



“Harnesstom partners organize the 2nd Valencian Tomato Congress”

The 2nd Valencian Tomato Congress, that will take place on 30 May 2024 at the University Polytechnic of Valencia- Spain, promises to be another success with seventeen communications to be presented at the meeting.

The congress is organized by members of the Harnesstom partner UPV-COMAV and will offer a unique opportunity to bring together the different actors of the traditional tomato chain to present and discuss the latest advances in research and valorization of the Valencian tomato. Another HARNESSTOM partner CSIC is also taking an active part in the organization committee and will be presenting the latest results of the project in relation to traditional varieties and their improvement.

Research on the Valencian tomato has been very active in recent years, resulting in more stable lines that present the characteristics desired by farmers while their fruits retain their typical and distinctive organoleptic properties. Partly supported by this research “El Tomate Valenciano / Valencian Tomato” has received the “Quality Mark of the Valencian Community” distinction. This mark recognizes and characterizes this tomato local variety by its typical pointed shape, meaty texture and characteristic flavor and nutritional properties. Research activities have been also a key factor in building the “Valencian Tomato Society” that will be in charge of its cultivation, protection, and dissemination of this variety. This distinction granted by the local government Generalitat Valenciana and the Valencian Tomato Society will contribute to consolidating this variety of tomato as a differentiated product and will ensure a better future for this quality product by protecting it from “imitations”.



Picture taken during the official presentation of the Association of Producers of Valencian-type tomatoes.

Research is also making it possible to obtain Valencian tomato varieties resistant to most diseases, including some emerging ones such as the Tomato Rugose Virus, and for this the activities of the COMAV center are crucial. The COMAV houses the Germplasm Bank which holds an excellent collection of traditional varieties and wild species related to tomato that are key for breeding. Researchers are using these important resources to increase the resilience of the Valencian tomato and these are part of the activities conducted in HARNESSTOM.

The main organizers of the 10th Valencia Tomata Congress, COMAV professors/researchers: Salvador Soler, Jaime Prohens and María Rosario Figàs continue





to play a key role in these developments. They are undoubtedly the best experts in the genetics underlying the peculiar characteristics of the Valencian tomato. Enthusiastic and tireless workers know how to combine their teaching and research activities with those of interaction with the productive sector and their activity has been key to the establishment of the quality brand and the society around the Valencian tomato. They have also successfully managed to bring the Valencian tomato to international research forums by participating in EU-funded projects like Traditom and Harnesstom. Is in Traditom where the Valencian tomato was deeply analyzed and valued from the perspective of a large collection of traditional European tomatoes. Is in Harnesstom where an attempt is being made to increase its resilience against old diseases like TMV or TWSV and to new emerging diseases like Brown Rugose Virus.

All this and much more will be the subject of presentation and debate during these days at the 2nd Tomata

Valenciana Congress, which I hope will be to your satisfaction. We have no doubt that this is the place to learn and continue raising the questions that need additional research or development that will allow us to continue enjoying the Valencian tomatoes.



Poster of the 2nd Congress of the Valencian Tomato that will take place in Valencia on the 30 May 2024.

