



“HARNESSTOM and VIRTIGATION two EU Funded project with common interests agree to join forces”

HARNESSTOM continues to enlarge its network of interactions, this time with a related EU-funded project called VIRTIGATION (<https://www.virtigation.eu/>) “Emerging viral disease in tomatoes and cucurbits: implementation of mitigation strategies for durable disease management”. The VIRTIGATION project plans to “develop solutions to emerging viral diseases caused by Begomoviruses (whitefly-transmitted) and Tobamoviruses (mechanically transmitted) in cucurbits and in tomatoes in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean Basin”. As identification of sources of resistances to emerging diseases, including viruses of those families (ToLCNDV and TBRFV) and developing prebreeding materials are two of the goals of HARNESSTOM, it is obvious there is a common interest to network with VIRTIGATION and to find possible synergies. Another avenue of possible interactions derives from both projects inclusive approach to take into account the diversity of cultivation conditions and the involvement of a variety of actors ranging from commercial companies to growers to become involved in the research and this is even more the case of HARNESSTOM which is very active in Citizen Science activities. In conversations with Virtigation coordinator Hervé Vanderschuren, KU Leuven, we agree on scientists and experts in communication from both projects to get together to organize joint activities during the fall.

