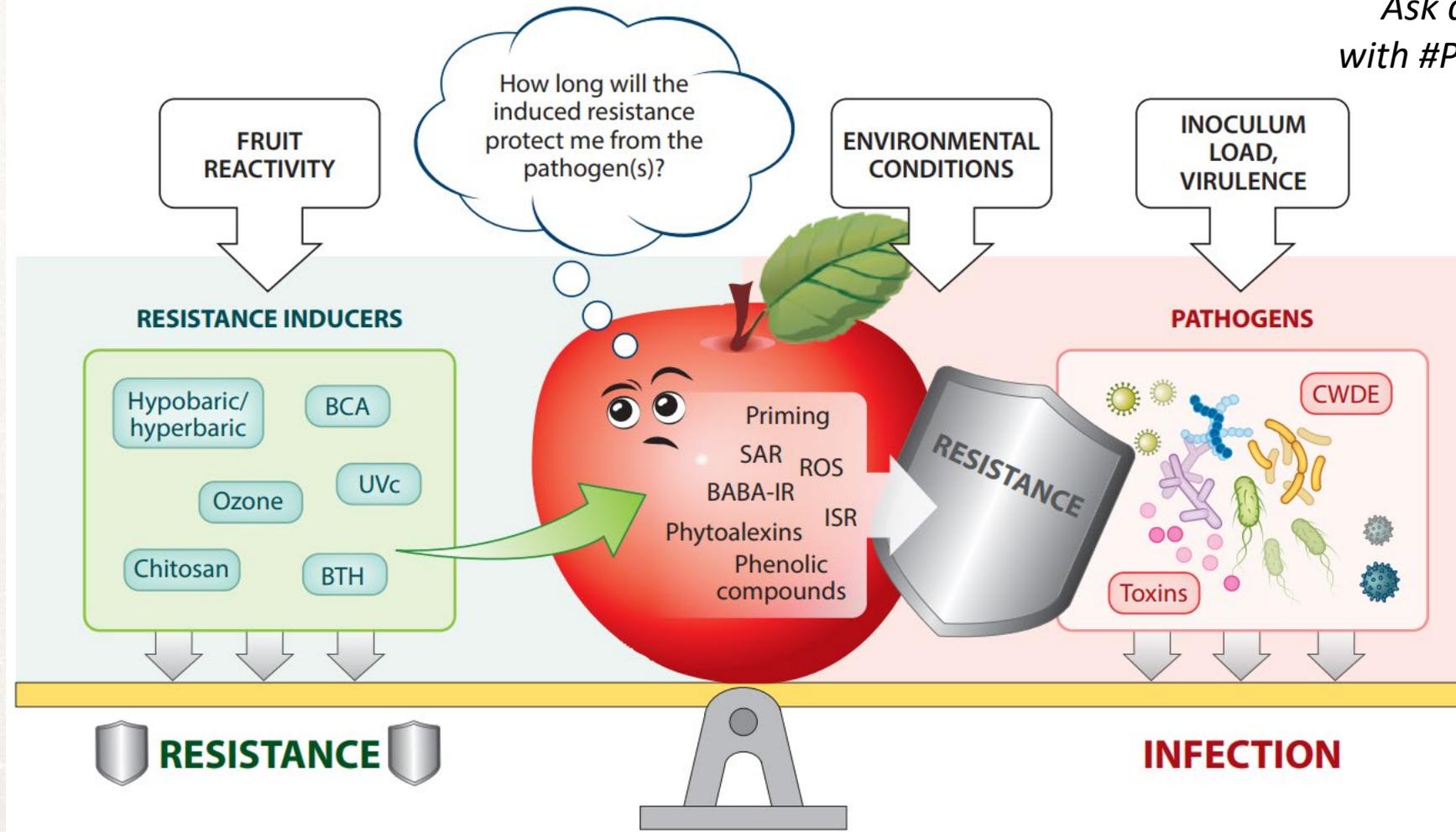


Figure 3: Disease incidence on grape bunches (histograms) and tested products efficacy (lines) recorded in 2019.



Induced resistance in harvested fresh fruits

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OVERALL EUPHRESKO BASICS IN PROGRESS RESULTS

- Six webinars on the application of basic substances and potential basic substances (*available on YouTube Project channel*)
- One joint publication
- At least 20 scientific papers acknowledging the project
- At least 6 Special Issues on the topics of the project
- Mobility of young researchers working on the topic (Yann Davillerd from ITAB to UNIVPM, Eva Perez Alvarez from CSIC to UNIVPM, Nicola Santori from UNIVPM to CSIC)
- Extended International thematic cooperative network including expertise in basic substance evaluation and approval and International bodies (e.g. EPPO)

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IMPACT OF EUPHRESKO BASICS ON POLICY

The Euphresco BasicS project aims to:

- provide information to growers, phytosanitary consultants (plant doctors), researchers, consumers and policy makers for faster and appropriate registration and use of basic substances**
- raise attention in different Countries on the use of basic substances for sustainable management of plant diseases and pests to reduce the application of synthetic pesticides and at the same time keep a proper quality and quantity of the production and farmer income (discussion on Sustainable Use Regulation)**

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BENEFITS FROM INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The Euphresco network provided the opportunity of interaction of researchers from different areas to merge expertise and contribute to test basic substances and potential basic substances and promote sustainable approaches for IPM and organic agriculture

This network can interact with other policy makers (e.g. EPPO, ETP Plants, PRIMA, COST) to promote sustainability of agriculture and effective pest and disease management



Open Call Collection OC-2022-1

Proposal Reference OC-2022-1-25971

Title: Sustainable Network for agrofood loss and waste prevention, management, quantification and valorisation

Acronym: FoodWaStop



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Euphresco



BasicS

Euphresco Project



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Final meeting of the Project “Basic substances as an environmentally friendly alternative to synthetic pesticides for plant protection (BasicS)”

EPPO, Paris, 26 August 2023

Thanks you for your attention



For further info g.romanazzi@univpm.it



[Euphresco BasicS](https://www.euphresco.org)



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