



“HARNESSTOM TOMATO TRIALS WELL UNDERWAY AT CTAEX TO EVALUATE ROOTSTOCK PERFORMANCE UNDER REDUCED WATER USE CONDITIONS”

Harnesstom (<http://harnesstom.eu/en>) is conducting a large set of tomato trials in Extremadura, one of the largest processing tomatoes producing area in Europe located in Southwest Spain. Harnesstom partner CTAEX is a non-profit BUSINESS Association, established in January 2001 with a clear objective: to offer research, development, innovation, analytical, training and information services and thus to contribute to the development of agri-food companies. One of the trials is intended to find the best rootstock to produce good tomato yield and performance under reduced irrigation. The trial is conducted using combinations of elite varieties grafted on a number of selected rootstocks developed by HARNESSTOM partner IVIA is cultivated in hydroponic greenhouse aimed to reduce 30% of the water normally used. The assay is well underway with all plants showing good nutrition and morphology as they are monitored daily for a series of cultivation parameters such as pH, and electrical conductivity and moisture of the soil/substrate. This is just one of the several trials under way in CTAEX, all of them deriving from the different pre-breeding projects in Harnesstom. Harnesstom is addressing in this way the main breeding challenges the tomato sector is facing: introduce resistance against emerging diseases; improve tomato tolerance to the new conditions associated with climate change; improve fruit quality and increase general resistance in the traditional tomato sector. In the following weeks we will update on the field trials covering all these aspects.



Photos of greenhouse trials.

