19 December 2013

CORE Organic Plus Call

Compiled applicant information sheets – for partnering search

Thematic research area 1:

Crop: Plant/Soil interaction in organic crop production

16 December 2013

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? ~~YES~~/NO

(But my colleague Didier Stilmant will attend the event and take care of the presentation of the project)

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

- How farmers combine conservation agriculture (reduced and no-tillage) and organic farming?
- Which innovations emerge from the crossing between conservation agriculture and organic farming?
- What are the possible transition pathways combining conservation agriculture and organic farming?

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

CRA-W : expertise in conservation agriculture and in organic farming systems analysis

ULg – SEED : participatory research, sociology of environment and agriculture, sustainability transition studies, agroecology.

ULg – SEED and CRA-W has developed an expertise in the study of multi-stakeholders and multi-level transition processes. These are socio-technical processes in which technical and organisational dimensions are interdependent.
ULg – SEED is involved in partnerships with professional organisations and environmental associations to achieve participative research
ULg – SEED is developing research on agroecology and sustainable food systems transition. The director of SEED, Pierre M. Stassart, is one of the founders of the Interdisciplinary FNRS Group of researchers in Agroecology (GIRAF).

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

CRA-W :
- BIOPRO : research program on organic farming that includes participatory research and action research (2013 -)

Ulg – SEED :
- SAS-STRAT project (a sociological research on conservation) : **Sustainable Agriculture and Soil: comparative study of strategies for managing the integrated quality of agricultural soils in different regions of Europe / Belgium, France, Netherlands (2012-2013)** http://www.snowmannetwork.com/main.asp?id=120

Ulg – SEED and CRA-W :
- *Via*Bio **: collaborative research on a process of qualification of beef meet (2008-2009)** http://orbi.ulg.ac.be/bitstream/2268/17056/1/09%20%20Agriculture%20biologique%20et%20viande%20bovine.pdf
- An interdisciplinary research project (2001-2006) **: How does organic agriculture contribute to the production and consumption sustainable mode ?** http://orbi.ulg.ac.be/handle/2268/136909

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

- social scientists, ecologists, agronomists, economists, …

Please provide your contact details:

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1 Dany Bylemans, BE

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	YES
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	YES
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	NO
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	NO

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Research intended to find and validate solutions to improve the buffering capacity of the soil towards replant diseases in fruit growing (pome fruit, ligneous small fruits, strawberries, ...) and/or to improve the potential of a plant to aboveground pathogens and pests. The increase of functional diversity is intended to augment the number of natural enemies in the fruit orchard/plantation and/or to attrack natural enemies to the fruit plants.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

70 years experience in fruit research by a diversified group of specialists (entomology, fytopathology, …). Very close contact to growers and located in the middle of the major fruit growing area of Belgium. Excellent research facilities including labs, climat chambers, cages, tunnels, glasshouses and orchards.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- 7th Frame Biocomes (On development of natural control strategies against pests and diseases)
- Research project on yeasts and bacteria against storage diseases
- Research project on augmentation of natural enemies against psyllids in pear orchards
- Control of pome fruit pests with entomopathogenic nematodes
- Understanding and improving the beneficial effects of earwigs in orchards
- Adapting the orchard environment to augment the presence of natural enemies
- Natural control of spider mites in strawberry
- Natural control of thrips in strawberry
- Alternatives for chemical soil sterilants

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Public research or private partners looking for validation or practical testing and/or product development with the aim to bring practical solutions with added value to the farmers

Please provide your contact details:

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Phone number:

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	x
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	x
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	x
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
As a network for organic food and farming research and knowledge in Flanders, the FORK-network brings together researchers and practitioners. The network stimulates bottom-up driven research for OFF. The network consists of 3 subnetworks: NOBL: Network for Organic Food and Farming Research, the overall network; CCBT, Coordination Centre for applied research and extension on organic agriculture and BBN, 8 farmers' networks for specific organic farming sectors.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
The researchers of the network have different expertise and are active in different research disciplines. The ILVO-social sciences unit coordinates the NOBL network and can help in finding the right partners in Flanders. As research unit, the unit gained, in the past few years, experience with participatory processes and research and the developing of research models that ensure a better valorisation of research results to farms. Learning processes where farmers are involved in innovative actions are one of the unit's key research lines.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- The FORK-network works on improving information flow and knowledge between researchers and practitioners, deployment of existing scientific and practical knowledge, and stimulating research activities for the organic sector in Flanders. Where possible the FORK-network works more and more transnational in the dissemination of research results and knowledge exchange.
- FP7-project SOLID: ILVO-Social sciences unit is work package leader in WP6 Socio-economic evaluation of novel strategies in organic and low-input dairy farming. http://www.solidairy.eu/)
- National funded project 'bio in beeld': the ILVO-Social Sciences unit will develop a system-oriented participatory methodology to formulate indicators tailored to organic farms that can support farmers in their decisions to greater sustainability and competitiveness. This project is running in collaboration with members of the FORK-network.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
The FORK network and/or ILVO-Social Sciences Unit can support research consortia in participatory research development, knowledge dissemination, ..

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Lieve De Cock
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1 Jane Debode; Koen Willekens; Peter Lootens BE-FL

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Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES~~/NO~~

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

What? Understanding the relations between soil management, crop root growth, nutrient use efficiency and plant microbioom.
How? By studying root growth rates and patterns, and the microbial community of field grown plants.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

- 3-year old multifactor field experiment under organic conditions with different levels of soil quality, established by differences in nutrient input, soil tillage and the use of soil improvers
- established methods/techniques for the assessment of nutrient dynamics, plant and soil microbioom and plant health
- image analysis-based plant phenotyping facilities and expertise

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- Partner in the European CORE Organic II TILMAN-ORG project concerning conservation tillage techniques in organic agriculture.
- ADLO project concerning composting of raw chicken and goat manure to improve nutrient and organic matter cycling for a better soil and crop quality in organic agriculture.
- EU-funded projects: Catch-C (www.catch-c.eu) and Fertiplus (www.fertiplus.eu) about using compost and biochar to improve soil quality and (plant) health.
- National funded project: GA-genomics on Next Generation Sequencing for genomics and metagenomics research

- National funded project on the genetic control of plant architecture in perennial ryegrass - medium throughput field phenotyping protocols were developed and implemented

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

- Institutes which are running field experiments with regard to soil and crop management in organic agriculture
- Institutes with competences in studying plant and soil microbioom
- Institutes with competence in root phenotyping (related to EPPN, http://www.plant-phenotyping-network.eu/)

Please provide your contact details:

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Phone number: ++32 92 72 24 80; ++32 92 72 26 73

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? **YES**/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	*
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	*
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
We are interested on projects aiming to link cropping practices in organic farming and soil fertility. More especially we want to focus on nitrogen, phosphorus dynamic and soil biological activity in crop associations, in time and space, involving legumes species : cereal-pea association, grass-clover association, annual crops sown directly in clover cover or with annual legume species.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
Expertise in crop associations and in multi-species grasslands mobilising legume species, in organic fertiliser valorisation, in soil biological, physical and chemical fertilities.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- Soil tillage and sowing pratices and crop residues management : impacts on soil fertility and crop developmentManure, compost and slurry management with a special interest on the articulation between animal and crop production in organic systems;
- Cereal – pea associations;
- Cereal crops sown in clover cover;
- soil fertility: management of crop residues and intercropping for stockless farms (N, P and OM, …)
- Multi-species grasslands mobilised in organic systems : impact on floristic diversity and yield levels and stability.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

To cover soil and system diversities in terms of crops associations and crop management under organic schemes.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Didier Stilmant
Research Institute: Walloon agricultural Research Centre
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Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? **NO**

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	Yes
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	Yes
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

In plant/soil interaction, the concept is to assess the soil biological, chemical and physical parameters based on the crop-mix/rotation/field history and identify the factors affecting the plat-soil environment. Modelling approaches will be used to assess the plant and soil factors affecting plant-soil environment in arable production systems and the tool developed can be used as a management tool for farmers and advisory services.

This is my idea of the project and I am very open and flexible to other ideas. We can discuss and see if we can complement each other

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Our strengths are in plant-soil atmosphere system modelling, soil organic carbon dynamics in managed production system, ecosystem service quantification and valuation, intercropping systems with legumes, ecological stoichiometry, use of GIS modelling, eMergy synthesis, climate change and food security issues

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

We have a long term site on carbon neutral farming with integration of food, fodder and energy crops and managed organically as potential case study to study the long term dynamics of plant and soil environment. Right now, we have a EU project (SmartSoil) looking at soil carbon dynamics in common arable and mixed production systems in EU and assessing different production practices for their potential to build up soil carbon and its associated benefits in terms of rooting depth, soil water content and moisture retention.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

This would really depend on the proposal we work on and the only way to find out is to mail each other and find out. So feel free to contact me and see if we can complement each other in terms of expertise. For the present project proposal, I am looking for partners with expertise in plant genetics and breeding and working with materials for low input production systems like organic farming, plant and soil process modellers with access to long terms sites on arable plant production with organic management. Any interested can contact me and we can work out your input as the proposal takes shape

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Bhim B Ghaley
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Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

Yes.

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	**This area**
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
Soil microbiota management – how should soil microbiota behave, how to induce it and what it costs? More specifically - impact of different cultivation methods, fertilising strategies and use of bioactivators on soil microbiological activity, cereal diseases and yield contamination with mycotoxins in organic farming.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
1. Long term (est. 2003) organic trials on different soil types, fertilising strategies and crop rotations.
2. Oat and barley breeding, with naked and conventional grain, for organic farming.
3. Experienced vital researchers in several research areas – tillage and manure distribution strategies, agrochemics, soil physics, phytopathology, microbiology, mycotoxicology, crop breeding.
4. Lab capabilities to conduct microbiological, mycotoxilogical and some agrophysical analysis.
5. Good relationships with Estonian organic farmers.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

1. The effect of organic and conventional farming methods on soil fertility, biodiversity and on crops yield and quality. 2008 – 2014.

2. Complex applied research for different cultivation methods (incl. direct drilling). 2012-2016.

3. Identification of few known toxin producing moulds, the conditions of originate and prevention of hazards in Estonian spring barley, 2012-2014.

4. Increasing of efficiency and sustainability of organic production and improving quality of organic food cereal grain, 2011 – 2014.

5. Coordinating Organic plant Breeding Activities for diversity (COBRA). 2013-2016

6. An integrated approach to diversify the genetic base, improve stress resistance, agronomic management and nutritional/processing quality of minor cereal crops for human nutrition in Europe. 2013-2018

7. Measures of increasing profitability of field crops and grassland, 2008 – 2012.

8. Infection of Estonian grain with moulds and its dependence on agroecological factors. 2005 – 2008.

9. The moulds affecting on the quality and safety of the Estonian grain and reduction of their unfavourable influence. 2006-2010.

10. Improvement of the integrated plant protection system for field crops and grasses considering needs for environmental protection and economical aspects. Part: 5. Investigation of control techniques with cereal diseases emphasizing on root rots and fusarioses by following environment requirements and economic aspects. 2003-2007.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Competence, what we are looking: soil chemical analysis, soil microbiology, determining of mycotoxins, PLFA-method (determining microbe groups), Life Cycle Analysis, trials with fertilisers produced for organic farming, trials with bioactivators, seed treatment in organic cereal production, different tillage methods, weed control. Partners form different agro-climatic conditions.

Germany, France, Finland, Demark, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania. However, we would not exclude also other countries.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Kalvi Tamm
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CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

- Most interesting species and management (growth and vegetative cycle coverage, number of mowing, ...) of cover crops in organic fruit and citrus.
- Effects of plant diversity on soil fertility (biomass, N content, biological activity).
- Effect of green covers on the use of water resources (irrigation system, consumption, ...).
- Effects of green covers on soil health (fungus) and fruit quality.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

The Carcaixent Agricultural Experimental Station (IVIA) is constituted by researchers and experts technicians in citrus varieties and ecological techniques, organic farming, fertility, plant diversity and biological control. It also has facilities as laboratories and field research, and transfer experience through its network of experimental stations. It also has a wide network of partners in the agroecological sector.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Experimentation Plan in organic horticulture and citrus. Ministry of Agriculture - GV, i Unio de Llauradors Ramaders; 2002-2011. IP: Alfons Domínguez Gento (EEAC-IVIA) - Dr. MD Raigón (UPV).

Strategies for nitrogen fertilization in organic farming by drip irrigation in organic citrus. INIA, 2009 - 2011, PI: Dr. Francisco Legaz Paredes (IVIA).

Study of the associated fauna to natural hedges in fruit orchards of the Baix Llobregat Agricultural Park, 2008-2010

Now:
EXPERIENCES IN ORGANIC CITRUS AND BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH (organic citrus varietal behavior, studies on beneficial insects in green cover and hedges, *Aonidiella aurantii* control in OF).

Innovative cropping techniques to increase soil health in organic fruit tree crops (BIO-INCROP), project 87 (INIA (ERA-NET Core Organic II, 2012-2014, IP: Dr. Luisa Manici; Dr. Rodolfo Canet)

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
Research groups working on the sector of organic fruit growing, principally into plant diversity topics, water management and food quality. Priority countries: France, Italy, Greece, Germany, Denmark.

Please provide your contact details:

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Research Institute: Estació Experimental Agraria de Carcaixent (Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias - IVIA)
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CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	X
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Weeds and Diseases control attending to crop rotation and agro-climatic conditions
Vegetal breeding (potato and corn) and variety selections (cereal and oilseed rape) for abiotic and bi otic diseases control.
Biological indicators of soil health
"Cradle to cradel" innovation in farm

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

NEIKER-Tecnalia, the Basque Institute for Agricultural Research and Development, is a nonprofit state-owned company assigned to the Basque Government, bases its activities on research and technology transfer in the agricultural sciences and foodstuffs field and focuses on adding value to the agrofood sector. A highly qualified specialization focused on 2 business units:• Agricultural innovation and Environment and natural resources. The organisation is divided into six scientific departments that focus their R+D activities on projects within: **The Department of Plant Production and Protection, Animal production, Animal Health, Ecosystems and Ecotechnologies**

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Projects, in relation with research questions expressed above

Selected within the LIFE + program of the European Comisión

SEEDCAPITAL. The comprehensive use of rapeseed can contribute to reducing greenhouse gases, to obtain healthier milk and reducing costs by introducing this crop rotation.

REGEN FARMING. Identify, demonstrate and transfer the benefits of regenerative farming practices to achieve a more effective and sustainable management of pastoral systems contributing to the improvement soil quality

SOILMONTANA. towards sustainability in agricultural practices. Biological indicators of soil health

Others:

LOCALVAR, MAIZRF, PAPAGEN, ... Breeding and selection of new varieties for organic management. Basque and Spanish Government grantts

VITSAN, ARDAGAIA, ESTAVISO,... Agro-meteorology techniques for diseases and pest control. Basque and Spanish Government grantts

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

European partners in
organic management in watered crops
Agrometeorology
Crop Sustainability indicators

Please provide your contact details:

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CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
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Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
It is important to conduct studies for to minimize the impact of the nitrate concentration in foods for its effects on health, especially in baby food. Organic production techniques can reduce these concentrations. Effects of fertilization system, soil handling, use of cover and harvest time on the nitrate content in vegetables.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
Polytechnic University has a strong administrative structure, ability to disseminate the results. It has tools, in research labs and partnerships with organic farmers to carry out the studies.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)
Present:
PROJECT TITLE: **New Strategies for Improving the Nutraceutic Quality of Eggplant**
MAIN RESEARCHER: **Jaime Prohens Tomás**
END OF THE PROJECT**: 2016**
Past:
PROJECT TITLE: **Field evaluation and testing laboratory of soil enzyme activity resulting from the application of actives microorganism in organic farming**
MAIN RESEARCHER: **Raigón Jiménez, Mª Dolores**
END OF THE PROJECT**: 2009**
PROJECT TITLE: **Chemical characterization and experimental evaluation of new biofertilizers**
MAIN RESEARCHER: **Raigón Jiménez, Mª Dolores**
END OF THE PROJECT**: 2013**

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Partners who are working in soil/plant relation, in organic farming, and their impact on the composition of foods, European countries (Netherlands, Germany, Denmark,...)

Please provide your contact details:

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CORE Organic+ Call

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Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
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Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Analysis of traditional and/or local varieties of tomato in organic crop production for responses (resistance, tolerance or susceptibility) to major pests and diseases of soil and aerial part of the plant, with special emphasis on the crossed interactions between these pest organisms (induced resistance or susceptibility). It would be addressed by comparative analysis between conventional and organic agriculture and, within this, among different cultivation practices: tillage systems, recycling of organic matter, application of livestock manure, etc.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Matching our research with national and international demands. High level of experience and multidisciplinary approach to critical issues for plant protection and agriculture research. Good facilities and equipments for basic and applied research in laboratory and field conditions: growing chambers, green houses, large area for cultivation, etc. Relationships and closeness to farmers and other social organizations, such as consumers, associations, chefs, schools, etc.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has yo ur institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- Plant resistance to the tomato pests, *Bemisia tabaci* and *Meloidogyne* spp.: Identification of involved genes and comparative analysis of innate and induced resistance focused to Integrated Pest Management. Research Leader: Gloria Nombela Blázquez. MEC (AGL2007-65854/AGR). 2007-2011. 193.600 euros.

- Analysis of signaling pathways in plant resistance mediated by the tomato *Mi-1* gene to pests of transmitting virus whiteflies (*Bemisia tabaci*) and root-knot nematodes (*Meloidogyne* spp.). Research Leader: Gloria Nombela Blázquez. CSIC-MEC (Proyecto Intramural Especial Ref. 200640I152). 2006-2007. 30.000 euros.

- Conservación de las variedades hortícolas tradicionales de la Comunidad de Madrid. Evaluación para caracteres de calidad. Transferencia, divulgación y promoción de las variedades locales de interés comercial. IMIDRA.

- Development of genomic tools in Cucurbits, including the sequencing of the melon genome, and its application for breeding these crop species. Fundación GENOMA Spain. 2009-2012. Research Leader: Pere Puigdomenech.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

In principle, most appropriate countries would be the Mediterranean, such as Italy, Portugal, Turkey, etc ... (also Greece, but it appears to be excluded from this call) since they are the largest producers of tomato in Europe, for climatic reasons . Furthermore, those countries may be more interested in recovering cropping and promoting the study of traditional or local varieties of tomato. However, we did not exclude any other country or research group that might be interested in the objectives of this project.

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Phone number: Mobile:

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CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? **NO**

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	**X**
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Using different cover crops in perennials (blueberry) and their influence in plant nutrition and water management.
Reducing the use of fertilization inputs in berries (raspberry, blackberry, blueberry) by using different microorganisms applications in soil. Influence in soil diseases and nutritional quality of organic fruits.
Energy efficiency of the different proposed managements and their influence in the soil carbon storage.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

The INIA has a multidisciplinary pool of research groups in food, animal, plant, soil and environmental topics. It has a Department of Environment with a large experience in plant/soil interaction, draught resistance, soil conservation and plant physiology. This Department has experimental fields near Madrid. A new Centre of Organic and Mountain Agriculture (CAEM-INIA) was created in 2009 which works closely with collaborative organic farms, cooperatives and food companies in Extremadura (the west of Spain).

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Projects running now:
AT2013-001: Adaptation of berries and fig tree cultivars to organic farming systems (2013-2016)
S2009/AGR-1630: Sustainable farming systems. Biomass production and N, C and water management. AGRISOST. (2010-2013).

RTA2009-00082-00-00: Breeding and evaluation of grass cultivars for its application as cover crops in olive trees and other woody crops. MICINN-INIA (2009-2013).

Projects in the past:
AEG08021-C4-3: Alternative raw materials for feeding organic livestock (2008-2011)
AEG08021-C4-4: Evaluation of vegetable cultivars (tomato, pepper and melon) and their adaptation to organic farming systems (2008-2011).
AGL2007-30710-E/AGR: National Network for Organic Food and Farming Research. AGRIECOL (2009-2010, 2010-2011).
GOCE-CT-2004-50558: Knowledge Assessment and Sharing on Sustainable Agriculture. KASSA. European Union (2004-2006).

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
We are looking for some partners in other European countries (Denmark, Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands...) with experience in organic fruit farming regarding soil management.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Jose Luis Tenorio Pasamón
Research Institute: INIA (National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology).
Department of Environment/Organic and Mountain Agriculture Centre (CAEM)
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Phone number: +34 91 889 29 43

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

The overall objective is to study the agronomic response in resilient systems, preserving biodiversity and improving productive capacity and sustainable ecosystem through organic farming techniques that include the use of organic and rotation of Mediterranean native crops. This includes the monitoring of soil, soil solution and crops, determining the organoleptic and nutritional attributes of crops and transfer the results to the production sector.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

The research team that supports this project has extensive experience in the management of horticultural systems as well as in the characterization , degradation and soil contamination. It is noteworthy previous results obtained in different research papers on the topic , with outstanding corresponding to four doctoral theses in the last 10 years on organic farming and the quality of the resulting cultures (Guillén , 2002; Egea, 2010; Sánchez , 2010 and the use of indicators to assess the environmental quality of soils Gil (2010).

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

1º . CGL200611635 . Indicators for assessing environmental quality of soils in semiarid Mediterranean ecosystems. Risk of land degradation and prevention and feedback.
2º. CGL200764915 . Dynamics of heavy metals , arsenic and phosphorus in the soil-water- plant tailings contaminated wetland system : essays on the effect of calcium carbonate and hydromorphic conditions .

3º. RTA03 -066- C4 -4. Management of nitrogen fertilization on maize cultivation in irrigated for greater efficiency in the use of nitrogen and reduced nitrate leaching from the soil.
4º. CTM2006-03823/TECNO . Specific measures for soil protection making use of agro- ecological system of decision support MicroLEIS DSS.
5 °. ACT2006 - 0010C4 . FENIMAR Dissemination program (recommendation corn nitrogen fertilization) for practical use and scientific knowledge in the technical field.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

We are open to any collaboration related to our lines of work.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: JOSÉ MARÍA EGEA FERNÁNDEZ
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Phone number: 34868884984

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	YES
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

- Sustainable management and regional planning (Gestión sostenible y ordenación del territorio)
-soil microbiology and organic matter
-organic and mineral input

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

- **Planning**
- **Management, Conservation and Remediation of environments and their elements**
- **Design and development of environmental management plans**
- **Agroecology**
- **Bioindicators**

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- **Territorial observatory Alentejo – Centro – Extremadura (OTALEX-C) 2007-2013. The aim of this project is the monitoring and analysis of changes resulting from natural phenomena and human activity on the territory. OTALEX-C is a coordinated project between Portugal and Spain from 1997.**
- **Climate change and carrying capacity on dehesas in Extremadura 2007-2013. This project analyse impacts of climate change (variations in autumn rain, spring rain and minima mensual temperature) in the last 50 years and previsions on next 90 years according simulation models of IPCC.**

- **Reducing the environmental impact in semi-protected horticultural crops: improvement of the use of water and nutrients and use of means of production. National Institute of Agricultural Research. 2001-2003 Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. Junta de Extremadura.**

- **Selection of traditional varieties adapted to organic farming. National Institute of Agricultural Research INIA Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. Junta de Extremadura 2006-2008.**

- **Alternatives for cultivation for the production of raw materials intended for feed in organic livestock. National Resources and Agrifood Technologies Program. Institute National Agrarian research (INIA).2008-2010.**

- **Sharing Best Agroecological Practice for Resilient Production Systems in Drylan and drought Conditions. European Commsission. International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES) Marie Curie Actions. "Ecodry"-. Universidad de Extremadura y Universidad de Coventry 2013-2016**

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

We are looking for partners with similar goals of research and located in mediterranean countries.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Dra. Juana Labrador Moreno
Research Institute: Escuela de Ingenierías Agrarias. Universidad de Extremadura
Email: Labrador@unex.es
Phone number: 924289300 ext.86233

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	YES
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	YES
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

- **Beneficial Microorganisms**
- **Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi**
- **Soils Microbial indicators**
- **Sustainable Agriculture**

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Sixty years of experience working directly with local growers, farmers and ranchers to modernize and broaden the crop possibilities in the Canary Islands, up to and including field extension work. Established research ties with South and Central America, Macaronesia, and with recently several emerging African countries. Fully equipped labs and experimental plots (chiefly on the island of Tenerife).

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- Transferencia de I+D+i para el desarrollo sostenible del cultivo del plátano en las RUPs MAC. BIOMUSA MAC/1/C054
- Mejora de la producción y calidad de variedades de tomate tradicionales mediante la aplicación de hongos micorrícicos, bajo diferentes sistemas de cultivo. RTA2011-00110
- Bases tecnológicas para una producción eficiente y sostenible de la papaya en climas subtropicales. RTA2012-00107
- Desinfectación de papas utilizando dióxido de carbono: Optimización como tratamiento de cuarentena de la polilla guatemalteca (*Tecia solanivora*). RTA2011-00125
- Alleviating abiotic and biotic soil constrains by combining arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi with banana and plantain micropropagation systems. INCO-DC-96/2239.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

R&D institutions and companies working with tropical and subtropical fruit crops, including tomato, and forage plants, with interest in developing sustainable, organic lines particularly for small holdings.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Maria C. Jaizme-Vega
Research Institute: Instituto Canario de Investigaciones Agrárias
Email:mcjaizme@icia.es
Phone number:+34 922 923 339

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

WEED MANAGEMENT IN ORGANIC CROP PRODUCTION:
Prevention and control, Allelopathy, natural products, phytotoxic green manures, physiological effects on weeds and crops, fate of allelochemicals in the agroecosystem.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Education and Research. http://www.uvigo.es/uvigo_en/index.html. Our main research group was created in 2005. During these years, collaboration has been consolidated and research converged in innovative common lines. We have a multidisciplinary character and researchers are involved in three main areas: Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry; Plant Physiology; and Plant Production. http://webs.uvigo.es/agrobiologia/index.html

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

-Maize breeding towards abiotic stress and competition with weeds (National funds).
-Conversion from conventional to ecological production in forage systems: evolution of soil quality indicators (National funds).
- Comparative study of ecological vs. conventional forage rotations: Evolution of agronomic and ecophysiological parameters during conversion to Organic Agriculture (National funds).
-Evaluation of forage maize tolerance/resistance towards biotic and abiotic stress conditions of the Cantabrian Coast (Regional funds)
See others at http://webs.uvigo.es/agrobiologia/index.html

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

-European research partners with excellence in chemistry, isolation and identification of plant origin natural compounds, as well as the fate of secondary metabolites in the agroecosystem/environment.
-European research partners able to carry out field experiments on ecological crop rotations including green manures.
-Companies and/or Spin-offs interested in ecological weed management and/or plant originnatural products.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Nuria Pedrol
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Phone number: +34 986812616

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	x
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
I´m interested in two fields
1.- Plaint soil interactions: influence of industrial hemp (Cannabis sativa L.) in soil fertility, and its possible use as economical alternative in extensive organics crops.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

- **Staffs have a great experience in agriculture research.**
- **Belonged to a strong institution (UPV), with multidisciplinary teams.**
- **Have good infrastructures to develop research.**
- **Experience in innovation in agriculture.**

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)
Our team has been involved in several national and international projects, for example:
1.-Marie Curie Actions- International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES). 2011-2014.IPRABIO: Integrating new practices in programs of Biological Control against Agricultural pests. Directed by: DI. Thibaut Malausa (INRA, France).
2.- ESTUDIO DE ARTRÓPODOS BIOINDICADORES EN EL TANCAT DE LA PIPA TRAS SU RESTAURACIÓN PAISAJÍSTICA Y DESARROLLO DE UNA GUÍA DIDACTICA DE ARTRÓPODOS PARA USO DIVULGATIVO (2009-2013)
3.- Primeros estudios sobre técnicas sostenibles en el cultivo de arroz. Estudio de plagas y enemigos naturales en arrozales y zonas adyacentes (2011)
4.- PROGRAMME DE LUTTE INTÉGRÉE CONTRE L´NSECTE INVASIF *Tuta absoluta* UN NOUVEAU RAVAGEUR NUISIBLE DE LA TOMATE. (AECID) (2009-2011)

5.- Título del proyecto: Control biológico y umbrales de tratamiento del Piojo Rojo de California Aonidiella Aurantii (Homoptera:Diaspididae) en cítricos.Mº DE EDUCACIÓN Y CIENCIA (2005-2008).

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

- **Specialists in industrial hemp of other parts of the UE.**
- Companies that work in industrial uses of hemp
- Researchers in market potential of industrial hemp.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name:ROSA VERCHER
Research Institute: INSTITUTO AGROFORESTAL DEL MEDITERRANEO-UNIVERSITAT POLITÈNICA DE VALÈNCIA (IAM-UPV)
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Phone number:0034963879264

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO, we will be represented by a colleague of INRA (Servane Penvern)

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	XXX
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

>> Topic 2: Developing improved strategies for soil and resource management

Some ideas… How to improve crop production in organic farming systems, using the concept of ecological intensification?
-Analysis and simulation of cover crops and green manures on Organic Systems fertility; considering both physical and chemical issues (OM status, mineral cycling, interaction between plants in association: facilitation, competition, allelopathic effects against weed germination and emergence…)
-Evaluation, on the basis of root system functioning, of plants foraging and mining strategies to acquire nutrient with low availability (chemically protected or low accessibility of P in deep soil horizons)
-At farm system level: design, ex ante and ex post assessment of Ecological Intensification of the Stockless Organic Experimental Farm of CREAB in Auch (SW, France) in order to improve its sustainability.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Specific Research Facilities
-Strong and wide agronomic competences (soil-plant interactions, C and N cycles, design of innovative cropping systems, cover cropping, intercropping, P cycle in soil-plant, …)
-Equipment's and specific software's for leaf and root traits measurements (WinfoliaTM, WinrhizoTM)

-A long term stockless organic experimental farm (1999-) which tests short (wheat-soya bean) and long (wheat-sunflower-wheat-faba bean) rain fed rotations (60 ha).
-Organic farms network in SW France (Midi Pyrenees)
-A long term (45 years) fertilisation experiment with large P gradient (0.5ha)
-Chemical Analysis lab (NPK, soil/plants) and isotopic compositions $^{15}N/^{14}N$ through partnership with local university.
-Soil-crop modelling competences for light, carbon, water and Nitrogen cycles (STICS model).

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

-ANR MicMac-design project : design and quantitative assessment of innovative cropping system based on ecological intensification (http://www6.inra.fr/micmac-design_eng/)
-FP6 EU Grain legume project

- post-doc FUN-LEG in evaluation The overall objective is to characterize the biological functioning of a wide range of native or selected legumes and to estimate their value in terms of ecosystem services (high quality forages, cover crops, green manures and biological soil fertility).

- National project CASDAR-Innov AB (partners: ISARA et ARVALIS) (2013-2015) Nutrient (N and P) dynamics under low inputs Organic crop systems.
- Ecological Intensification of the Stockless Organic Experimental Farm at the CREAB experimental research center.
-Increase the N availability of N in stockless cropping systems using relevantly legumes as a key source of N

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Expertise in biological nutrient cycling (N symbiosis, Organic P)
Plant functional characterization with focus on Root functioning in resource acquisition (micorhization)
Assessment of sustainability at the farm level
Mixed farming systems with crops and animals

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Eric Justes
Research Institute: UMR AGIR INRA TOULOUSE, France VASCO Group
Email: justes@toulouse.inra.fr
Phone number: phone: +33 (0)5 61 28 52 50

1 Joséphine PEIGNE or Christophe DAVID FR

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? ~~YES~~/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

How to sustain soil fertility and nutrient management in farming systems through conservation methods?

Use of agroecological practices for soil and crop management to support sustainable farming systems

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

ISARA Lyon is a private university (850 students – 110 employees) developing research and high education programs. Strength for CORE ORGANIC + are :

- 20 years' experience in organic farming research covering a range of topics both in the field of agronomy and agroecology (7 academics, 2-3 PhD students/year) and social sciences (6 academics, 2-3 PhD students/year),
- Acting on EU education program on Agroecology (Msc level) including on-going research programs on agroecology
- a long-term experience on EU (4 to 7 Framework program, SEER, CORE-Organic I and II) and national projects on organic research with 20 projects implemented for the last 15 years,
- a long-term strategy on scientific publication (more than 50 papers on organic research) and extension activities (education program for professionals, more than 25 popular articles)

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

ISARA Lyon has a long experience with European projects :

- Co-coordination of the ongoing CORE-ORGANIC II TILMAN Org project (Integrating reduced tillage and green manures in organic cropping systems 2011-2014) www.tilman-org.net,
- Coordination of the CORE ORGANIC I AGTEC-Org project (Agronomical and technological ways improving organic baking wheat 2007-2011) www.agtec.coreportal.org
- Participation in 5 EU projects - QLIF Improving quality and safety and reduction of cost in the European organic and 'low input' supply chains' QualityLowInputFood 2005-2008 ; Making agriculture sustainable SEER 1999-2001; Effects of the CAP-reform and possible further developments on organic farming in the EU (FAIR-96-1794) 1998;; On-farm development and evaluation of organic farming systems: The role of livestock and agro-forestry (AIR 852) 1993-1996 ; Coordination of Viable organic stockless systems (AIR 576) 1995-1996

At the national level, ISARA is currently involved in 13 national research projects on various issues connected with organic farming such as: conservation soil management, resilient and sustainable farming system's design, benefits of crop rotations and innovative crop management, wheat quality functional biodiversity, revision of organic regulation, organic in sensitive areas (water protection, mountain areas).

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
We are looking for research institutes and SME specialised on plant protection (entomology, pathology and weed science)

Contact details:

First and last name: Joséphine PEIGNE or Christophe DAVID
Position: Associate professor / Executive director
Research Institute: ISARA Lyon - www.isara.fr
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Phone number: + 33 (0)6 10 12 62 86

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/~~NO~~

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

1) How to design and assess resilient and sustainable cropping systems based on agro-ecological approaches?

2) How to identify and enhance the farmers' innovations (technological, knowledge based, organisational and social) dealing with improved strategies for soil and resources management, or dealing with functional biodiversity?

More specifically:

- Arable crops: what is the impact of agro-ecological practises (such as increase of legumes/cover crop/inter-crop in crop rotation) on evolution of soil fertility? On evolution of weeds?
- Perennial crops: how to characterize soil quality (biological, physical… properties) and how to assess soil management in fruit yards or vineyards and their impacts on soil fertility.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Arable crops

ITAB coordinates a network of 12 long-term experiments (LTE) in organic farming, assessing stockless arable crop systems (named "RotAB network"). These LTE are likely to supply data to European Core Organic projects:

- on assessment of soil fertility (N, P, mycorhization…),
- on weed evolution according to crop management (cover/inter-crop…),
- on impact of/on functional biodiversity.

Perennial crops

ITAB is able to set up and coordinate an on-farm experimentation network in perennial crops.

-ITAB, the French research institute of organic farming, aims to connect research activities and stakeholders in order to develop organic agriculture.
-3 main activities: networking, research and development, dissemination (e.g. publications, conferences and workshops).
-8 national research committees on: livestock, arable crops, horticulture, winegrowing and fruit crops, organic seeds and plant breeding, soil management, crop protection and animal health, quality (product and food chain).
-ITAB, it is also:

- a 30 years' experience in organic research,
- a close connection with 7 organic experimental stations (GRAB, CREAB, PAIS, CIVAM Bio66, CEV, Archigny, Thorigné d'Anjou) and 2 regional research centers (IBB, Pôle bio), bringing together 50 full-time equivalent staff,
- 600 free technical booklets on line (www.itab.asso.fr),
- 30 projects implemented for the last 10 years.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

ITAB has experience with European projects. It is a partner:
- in the ongoing SOLIBAM FP7 project (Strategies for Organic and Low Input Integrated Breeding and Management - www.solibam.eu, 2010-2014), which aims to develop breeding approaches integrated with management practices to improve the performance, quality, sustainability and stability of crops adapted to organic and low-input systems.
- in COBRA Core Organic II project, to enhance plant breeding activities focused on diversity within varieties to cope with robustness of crop and resilience of cropping systems.
-in the COST Biogreenhouse.
ITAB was a partner of the ORWINE FP6 project and was involved in the Cost programme 860 SUSVAR. ITAB is a member of ECO-PB (European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding) and ECO-AB (European Consortium for Organic Animal Breeding) boards.

At the national level, ITAB's engineers are currently involved in 14 national research projects on various issues connected with organic farming such as: sustainable soil management, resilient and sustainable farming system's design, benefits of crop rotations and innovative crop management, agroforestry, functional biodiversity, methods to assess organic product's quality, animal health and welfare, organic plant breeding and seed production, copper use reduction, plants extracts and crop protection.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
All kind of partners are welcome: research institutions, SMEs, organic farmers' networks.

Contact details:

First and last name: Laurence FONTAINE
Position: Project manager. Head of technical department.
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Email: laurence.fontaine@itab.asso.fr
Phone number: + 33 (0)2 41 18 61 56

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	x
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	x
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
We have two propositions:

On wheat : from COBRA and SOLIBAM (and other regional programmes)
In previous projects (COBRA, SOLIBAM), we have created several kinds of diverse/heterogeneous populations (Composite Cross Populations (CCP), dynamic mixed populations) from the same set of landraces. In a Participatory plant Breeding (PPB) programme (COBRA, SOLIBAM), we also have developed populations derived from two-parents crosses - using either landraces, old varieties or modern varieties bred for OA - and submitted to farmers selection in a network of farms all over France. The aim would be to compare the interest of different strategies (pure landraces vs mixtures or CCP), different level of initial diversity (type of parents used for crosses) and different types of selection (natural selection and farmers' selection) for robustness, resilience and quality in the framework of on-farm breeding and participatory researches. We will assess crop performance of the different populations in diversified growing systems across different spatial and temporal scales.

On beans : from SOLIBAM
Participatory and on-farm research to assess the role of diversity (plant and microorganisms) as factor of robustness and plant health (symptoms of major fungal, viral and bacterial diseases). Analysis of microorganisms on seed (pathogenic microorganisms and beneficial microorganisms from on-farm production) and root symbiosis (AMF and Rhizobium) based on on-farm experiments in several European countries, will allow for an insight into the interactions of microorganisms and plant diversity, and then, the role of microorganism diversity in relation to crop health in organic bean production systems. A first part of the study has been performed since 2013 in the framework of a PhD and SOLIBAM, in collaboration with several European partners (UNIPG, ESAC, ULG and IBLA). This kind of study can be enlarged to other species.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
The INRA department of Sciences for Action and Development is dealing with multidisciplinary approaches of agricultural and food systems. The main research activities of our team are focused on participatory research to enhance cultivated diversity for organic and low input agricultures. The participatory plant breeding began

in 2001. Now, our team aims at understanding the impact of diversity (genetic diversity and crop management) on performance, health and quality of several arable (wheat, maize, buckwheat...) and vegetable crops (bean, tomato, broccoli...), in interaction with farmers' networks. The DEAP (Diversity, Evolution and Adaptation of Populations) team from the INRA department Biology and Plant Breeding at Le Moulon complements these activities with a focus at the genetic level. Our strength is to make the bridge between knowledge from theoretical population and quantitative genetics and experimental studies on the on-farm dynamic management of genetic resources and on participatory plant breeding (PPB). In particular we have developed network-based methods to analyze genetic diversity data, statistical Bayesian methods to handle unbalanced fields trials in PPB and a specific database to store seed circulation, phenotypic and molecular data.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

The INRA-Rennes team has previously coordinated a FP6 project, Farm Seed Opportunities (2007-2010). Now, INRA-Rennes is leading (and INRA-Le Moulon is responsible for WP2) SOLIBAM (Strategies for Organic and Low Input Integrated Breeding and Management, (http://www.solibam.eu/), a FP7 project (2010-2014) which aimed to develop breeding approaches integrated with management practices to improve the performance, quality, sustainability and stability of crops adapted to organic and low-input systems in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. The underlying hypothesis is that diverse populations are more resilient to stress and can therefore better adapt to environmental variation. Both INRA teams are also partners in COBRA, a Core Organic II programme, to enhance our breeding activities focused on diversity within varieties to cope with robustness of crop and resilience of cropping systems (wheat).
Other national and regional projects brought other funds to enlarge the concerned species (as buckwheat), to enhance transdisciplinarity or to connect with civil society interest.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
<u>Partners already interested in collaborating with us:</u>

1 – Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Environment - University of Pisa, Italy
On topic 1: A multidisciplinary approach at field and farm level will allow us to link soil health factors, such as beneficial microbiota, in particular beneficial mycorrhizal symbionts, have a key role in organic crop production and a strong impact not only on crop nutrition and soil fertility, but also on the quality and nutraceutical value of food products.
They could collaborate (as in SOLIBAM) in order to improving the understanding of the interaction between soil, plant and microbiota under different organic farming systems and management practices (such as tillage systems, recycling of organic matter etc.).
2 - Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy
On topic 2: To TEST several kinds of "mixtures" vs Controls (of bean, barley and broccoli) to assess the influence of different environments on adaptation and to evaluate crop genetic diversity level (heterogeneous vs homogeneous materials) on yield/yield stability/plant health/product quality under different organic conditions.

Broadening the collaboration (either topic 1 or 2): with team working on strategies for diversity at different level (varieties, species, fields) to evaluate the impact on performance, health and quality, on cereals, beans, tomato, broccoli, but also on maize or buckwheat.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Véronique Chable
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Email: chable@rennes.inra.fr
Phone number: 33 223 48 70 49 (mobile 33 608 279 679)

First and last name: Isabelle Goldringer
Research Institute: INRA
Email: isa@moulon.inra.fr
Phone number: 33 1 69 33 23 70

CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	√
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	√
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	√

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project?

The research for organic farming should be focused on developing technologies which may attract the farmers / growers to adopt them, keeping in view of the requirements of small holdings of resource poor small and marginal farmers.

There is a large gap in understanding the exact mechanism played by the soil microbes in the organic soil.

Hence, I would like to study the impact of soil microbial diversity and how it impart better quality in the organic produce.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Our university is oldest Agricultural university in India (www.tnau.ac.in) serving more than 100 years for the farming community.

My department (Agricultural Microbiology) has strong research area in the field of biofertilizers development and application.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

The following research projects are in progress in my lab

S.No.	Name of the project	Funding agency	Total budget	Duration
i.	Biotization - A novel bioinoculant delivery strategy for banana micropropagation	Department of Science & Technology, new Delhi	22.50 lakhs	2012-2015
ii.	Bacteriophages - A novel	Ministry of Food	67.96 lakhs	2012-2014

	biopreservative for vegetables	Processing Industries , New Delhi		
iii.	Lytic Bacteriophages as a Biorational Biocontrol Agent Against the Bacterial Wilt Disease of Brinjal	Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi	29.68 lakhs	2012-2015
iv.	Ecotoxicological Assessment of Engineered Metaloxide Nanoparticles on PGPR Microorganisms - *Pseudomonas sp.*	Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi	31.09 lakhs	2012-2015

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

I am interested to work with partners specialized in nutrient dynamics in organic crop production, promoting organic crop production under problem soils, changing climate, biotic and abiotic factors (moisture stress).

Interested to work with peoples of any country.

More specific
To encourage biological cycles within farming systems by involving the use of soil microorganisms,
To maintain and increase the long term fertility of soil and biodiversity
To use renewable resources in locally organized production systems
To work with a close system with regard to organic matter and nutrient element**s**

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name : Senthilkumar Murugaiyan
Research Institute : Department of Agricultural Microbiology
TamilNadu Agricultural University
Coimbatore – 641 003
TamilNadu, India
Email: senthilkumarmicro@yahoo.co.in
Phone number: 91-9626894973

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	X

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Our approach to research is related to the direct involvement of farmers in the whole innovation process. A participatory approach to research is the base of our involvement in research project and often we have been responsible for stakeholder involvement in research projects. In particular for this call we consider useful to address the following research questions:

1. How to fertilize with few biomass? (green manures, some biodynamic preparations, closing the N and C cycle at territory level)
2. How to improve mulching, cover crops, natural vegetation and green manures?
3. What can be the role of flower beds to attract indigenous beneficial to manage pest balance in fruit and vegetables?
4. What is the impact of no tillage and minimum tillage in organic farming compared to the conventional tillage techniques.
5. How to build Mediterranean agroforestry systems? (eg. Crop and vegetables under fruit trees)

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

The main strength of our institute is to be an organic farmers' association with long term experience in research and on farm experimentation. The Italian Association for Organic Farming (AIAB) was officially established in 1988; it gathers about 15.000 members (farmers, processors, experts, researchers and consumers). It is organized by regional chapters (17) coordinated by a federal Office located in Rome. AIAB promote organic farming as a model of rural development. During the 90s AIAB increased its collaboration with governmental agencies and research institutions. We have

today a long term experience in research project management and development. AIAB has been involved in many national and E.U. projects on research (FP6 and FP7), training, promotion and information in the organic farming sector. AIAB staff participates to Ministerial committees on organic farming and to IFOAM regional groups and committees where they have the task to represent Italian organic farmers and consumers. AIAB publishes a bi-monthly magazine (Bioagricultura, 16.000 subscribers) concerning vulgarization and innovation transfer activity, a weekly newsletter (B@N, 8.000 subscribers), several technical leaflets and books and has an updated web-site (www.aiab.it, 4.000 single visits per day); it organizes field days, workshops and seminars. In 2007 AIAB founded the FIRAB (Italian Foundation for the Research in Organic Farming).

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Main project in 2013 at EU level:

SOLIBAM – "Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding and Management". (funded by EU FP7, coordinated by INRA-France), - STABIWINE – Use of biopolymers for sustainable stabilization of quality wines (funded by EU FP7, coordinated by AIAB) - SUPURBFOOD - Towards sustainable modes of urban and peri-urban food provisioning (funded by FP7, coordinated by Wageningen Universiteit-The Netherlands). - INTERVEG – Enhancing multifunctional benefits of cover crops – vegetables intercropping (funded by ERA-Net Core Organic2). - AUTHENTIC FOOD - Fast methods for authentication of organic plant based foods (funded by ERA-Net Core Organic2). - COBRA – Coordinating Organic Plant Breeding activities for diversity (funded by ERA-Net, Core Organic2

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Other farmers associations interested in participatory approach to research and
Research institute interested in on-farm experiments to develop.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Andrea Ferrante
Research Institute: AIAB - Italian Association for Organic Agriculture
Email: a.ferrante@aiab.it
Phone number: +39 0645437485

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Information sheet – DISPAA ,University of Florence- and CIRAA-University of Pisa. ITALY

In the context of the transnational partnership Core Organic we are planning to organize a project proposal with regard to point 1 – "Crop: Plant / soil interaction in organic crop production".
As joint research group of DISPAA (Department of Agrifood Production and Environmental Sciences - Florence University-Italy -www.dipsa.unifi.it) and CiRAA (Enrico Avanzi Agro-Environmental Research Centre - Pisa University-Italy - www.avanzi.unipi.it), we are involved in organic agriculture from more than 30 years. Our long-term experiments compare organic and conventional agricultural systems at micro-farm scale in Tuscany: the "Montepaldi long-term experiment" (MOLTE Experiment) started in 1991, near Florence and the "Mediterranean Arable Systems COmparison Trial" (MASCOT Experiment) started in 2001, near Pisa. The research activities carried out within these experiments are mainly focused on crop production (yield and quality), soil fertility, weed flora composition and biodiversity assessment.
Looking at the new Core Organic call (www.coreorganic2.org/), we would like to know if some colleague could be interested in participating in a project along with us. In case, we are available both to coordinate a partnership or to participate as research units in other projects you would like to propose.
Please, don't hesitate to contact us for further information,
Looking forward to receiving your reply.

Best regards
Concetta Vazzana – University of Florence (concetta.vazzana@unifi.it)
Marco Mazzoncini – University of Pisa (mazzo@agr,unipi.it)

16 December 2013

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

1) Effects of soil fertilization and water content on plant's induced indirect defences (attraction of natural enemies) against insect pests.
2) Effects of below-ground insects and other organisms on plant resistance to above-ground pests.
3) Effects of crop diversity on pest populations and natural control.
4) Effects of natural green covers on pest populations and natural control.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
Our group has been working for more than 20 years on several basic and applied aspects of biological control; the results we obtained are published on referred ISI journals. Our expertise is therefore appropriate for the first two thematics.
The Department facilities include well-equipped laboratories and experimental fields.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)
Some relevant current projects: 1. Plants' below- and above-ground interactions for defences against biotic and abiotic stress. Our group is focusing on indirect defences against herbivorous insects. 2. Biological control of the chestnut gall midge, *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*, by inoculative releases of the introduced parasitoid *Torymus sinensis*. 3. Behavioural ecology and predation efficacy of ladybeetles (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) on aphids in melon fields. 4. Evaluation aphid parasitoid efficacy in melon fields.
Past projects include basic and applied research on tri-trophic interactions (plant-herbivore-parasitoid) for: 1. biological control of insect pests; 2. plant's direct and indirect induced defences against insect pests; 3. improvement of parasitoid efficacy through semiochemicals; 4. parasitoid specificity and non-target risks; 5. side effects of insecticides on parasitoids.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Please provide your contact details:
First and last name: Eric Conti
Research Institute: Dipartimento di Scienze Agrarie e Ambientali, Università degli Studi di Perugia, Italy.
Email: eric.conti@unipg.it
Phone number: +(39) 328 8345106

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
The research aim is to develop "enhanced" organic system (based on intensive use of intercropping, dedicated cover crop strategies and conservative tillage) with high ecological intensification, in order to obtain a further improvement of self-sufficiency and resource use efficiency, as compared to "traditional" organic farming systems (with special focus on N dynamics and loss and soil carbon storage capacity of the soil.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
The main research topics may be framed within the following: 1) evaluation and optimisation of organic and low-input cropping systems; 2) optimisation of sustainability of conventional cropping systems; 3) rational weed control; 4) new crops and varieties. In all the cases, a particular emphasis is given to long-term experiments, as advantages and drawbacks of cropping systems very often show up after several years.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Ongoing projects:
- Integration and comparison of innovative technical approaches with different “ecological intensification” finalized to a smart management of conservative agricultural systems (MIUR).
- IC-FAR: LInking Long Term Observatories with Crop Systems Modeling For a better understanding of Climate Change Impact, and Adaptation StRategies for Italian Cropping Systems (MIUR)

Projects carried out in the past:
- Effects of fertilisation and mechanical, physical and chemical weed control on weed flora in conventional and low-input maize” (MIUR / University of Perugia).

- SIMBIOVEG: Organic farming systems for the improvement of vegetables quality and environmental safety (MiPAAF)
- Organic farming to improve yield quality and environmental sustainability of farming systems (MIUR)

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

No preferences about country

Fields of competence:
Organic farming and vegetable production
Ecology of intercropping
Soil organic matter and soil microbiology
CO_2 source and sink relations in the soil
N cycle and N loss in vegetable and arable farming systems

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Giacomo Tosti
Research Institute: Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
Email: giacomo.tosti@gmail.com
Phone number: +393403743300

CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	yes
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Study the plant-microorganisms interaction by analyzing the molecules active during the positive cross-talking between Beneficial Microbial Agents (BCAs). By analyzing the root exudate of plant interacting with different microorganisms (pathogens and or BCA) identify the most BCA attractive molecules potentially useful as adjuvant in biological plant pathogen control protocols

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

- Plants resistance factors to biotic and abiotic stress
- Plant-organism-environment interactions, multitrophic relationships and biocontrol in plant defense
- Biodiversity in agricultural and forestry systems: genetic, molecular and epigenetic basis
- Sustainable technologies for plants protection from damage agents
- Protection of biodiversity in the forest and natural ecosystems in response to global change

http://www.ipp.cnr.it/index.php/en/home.html

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

- EuroVOL - Ecology of Plant Volatiles, from Molecules to the Globe (2011-2014): A-BIO-VOC - Induction of plant VOC emission by biotic and abiotic stresses and consequences for community ecology: a multidisciplinary approach
- PURE- Pesticide Use-and-risk Reduction in European farming systems with Integrated Pest Management (2011-2014)
- IPRABIO - Integrating new practices in programs of Biological Control against Agricultural pests (2011-2015)
- CISIA- Integrate knowledge for sustainability and innovation in agriculture. (2011-2013)
- SOS-POM: New strategies for eco-compatibility in tomato plant defence (2011-2013)
- ENDURE- European Network for the Durable Exploitation of crop protection strategies (2007-2010).
- Use of root symbionts for the induction of ISR against aphis: analysis of VOC production, active towards parasitoids (2011-2013).

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country)?
International partners (University, Research Centre and private company) interested in study plant-microbial interactions in order to obtain new knowledge useful for the development of new protocol for biological control of plant diseases and pests.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Michelina Ruocco
Research Institute: CNR-IPP (National Research Council-Institute for Plant Protection)
Email: ruocco@ipp.cnr.it
http://www.biomedexperts.com/Start/PersonDetailPage.aspx
http://www.ipp.cnr.it/it/personale/99-ruocco-michelina.htm-l
Phone number: +39 081 7753658/16

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	yes
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
As important component of agriculture sustainability is to establish optimized flows of energy and nutrients with a high degree of recycling in organic farming systems. In organic farming systems legumes as nitrogen suppliers are essential as an effective tool for improvement of subsequent crops grain quality, soil productivity, crop rotation health, farm viability and sustainability, regional biodiversity. There needs to be more use recycling of nutrients, to identify more suitable crops, varieties for organic farming, to examine well adapted and less adapted legumes and their different varieties to local conditions, to ascertain possibilities to make organic farming systems self-sufficient…

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
Research interdisciplinary and diversity;
Qualified scientists and young researchers;
The existing research base, spread in different soil types;
Close relations with foreign academic and research institutions;
Close relations with business in applied research

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)
Assessment of Agricultural Load and Crop Phytosanitary State in Organic Agrocenosis (Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Research and Development (R & D) project No. MT/12-17), (2012 -2014)
Long-term institutional programme “Biopotential and quality of plants for multifunctional use”, 2012-2016, LRCAF
Evaluation of plant mixtures and nitrogen use in the system “soil-plant” of the organic farming system (Financial support from The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania and The Lithuanian State Science and Studies Foundation) (2007-2008),
COST 852 “Quality legume-based forage systems for contrasting environments” (2001-2007)

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
All countries, partners with different competence related organic farming

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Žydrė Kadžiulienė
Research Institute: Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry
Email: zkadziul@lzi.lt
Phone number: +37061540757

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO
YES

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	YES
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	YES
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
Abiotic stresses to plants in soil. Role of soil organisms. Nutrient management using sapropel.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

1. 100 years long experience in agri_science (field crop management, plant breeding).
2. Experience in international projects.
3. Qualified personnel.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

FP7- EUROLEGUME
FP7-COBRA
INTERREG III- BALTORGPOTATO
INTERREGIIIC- CleanRegion
FP6- CHANNEL
Leonardo-da Vinci- ECOLOGICA
East East: Partnership Beyond Borders Program
COST 860 SUSVAR

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
Specialists in nutrient management.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Livija Zarina
Research Institute: State Priekuli Plant Breeding Institute
Email: lzar@inbox.lv
Phone number:+ 371 28377052

16 December 2013

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/~~NO~~

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Nutrient demands in greenhouse horticulture are high. Therefore high inputs of manure and/or composts and/or supplemental fertilisers are required to feed the crop. High inputs increase risks of losses by leaching or N-volatilization. Moreover, some of the regulations and agreements limits supply (N directive 170 kg/ha N) or applications (max 50 % top dressings Ifoam position paper). Therefore we want to develop fertilisation strategies which match supply with the dynamic crop demand, taking into account crop development, physical, biological soil properties, soil organic matter, fertiliser properties , together with irrigation management, to minimize losses.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Our institute is one of the leading institutes for greenhouse horticulture. Our strength is that we have a unique combination of research groups working on applied science and groups focussing on fundamental issues. We have an expert team on soil fertility and water management team, with an extensive track-record on topics related to soil, water, fertilisation, soil analytical methods. Moreover, we have been involved for more than 20 years in projects for organic greenhouse horticulture.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Running projects (organic horticulture)

- *Development of emission-management systems for soil grown greenhouse crops (organic and conventional)*
- *Improvement of irrigation management in organic greenhouse crops*

Previous

- *Modelling organic matter dynamics in greenhouse soils*

- *Organic matter management, related to physical, chemical and biological properties*
- *Salinity problems in organic greenhouses*
- *Development of decision support system for organic fertiliser supply*
- *Reducing target values of soil mineral N in organic tomato crop*
- *Monitoring mineral balances in organic greenhouse vegetable crops*

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Partners with sufficient baggage of at one hand (fundamental) knowledge soil and plant sciences, but at the other hand a practical and pragmatic approach of problems, since we have to develop applicable strategies and techniques. Looking at expertise in the following fields

Soil science, particular N-dynamics (mineralisation, denitrification)
Plant nutrition, specialised in mineralisation
Crop scientists, modelling crop growth and development – nutrient uptake
Soil microbiology, mineralisation, immobilisation, denitrification

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Wim Voogt
Research Institute: Wageningen University and Research; Greenhouse Horticulture
Email: wim.voogt@wur.nl
Phone number: +31 317 485687

CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

How seaweed bioactive compounds and associated microbiota ameliorate soil quality, i.e. physico-chemical properties and biological activity, and contribute to plant vitality and enhance crop production. For soil biological activity, it is of interest how seaweed compost support soil meiofauna and microbial functional diversity in developing a healthy soil. Correspondingly, how seaweed-enhanced soil improve crop will be assessed of its nutritional qualities.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Bioforsk has a long tradition in plant cultivation and have expertise in environmental and agricultural research. Our plant cultivation expertise expanded from arctic terrestrial to aquatic systems. Bioforsk Nord Bodø have expertise not only in seaweed cultivation for commercial purposes but also in algal ecophysiology, biochemistry and genetics. Several projects explores the use of marine plants as feedstocks and alternative source of proteins. We are now working on using raw or processed seaweed for organic farming.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Ongoing projects: (*Bioforsk coordination)
- *NETALGAE: Interregional network to promote sustainable development in marine macroalgal sector*
- *Fast methods for authentication of organic plant based foods (AuthenticFood)*
- *Supporting and developing European organic plant breeding and seed production (COBRA)*
- *Assessment of the suitability of recycling phosphorus fertilizers for organic farming (Improve-P)*
- *Management of pest insects in organic strawberry and raspberry fields (Softpest Multitrap*)*

Previous (CO) projects were: (*Bioforsk coordination)

- How to assure safety, health and sensory qualities of organic products (QACCP)
- Planning for better animal health and welfare (ANIPLAN)
- More organic food for young people (iPOPY)*
- What makes organic milk healthy? (PHYTOMILK)

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

I made initial contact with possible partners from Italy, France, Spain, and Poland.
We have competence in:

- *Basic and applied phycology; use of raw seaweed as compost for gardening*
- *Crop quality assessment*
- *Physiological, biochemical and molecular analyses: meiofauna, plant*

I am seeking partners from either Switzerland, Slovenia, Denmark, Sweden or Belgium

- *Soil meiofauna and microbial diversity*
- *Physiological, biochemical and molecular analyses: bacteria*
- *Bioactive compounds*
- *Soil quality- nutrient dynamics/Soil ecologist*

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Michael Y. Roleda
Research Institute: Bioforsk Nord Bodø
Email: michael.roleda@bioforsk.no
Phone number: 0047 40 55 74 98

CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NoX

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	x
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Develop and validate reliable methods for detecting and quantifying pea root rot (*Aphanomyces eutheiches*) and root rot of faba bean (*Phytopthora pisi*).
Identify factors behind the increase and decline of soilborne pathogens?

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

We have a high expertise on development of DNA-based detection methods for soilborne pathogens and providing development of methods for effective presentation of results to endusers. We have a high expertise on plant nutrient management and precision agriculture. We have close connection to advisors and farmers enabling us to find suitable fieldsoils, and knowledge on NIR measurements, geostatistical analyses (GIS), nutrient leaching, gas emissions, participatory learning and action

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

BioSoM or Biological Soil Mapping (www.slu.se/mark/biosom) is a multidisciplinary thematic research program between the Faculty of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences, at SLU, and eleven stakeholders, running between 2009-2015. The program aims to provide scientific support to new services for farmers enabling detection and mapping of soil-borne plant pathogens. Soil sampling procedures on field level, storage of samples and homogenizing methods are important factors to generate adequate results using PCR . Interactions of plant nutrients on disease development and implementation of site specific management are subject to research eg. precision agriculture.

Research projects carried out have been directed towards development of PCR methods for detection of leaf pathogens in wheat, *Plasmodiophora brassicae* and *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in oilseed rape, *Botrytis fabae* in faba beans.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Partners interested in the development of sustainable legume cropping systems based on detection of soilborne pathogens. Partners interested in working with farmers and experimental farms where systems are communicated to endusers.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Ann-Charlotte Wallenhammar
Research Institute: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Dept. of Soil and Environment, Division of Precision Agriculture and Pedometrics, Skara, Sweden
Email: Ann-Charlotte.Wallenhammar@slu.se
Phone number: +46 19 603 27 18

CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	x
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	x
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	x

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

We are interested in contributing to projects, with our expertise regarding energy in organic agriculture, as well as climate impacts and other environmental impacts of food production in a life cycle perspective.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

Assessment of environmental impacts of agricultural production of food and biofuels in a life cycle perspective

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Organic agriculture without fossil fuels – life cycle assessment of different ways for self-supply with energy in organic farming

LCAs of biofuels

Climate impact of organic farming

More info at www.slu.se/energyandtechnology

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

We have a wide interest in collaboration

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Cecilia Sundberg
Research Institute: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Energy and Technology
Email:Cecilia.sundberg@slu.se
Phone number:+46 18 67 18 11

CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)
Assess farmers' current use of digestate in organic farming from (farm scale) biogas production and its effect on yields, energy efficiency, recycling potential and risk of plant nutrient losses (NH_3, N_2O, NO_3, P) and accumulation of heavy metals to soil. Develop, test and evaluate improved management tools and practices on farms using digestate certified for organic production from a systems perspective.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
JTI - Swedish Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Engineering is an industrial research institute engaged in research, development and information in the areas of agricultural engineering and environmental technology. In collaboration with trade and industry JTI produces results that can be translated directly into real-life practice.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)
JTI has undertaking project in the Baltic Sea Region since about 1990, mainly about dissemination of environmental friendly manure handling management. JTI participated in the Core Organic financed project CorePig and is an external expert in ProPig, and participate in the network GeoWebAgri. JTI recently got an IEE-project approved in the area of biogas production. JTI is also engaged in other international projects especially related to biogas production, e.g. in Vietnam, Russia, and Peru. JTI has several ongoing projects including assessments using a life cycle perspective as well as field research on commercial farms.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?
Field of competence:

- Resource efficient technology and management of organic materials, especially animal manures, for use as fertilizer in organic production.

- Certification
- Advisory tools – fertilizing and economical plans
- Sampling and analyze methods for determination of plant nutrients, heavy metals and other contaminants in organic materials, especially animal manures

Please provide your contact details:
First and last name: ass.Prof. Eva Salomon and Ph.Dr. Pernilla Tidåker
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CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	Coordination by the Centre EPOK - all themes of interest
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	"
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	"
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	"

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

I represent EPOK – Centre for Organic Food and Farming at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), working with organic research coordination. As director of EPOK I have an overview of researchers/research groups working witihin the this field in Sweden, as well as main research areas for activities within organic food systems.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

EPOK has extensive networks among agricultural scientists and stakeholders within the agricultural sector. The staff of EPOK has communication skills and capacities.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

As part of research coordination and communication a number of projects are running on making knowledge synthesis together with research needs within different areas, examples; Conservation biological control in field vegetables and fruits; Organic food quality and health effects; Potential of recycling of nutrients in organic farming systems by using biogas digest.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

I am looking for partners of interest for Swedish research groups/partners interested of collaboration with Swedish researchers.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Maria Wivstad
Research Institute: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, EPOK
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CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Focus on perennial and annual leys for feed, biogas or green manure production.
Evaluate single plant species and combinations.
How does the soil microbial community develop in a perennial and annual ley and how does this effect diversity and possibilities to suppress soil born pathogens and the degradation of (contaminated) crop residues.
What are the roles of ley crops in transmitting plant pathogens such as *Fusarium* sp. to subsequent crops?
How do these corps stimulate beneficial organisms like mycorraizal fungi and nitrogen fixing bacteria?
Study plant and system nutrient use efficiency in relations to ley crops and subsequent crops

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)
We work in projects integrating crop science with plant pathology, microbiology and soil sciences.
We study using high through put DNA sequencing the fungal microflora on wheat material and soil to explain effects of different productions systems.
Plant genetics and nutrient and water use efficiency.
Plant nutrient use cycling, modelling
Evaluation of cropping systems, long term field experiments
Field experiment , green house, climate chamber and DNA laboratory facilities

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)
Now:
* Nutrient use efficiency of agricultural crops
*AgResource - Resource allocation processes in agriculture: bridging molecular genetics, crop physiology, ecology and rural development

*OSCAR: develop sustainable systems of conservation agriculture and increase the diversity of cover crops and living mulches (partner, EU-FP7)
*Cereal leaf microflora in different production systems - an opportunity for biological control of Fusarium
*Biology and technology for improved land use in potato production – participatory collaboration for sustainable development of knowledge.
*Impact of Climate Change on the Interaction of Fusarium species in oats and barley
*Development of plant diseases in the future cropping systems with maize and winter wheat for

Just finished:
*SAFEPEA - Safe cultivation of peas - effects of brassica cover crops on soil structure, disease suppression, rhizobium effectiveness and crop development
*Oil seed radish and mustard - disease sanitisers with great potential.
*Fungal pathogen dynamics in malting barley grown after different preceding crops

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Partners with competence related to the research questions

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Paula Persson
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CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	x
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	x
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Precision technology to improve nutrient utilization and reduce weed pressure in crop production
Nutrient supply in the organic system, as influenced by preceding crops/crop rotation and added fertilizers
Treatments of manure and organic fertilizers to improve nutrient utilization in crop production
Participatory research on farms, to solve specific problems on the farms
Find and test more municipal sources of nitrogen to be recycled to organic production

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

We have a high expertise on plant nutrient management and precision agriculture. We are situated in an important agricultural area and have close collaboration with other agricultural organizations. We work side by side with a livestock department. Apart from regular field trials, we also have the knowledge and equipment for conducting incubation experiments, NIR measurements, geostatistical analyses, GIS, nutrient leaching, gas emissions, participatory learning and action etc.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Methods for estimation of nitrogen and phosphorus effects of organic residues
Course of nitrogen mineralization from organic fertilizers
Timing of fertilization and optimum N-rate with different organic fertilizers to oilseed rape
Timing of fertilization of chicken manure to spring cereals
Nitrogen leaching depending on time for manure application to different crops
Nitrogen leaching depending on time for manure application and sowing date of winter oilseed rape
Can C/N-ratio be used for estimation of N fertilizer value of residues in spring and winter cereals?

Nitrogen effects with and without incorporation of different organic fertilizers or manure in growing winter wheat
Temporal course of net N mineralization and immobilization following incorporation of crop residues

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Institutes interested in the development of sustainable and efficient plant nutrient management, where recycled nutrient resources are utilized in an efficient way to produce high quality products with minimized nutrient losses to the environment. Institutes interested in the implementation of precision agriculture methods to enhance this. Institutes that are interested in involving farmers in the research and that are not afraid of using modern technology.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Sofia Delin
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CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	x
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	x
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Macro and micro nutrient supply in the organic system
Crop rotation including weed and pest management
Forage production and seed mixture to optimize yield and nutrient quality
Use of crops for energy production

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

We are a well-established with a large advisory service within the areas of cereal and forage production, economy, building construction, energy use efficiency and environmental concern in farming. The large number of farmers using our services gives us a strong connection to the complex challenges in practical farming and a short way to the implementation of new scientific knowledge. We also have a high academic level of the staff and good facilities for agricultural field experiments.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

Now running: Cupper deficiency and molybdenum toxicity in forage,
Improved establishment of Lucerne,
Integrated control of slugs in winter oilseed rape,
Quantitative real-time PCR in comparison with visual grading for fungal infection in wheat,
Development of organic and integrated cropping systems for the future
Nitrogen leaching from an organic cropping system (measurement of leaching from individual fields by automatic flow measurements and water sampling)

A large number of field experiments on applied cropping methods as fertilisation and other measures.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

Institutes interested in the development of agricultural cropping systems for the future in regards of efficient use of fertilisers, energy and other measures, by applying research questions in significant areas where there is a lack of knowledge and areas where todays knowledge need to be implemented further.

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Ulf Axelson
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Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? **YES**/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	**X (topic 2)**
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

We would like to develop an efficient environmentally acceptable strategy for production of healthy field crops (potato or other crops, depends on the interest of the partners), since there are more and more pests, which can not be controlled with insecticides any more (for example wireworms, white grubs etc.).

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

We have many research experiences with testing the efficacy of environmentally acceptable methods (biological control agents such as entomopathogenic nematodes) in controlling insect pests under field and laboratory conditions and with investigating the biotic interactions between the insect pests and their host plants.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

At the moment the national research project “Optimization and implementation of methods and measures for reducing the damage caused by larvae of common cockchafer in Slovenia” is running. Other research activities (financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment or other institutions) in our department are as follows: investigation of natural resistance of cabbage (glucosinolates, epicuticular wax, colour etc.) to insect pests attack, testing the efficacy of biofumigation and other environmentally acceptable methods in controlling wireworms in potato production, and efficacy of different environmentally acceptable materials (wood ash, diatomaceous earth, essential oils etc.) against stored products pests, investigation the occurrence of indigenous biological control agents and testing their efficacy in controlling important pests of cultivated and wild-growing plants, testing the potential synergism between environmentally acceptable control methods etc.

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

We do not have special requirements regarding the countries, however since our main research fields are agricultural entomology, phytopathology and biological control it would be nice to co-operate with the experts from the fields of herbology, microbiology…

Please provide your contact details:

First and last name: Dr. Stanislav Trdan
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CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	YES
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	YES
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	NO
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	NO

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

The studies will be conducted to improve the IPM methods for reducing the losses originated from pests, diseases and weeds in fruit species and open and greenhouse vegetables. The studies directed to develop the effectivity of solarization in greenhouses, cultural practises and biological control studies have top priority.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

The research will be carried out with the coordination between the Research Stations (Biologic Control Research Station and Land and Water Research Station, both are under the Ministry of Agric., TAGEM University) and Cukurova University. The related department of the university has research experience on the subject under field and greenhouse conditions. Also, all the field, lab and growth chamber facilities and the related equipments are available to carry out such a research.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

1. Introduction of alternatives to methyl bromide in protected strawberry, pepper and eggplant in East Mediterranean region and in strawberry in Aydin province of Turkey 2000-2003 (World Bank)
2. Phasing Out Methyl Bromide In Turkey, 2003-2007 (UNIDO)
3. Training And Monitoring Project For Methyl Bromide Phase-Out 2004-2007 (World Bank)

4. Soil Disinfestation Microwave System As An Alternative To Methyl Bromide - MICRODIS Contract N^0:COOP-CT-2003-508465 2005- 2006 (EU FP 6)

5. IPM on strawberry 2011-2014 (TÜBİTAK110 R 009)

6. Developing suitable technologies for *Trichoderma* spp. formulations against important soil borne pathogens. Improving propagation methods for examining in organic plant production.2013-2016 (TÜBİTAK 1007-111G055)

7. Investigations on applicability of Mass-Trapping Method Against *Thrips* Species (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) in Nectarine Orchards
8. Supporting Fruit Fly Detection and management for Balkans and Eastern Mediterranean (RER5018RTC2-International atomic energy agency (IAEA) .

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

1. Any country is OK, especially the Mediterranean countries; since the climate, soil and crop varieties are similar.
2. Universities, research stations and SMEs, growers and local farmers could be the partners.
3. Soil Sci., Plant Nutr., Fertilization, Irrigation Sci., Plant Protection areas could be preferable.

Please provide your contact details:

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First and last name:Dr. Adalet HAZIR
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First and last name: Alper BAYDAR, M.Sc.
Research Institute: Ministry of Agric. Land and Water Resources Div. Tarsus / Alata
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CORE Organic Plus Call

Applicant information sheet – for partnering search

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/NO

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Participant Institutes from Turkey:

1-Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock General Directorate of Agricultural Research (GDAR)-Directorate of Soil Fertilizer and Water Resources Central Research Institute

2- Yeditepe University, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Department of Genetics and Bioengineering,(YUDGAB) 34755 Kayisdagi, Istanbul-TURKEY

Yeditepe University, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Department of Genetics and Bioengineering has more than 22 laboratories including Yeditepe University Research ,Development an Analyse Central Laboratory(YU-AGAM).

YU-AGAM is a multiple different laboratory foundation that has approve from Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food. Also it is including Soil,Fertilizer,Plant,Water Analyse Laboratories with advanced fixture.

Main Researcher: Prof. Dr. Metin Turan

His Main Specialization:

1 Fertilizer and Fertilization

2 Plant Nutrition

3 Plant Biochemistry

His Current Research Interests

1 Soil Phosphorus

2 Phytoremediation

3 Biofertilizer

Interested thematic research area:

1. Crop: Plant/Soil interaction in organic crop production

Idea:

Rhizobacteria and non simbiotic microorganism use for reduced and no use fertiliser inputs by pretending increase of phosphorus resolution from soil in wheat production with no tillage.

Contact Details:

Prof. Dr. Metin Turan

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CORE Organic+ Call

Applicant information sheet

Will you attend the Brokerage Event on 18 December? YES/~~NO~~

For which thematic research area do you want to apply?

Plant/soil interaction in organic crop production	X
Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests	X
Livestock health management systems, including breeding	
Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain	

Which research questions do you specifically want to address in your project? (max. 5 lines)

Plant/soil interaction: We are interested in the effects and different uses of various composts and other organic matter enhancing substances on the health of field and protected crops, particularly in horticultural systems.
Functional biodiversity: Here we are interested in the area of functional biodiversity in different agricultural systems and the interactions and effects on crops.

What are the strengths of your research institute? (max. 5 lines)

The Centre is the UK's leading independent research, development and advisory institution for organic agriculture. We have research expertise in organic crop production, plant breeding, agroforestry, pest management, biodiversity and horticulture. Our key strength is in the participatory nature of our work, closely working with farmers and growers in our research and involving a wide range of stakeholders at all stages of research from design to analysis.

Which relevant research projects is your institute running now? What other research projects has your institute carried out in the past? (max. 10 lines)

We are currently involved in two other CORE Organic II projects; we coordinate COBRA (Coordinating Organic Breeding Activities for diversity) and are involved in TILMAN-ORG (Reduced tillage and green manures for sustainable organic cropping systems). We are also involved in seven EU FP7 projects, across a range of topics: Co-Free (Innovative strategies for copper-free low input and organic farming systems), SOLIBAM (Strategies for Organic and Low-input Integrated Breeding and Management), OSCAR (Optimising Subsidiary Crop Applications in Rotations), SOLID (Sustainable

Organic and Low Input Dairying), AGFORWARD (Agroforestry that will advance rural development), WHEALBI (Wheat and Barley Legacy for Breeding Improvement), and ODN (European Data Network for Improved Transparency of Organic Markets). We are also involved in the BioGreenhouse COST network (Towards a sustainable and productive EU organic greenhouse horticulture).

What kind of partners are you looking for (as regards field of competence, country....)?

We are looking for international and national partners that can enhance and add to our research possibilities/skills in the areas described above.

Please provide your contact details:

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