



“The II Valencian Tomato Congress brings together the experts in this traditional tomato variety”

The HARNESSTOM partner Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) hosted last Thursday, May 30, the “II Valencian Tomato Congress. “L’Autèntica”. This time it took place from 8:30 a.m., in the Assembly Hall of building 8E, of the Polytechnic City of Innovation, UPV science park.

In this edition of the congress, special emphasis it has been placed on the need to identify the authentic 'Valencian Tomato' in the production chain, but above all in the marketing areas; and the latest results of the research projects including HARNESSTOM and that the UPV is carrying out for the future of what is considered one of the most genuinely Valencian agricultural products has been presented.

Among the research being carried out by the COMAV Institute of the UPV, Breeding for resistance to the new emerging disease caused by the Tomato brown rugose fruit virus, ToBRFV, which generates great concern due to the serious damage and its efficient transmission by contact has been the main focus in the HARNESSTOM project. In addition the MERESTOV project of the local program AGROALNEXT aims to improve the resilience and sustainability of the 'Valencian Tomata'. Within the framework of this project, the COMAV team is working on new genetically improved varieties of the 'Tomata Valenciana' so that they are more resistant to prevalent diseases of the crop, caused by different pathogens ToMV, TSWV, *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. lycopersici*, *Verticillium sp.*, nematodes.

The COMAV-UPV team has also developed a collection of hybrid rootstocks selected to improve the vigor of the Valencian tomato (which would allow cultivation on two or more guides) and greater efficiency in the use of water and nutrients. “The hybrids developed have been evaluated in the fields of farmers of the Valencian Tomato Producers and Marketers Association, based at the UPV. Thus, it has been possible to select two rootstocks, which are hybrids between the wild species *S. habrochaites* and an improvement line, as the most interesting,” highlights Salvador Soler Aleixandre, COMAV researcher and coordinator of the congress.

During the meeting, it has been also discussed, among other topics, how to increase the efficiency in the use of water and fertilizers in the cultivation of the 'Valencian Tomata', the application of natural enemies in pest control, as well as the use of biostimulants for cultivation. In addition, the importance of producing seed of traditional varieties and especially the 'Valencian Tomata' has been emphasized so that farmers can establish their plantations with the greatest phytosanitary guarantees. The genotyping signature that characterizes Valencian tomatoes was presented by Clara Pons from CSIC another Harnesstom partner.

In short, this congress has allowed all attendees, more than 60 people, to fully understand all the advances in terms of varietal improvement and development of new varieties of 'Tomata Valenciana', as well as access to all the work that is being carried out in this type of tomato related to the production and conservation of the varieties, use of natural enemies in organic cultivation, as well as economic aspects of the cultivation of this traditional variety.





Photo of the speakers and organisers of the II Valencian Tomato Congress.



Salvador Soler and María Rosario Figás during their speeches.

