



“Tomato Farmers meet HARNESSTOM scientists in search for solution for the rugose virus”

The Rugose Virus (short for the tomato brown rugose fruit virus, ToBRFV) is spreading quickly worldwide and is already causing large losses to tomato farmers in many countries including European countries. Not surprising ToBRFV is a quarantine virus in EU and object of intensive research. Identification of sources of resistance against this viral disease and introducing them in tomato pre-breeding materials is one of the objectives of HARNESSTOM project.

Not surprisingly farmers are worried to see the increasing incidence of the virus that may eventually reach their fields. To be prepared for this emerging situation Joan Casals (FMA/UPC) leading scientist in participative breeding and citizen science activities in the HARNESSTOM and Antonio Granell coordinator of the project met with technical staff from Conca de la Tordera cooperative (<https://concadelatordera.com/es/>) to discuss the current stage of research on the ToBRFV and the possible development of tomato varieties that are resistant to this virus, and possibilities for interaction. Conca de la Tordera is an association of farmers from Catalunya specialized in the production of the long-shelf life Penjar tomato and is actively collaborating with HARNESSTOM researchers.



Snapshot of the participants in the meeting: Angel Campeny and Anna Sanz, both technical staff from Conca de la Tordera cooperative, Joan Casals (FMA/UPC) and Antonio Granell (IBMCP, CSIC).

