

PRESS RELEASE 3**ZEROPARASITIC: Partner kick off meeting in Amman, Jordan**

With the 2nd year of the project soon being fulfilled, the partners contributing in the ZeroParasitic project participated in a meeting that took place between the 16th and 19th of May in Amman, Jordan. The objective of the meeting was the review of the completed tasks, as well as the definition of an action plan for the third year.

Monday, 16th of May

Dr. Nizar and Dr. Alabed (the hosts of the meeting) welcomed the rest of the partners to the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARC). The director of Narc (Dr. Nizar) demonstrated the laboratories, the facilities, and the actions of the institute. Afterwards, there was a discussion concerning the following tasks:

- Use of rootstocks to improve parasitism tolerance in tomato
- Utilizing stimulants/biocontrol agents to deplete soil seed banks and inhibit parasitism
- A Biocontrol system through insects with specificity to broomrapes
- Model and predict broomrape parasitism in relation to climate change and soil-climatic conditions
- Local sensing technologies (UAVs) to map parasitism
- Hormone and metabolomics analysis in the parasite-plant interactions
- Exploiting the genetic diversity of broomrapes
- Analysis of the expression of host genes associated with resistance

**Tuesday, 17th of May**

The coordinator of the project Dr. Chachalis welcomed the partners. A discussion followed concerning the following tasks, as well as the plan for the 3rd year:

- Greenhouse and field screening of germplasm for resistance to broomrapes
- Identification of defense-triggering molecules of parasitic plants
- Novel resistance-conferring receptors of resistant germplasm
- End-user attitude elucidation on broomrape solutions
- Assessment of economic effectiveness and Cost Benefit Analysis
- Measures to increase adoption by end-users

- Communication and Exploitation Plan
- Stakeholder engagement plan
- Project dissemination dossier

Thursday, 19th of May

Dr. Alabed welcomed the partners to the Dair Alla Agricultural Research Center. Dr. Allabed demonstrated the experiments and the crops that are cultivated at the research center. Afterwards, a visit in several greenhouses with tomato plants took place. Finally, a tour in a date palm farm took place, where the visitors were informed about the crop.



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