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ON MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY**



BIODIVERSITY IN THE XXI CENTURY: NEW PARADIGMS FOR NEW CHALLENGES

PROGRAMME

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Session: Biodiversity in cropping systems

Innovative management for organic ornamental crops in nurseries

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The ornamental sector of organic outdoor ornamental plants needs innovative technical means that can improve the sustainability and competitiveness of production companies.

There are numerous difficulties that stand in the way of adopting organic production protocols and the most limiting are the poor availability of certified organic technical means. Pot cultivation is very difficult to manage in an organic regime. Another problematic phase in ornamental nursery is propagation, usually carried out by cutting with the aid of synthetic products with hormone-like action. Last, but not least, is the challenge of controlling biotic and abiotic stress with remedies permitted in organic farming, which implies a holistic approach to the problem with respect to the use of synthetic chemical products, possible above all thanks to a conscious use of bioactive substances. Of particular importance are the control of weed flora and the defense against soil-borne pathogens. In this context, the BIOVIVO project aims to analyze with a multidisciplinary approach, also thanks to the direct support of horticultural companies, the critical points of the production process - propagation, growing substrates, fertilization, defense - with the aim of outlining a cognitive framework that can support the organic cultivation process for ornamental shrub plants in pots to be used in green spaces. The project will use technical means of natural origin such as biostimulants to improve the production process of ornamental plants in nurseries.

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