

Strategies to develop effective, innovative and practical approaches to protect major European fruit crops from pests and pathogens

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DROPSA is a 4-year project involving 26 partners from Europe, Asia, New Zealand and North America.

It will focus on new and emerging threats due to the spotted winged *Drosophila* fruit fly, *Drosophila suzukii*, and the bacterial pathogens *Pseudomonas syringae* *pv. actinidiae*, *Xanthomonas fragariae* and *X. arboricola* *pv. pruni*.

These pathogens and *Drosophila suzukii* are a major concern and challenge to the fruit industry because their eradication or containment are no longer possible. Hence the development of targeted **integrated pest management** (IPM) is vital to minimise the economic impact on fruit production in the EU region.

DROPSA will deliver a cost effective approach that can be widely implemented by the European fruit sector.



Male and female *Drosophila suzukii* on strawberry. © Fera



Bleeding canker and brown spot on Kiwi vines infected with *Pseudomonas syringae*. © F. Spinelli (UNIBO).



AIMS:

To determine the **pathways of introduction and spread** of *D. suzukii* and pathogens across the European fruit sector and develop preventative strategies and recommendations against the introduction of other invasive fruit pests and diseases.

To identify the key mechanisms within the **biology and ecology** of *D. suzukii*, and **life cycles** and **epidemiology** of *P. syringae*, *X. fragariae* and *X. arboricola*, to provide a platform for the development of preventative and sustainable control methods.

To develop **practical, effective and innovative solutions to control** *D. suzukii* and pathogens based on biological data, transfer of best practices and adaptation of innovative technologies for inclusion in IPM strategies.

To develop **forecasting and decision support systems** and **risk management** as a component of IPM.

To provide **economic analyses** of proposed strategies for crop protection to support decision making in the implementation of practical solutions and IPM strategies to protect the EU fruit sector.