



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME



EuroMedCitrusNet:

**“Safe and High Quality Supply Chains and Networks for the Citrus Industry
between Mediterranean Partner Countries and Europe”**

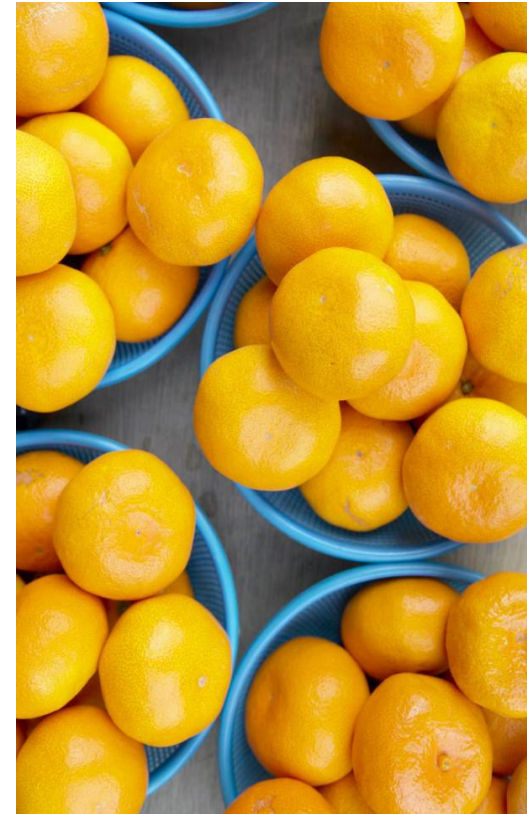
Needs Assessment Survey

Project No. 43146

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Aim

- To identify the existing knowledge gaps and further needs regarding quality and safety supply chains in the citrus sector
- And use the results to:
 - Bring together organizations with complementary needs in research collaboration
 - To direct proposals for collaborative research to address the needs of the citrus sector
 - To make policy recommendations to support the closing of the knowledge gaps and other needs





Introduction

- Brainstorm ideas for knowledge gaps
- Develop questionnaires to gather different views from a broad audience of citrus sector participants



- Two questionnaires: academic researchers and citrus industry to cater for different perspectives
- Provided through e-mail/postal mail distribution



Introduction

- Use of the results of the survey to match potential collaborators and establish a basis for international initiatives



- Each Partner will develop one preliminary proposal for a research project in their area of specialisation addressing the needs identified
- Policy recommendations outline to prioritise the policy required to close the major gaps identified within the needs assessment.



Topics for Discussion

- Knowledge needed in:
 - Combating pests and diseases
 - Environment, irrigation and soil management
 - Entrepreneurship, sales and marketing
 - Post harvest treatment, packaging, transport and distribution
 - Variety selection rootstocks /grafted plants
 - Legislation /food regulations and quality systems
 - Processing and by products
 - Technology transfer, training, and Information Technology



Topics for Discussion

- Combating pests and diseases
 - Most common pests and diseases? (Viruses and virus-like diseases, mites, nematodes, insects, fungi – production and post harvest)
 - Effectiveness of treatments in combating pest /disease ? (types of treatment)
 - Importance in terms of damage of pest/ disease?



Topics for Discussion

- Environment, irrigation and soil management
 - What methods are in place? (flood, sprinkler, drip), (soil quality/ composition control, frost protection, wind protection, flooding), sustainability
 - What are the constraints? (amount of water available /ha / required), quality, source, cost)
 - What are the government policies, incentives, limitations, regulations?
 - What are the future perspectives? (monitoring technology)?



Topics for Discussion

- Entrepreneurship, sales and marketing
 - Local, regional, national, or international sales? (main markets, customers)
 - Barriers to international sales? (technical, phito and sanitary, political (quotas, calendar, minimum price), transaction costs, vertical or horizontal integration)
 - What is the role of support organizations? (advertising, government support)
 - What are the main trends?



Topics for Discussion

- Post harvest treatment, packaging, transport and distribution
 - What methods in place? (chemical/ biological treatments of fruit), (packaging materials, size, storage conditions (temperature /atmosphere including humidity)),
 - Effects of handling, transport regulations and difficulties (road vs ship – container vs pallets), chemicals, antagonistics?



Topics for Discussion

- Variety selection rootstocks
 - Tolerance to insects, diseases and environment (soil, water needs, frost), compatibility with grafted plants?
- Variety selection grafted plants
 - Tolerance to insects, diseases and environment (soil, water needs, frost), productivity, profitability, consumers requirements (e.g. easy peeler, seedless), period of production?



Topics for Discussion

- Legislation / Food regulations
 - Legislation on fruit production, labelling, post harvest treatment, food safety, environmental regulations?
- Quality systems
 - HACCP, ISO 9001 (Quality Management Principles), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management)
 - BRC /IFS, Nature's Choice, EurepGap
 - Others?



Topics for Discussion

- Processing and by products
 - Technology?
 - Products of added value (health products, essential oils, resins, animal feed, detergent ingredients, colourings....?)



Topics for Discussion

- Technology transfer, international collaboration, training and Information technology
 - What equipment is in place?
 - Collaboration (current or desired)? With which countries?
 - Capacity building needs?
 - Extent to which technology/ IT is used?
 - Positive or negative perceptions?
 - Desire to improve knowledge?
 - Kind of information / benefits that could be provided by technology /IT?