



Crosspollination activities between HARNESSTOM members and legal and economic experts

On Friday 7 May several HARNESSTOM members took part on the International Meeting “**CHALLENGES IN THE AGROFOOD SECTOR: COMPETENCE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**”, organized by Felipe Palau (UPV) the HARNESSTOM expert in legal and IP issues. The meeting was a great success and gathered the attention of local government members including Mrs. Mireia Mollà Herrera, Council for Agriculture, Rural Development, Climate Emergency and Ecological Transition of the Valencian Government who welcomed the participants and emphasized the relevance of the topic for Local, National and European economy.

The event was a nice occasion for the HARNESSTOM partners FCCV (as represented by Carlos Baixauli) and CTAEX (as represented by Jose Luis LLerena) to present their commitment to innovation in Agrifood and the importance to have an adequate legislation framework that fosters innovation. Jaume Prohens (UPV) presented the HARNESSTOM project and especially the legal requirements we must comply with as mandated by the EC. Together with the project coordinator A Granell (CSIC) the discussion was open to discuss how to best harmonize the rights of the different stakeholders (countries of origin, farmers right, breeder’s rights).

General conclusion of the workshop entitled: **REGULATORY FRAMEWORK ON THE USE OF GENETICS RESOURCES AND PROTECTION OF AGROFOOD INNOVATION: the views of academia and agri-food enterprises** was that Legislation is key for a right balance that Fosters innovation in plant Breeding. To do this it is important for legislation to be Facilitating, Updated and Fit-to-purpose. This need for legislation to be updated is especially important for a field where new genomic breeding technologies are emerging that require a balanced, proportionate legal treatment. Attention was bought to the upcoming event on the [New Genomic Plant Techniques](#) which is also organized and participated by several HARNESSTOM members.

This activity is part of HARNESSTOM commitment to actively disseminate and discuss the current regulation around the use of genetic resources for innovation in Agriculture.

