



IFAPA

Soil health management in intensive and non-intensive grown crops in organic greenhouse horticulture in Southern-Europe (Mediterranean climate): Practices, constraints, obstacles and solutions.

F. Miguel de Cara
La Mojonera- Almería, Spain

franciscom.cara@juntadeandalucia.es

 JUNTA DE ANDALUCÍA
Instituto de Investigación y Formación Agraria y Pesquera
CONSEJERÍA DE AGRICULTURA Y PESCA

 Andalucía
se mueve con Europa

Greenhouse production in Almería (Spain)

Is THIS system compatible with an agroecological healthy-soil strategy?



>30,000 ha

Eight crops: Tomato, sweet pepper, cucumber, melon, watermelon, eggplant, zucchini, green bean.

General view of Almería's organic greenhouses.

1. "Suelos arenados" (sandy soils) represents more than 80% of total surface.
2. High number of small producers: concentration and atomization.
3. Agribusiness high pressure.
4. Hybrid varieties are prevalent.
5. Biological control successful for insects and mites but not for microorganisms.



1. “Suelos arenados” (sandy soils) vs. Normal soils.

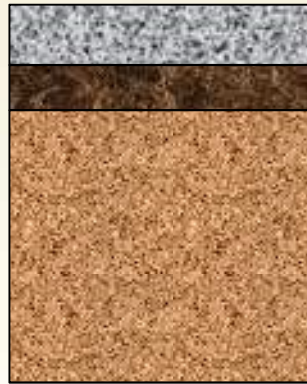
Disinfection-like?

“Suelo arenado”

Sand (10-15 cm)

Manure (5-10 cm)

Original soil



- Sheep, goat manure: fertilizer available to roots
- Amendment before summer → manure maturation
- Sand: regulation of temperature, use of saline water, Reduction of evaporation, less compactation,
- Alternatives on cropping line position.
- Increase of labour cost.



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2. Production concentration

Transmission of information (and problems).

- Different advisors per farm.
- Daily meetings of growers (fruit reception area, warehouses).
- Courses, technical meetings, demonstrations...
- Specific media for horticulturists (blogs, journals, radio and tv,...)

Positive

- Sources of inoculum / pest sources:
 - Air
 - Water
 - Environment

Negative



General view of Almería's organic greenhouses.

Soilborne pathogens:



Meloidogyne spp.

- Meloidogyne* spp.
- Vascular wilt
- Root and crown rot
- Collapse

F. oxysporum f. sp. *lycopersici*



Pythium aphanidermatum



Olpidium bornovanus + MNSV

General practices to manage soilborne diseases.

1. **Biodisinfection (biofumigation, solarization, both).**
2. Plant resistance: cultivars and rootstocks.
3. Prevention.
4. Biological control.



1. Biodisinfection.



Biodisinfection/Biofumigation



1. Biodisinfection.

 **+ 30 days**

Water

Organic Matter

Soil



1. Biodisinfection.

Organic matter: Origin and amount



Crop residues



Food industry residues



Brassica and poultry pellets



Weeds



Manure: poultry, sheep, horse

- Decreasing doses: 10 → 1 kg/m²
- Accesible and cheap
- Ratio C/N: 8→20

1. Biodisinfection.

Incorporation to the soil



- Homogeneity
- 25-30 cm depth



1. Biodisinfection.

Irrigation

- Homogeneity
- Check water distribution
- Repeat several days to reach field capacity



1. Biodisinfection.

Soil covering

- Seal carefully
- Transparent + summer: BioSolarization



Polyethylene

1. Biodisinfection.

Wait...

- Reductive conditions depend on the type of tarping:
 - Polyethilene allows lack of oxygen for a few days
- Microbial communities can vary.
- Organic matter is not allways decomposed.
- Plant growth is higher



- Effect of reductive conditions
- Effect of high temperature
- Effect of bio-compounds
- Effect of o. m. mineralisation

1. Biodisinfection.

Results

- Positive results for greenhouse and high value crops:
 - Well documented: Carnation, strawberry, tomato, sweet pepper, cucumber.
 - Control of pathogenic nematodes, fungi and bacteria.



After *Clavibacter*



**Metan-Na
control: diseased
plants**

1. Biodisinfection.

Composting in situ

F. oxysporum f.sp. lycopersici



Removed pathogens from infested plants:


Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. lycopersici, *F. oxysporum f.sp. melonis*, *Pythium aphanidermatum*, *Pythium spp.*, *Phytophthora spp.*, *Thielaviopsis basicola*, *Olpidium bornovanus*, PMMV y MNSV.



Pythium aphanidermatum

After 60 days of composting at Almería, they were not detected. Open piles aerated by flipping.

(Aguilar, 2002)

The logo of IFAPA (Instituto de Investigación y Formación Agraria y Pesquera) is located on the left side of the slide. It features a stylized graphic of a plant or tree with circular elements, and the acronym 'IFAPA' is written vertically in a bold, sans-serif font.

General practices to manage soilborne diseases.

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2. Plant resistance.

2.1. Resistant varieties.



187 millions of plants, that is about 97% of all tomato seedlings produced in Almería, are resistant to one or more viruses (80%), fungi (93%) or nematodes (61%). Most of the fungi-resistant tomatoes are so against Fusarium wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f.sp. *lycopersici*) (95%) and Verticillium wilt (*Verticillium dahliae/albo-atrum*) (81%)

(Janssen et al., on press)

2. Plant resistance.


2.1. Rootstocks.

- More than 100 million tomato plants are grafted in Southern Spain.
- 95% of watermelon is grafted.
- Grafted cucumber is increasing



R = Resistant
S = Susceptible

	<i>P. parasitica</i>	<i>F. oxysporum</i> f. sp. <i>radicis-lycopersici</i>
Rootstock	Resistance	Resistance
Mini star	S	R
Katalina	S	R
Montezuma	R	R
Armstrong	R	R
Summer sun	S	R
Root star	S	R
Top-2005	S	R
Spirit	S	R
Beaufort	S	R
Maxifort	R	R
Hpit-0803	R	R
Dro122	R	R
Ar. 97009	R	R
Morgan	S	R
Emperador	R	R
61 071	S	R
19zs913	S	R
19zs912	S	R



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3. Prevention.

3.1. Water → Drip irrigation.

-Origin for diseases: nematodes, fungi, oomicetes, chytridios, bacteria.

Nematodes

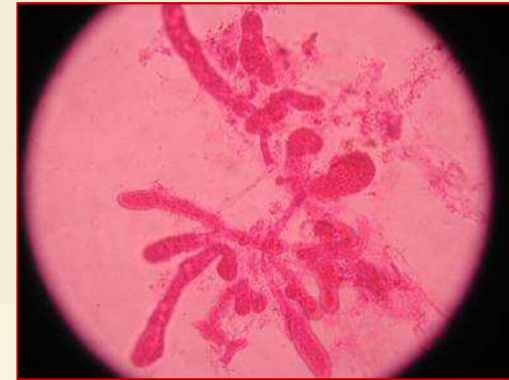


Meloidogyne incognita, M. javanica, M. arenaria

3. Prevention.

3.1. Water → Drip irrigation.

***Pythium aphanidermatum, P. ultimum,
P. irregulare, ...***



**Water-
borne**

3. Prevention.

3.1. Water → Drip irrigation.

1. Root rot, wilt of tomato, pepper, melon.

Phytophthora capsici*, *P. parasitica



³
Pools (<100m):
Water disinfection



**Water-
borne**



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3. Prevention.

3.1. Water → Drip irrigation.



Better than flood irrigation!



3. Prevention.

3.2. Seeds → Seed standard (NO certified).

Introduction of pathogens:

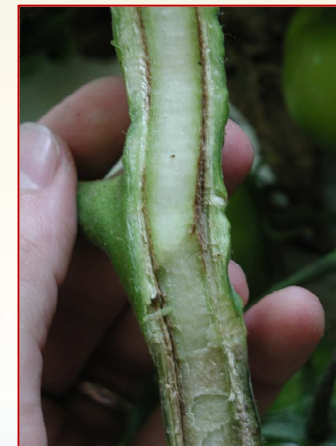
- Complaint to the seed company / nursery
- Soil biodisinfection after introduction of the pathogen

Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. melonis
Races 0, 1, 2, 1-2 W, 1-2 Y



(Gómez y Tello, 2000)

Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. michiganensis



3.3. Seedlings.

3. Prevention.

3.2. Ourselves.

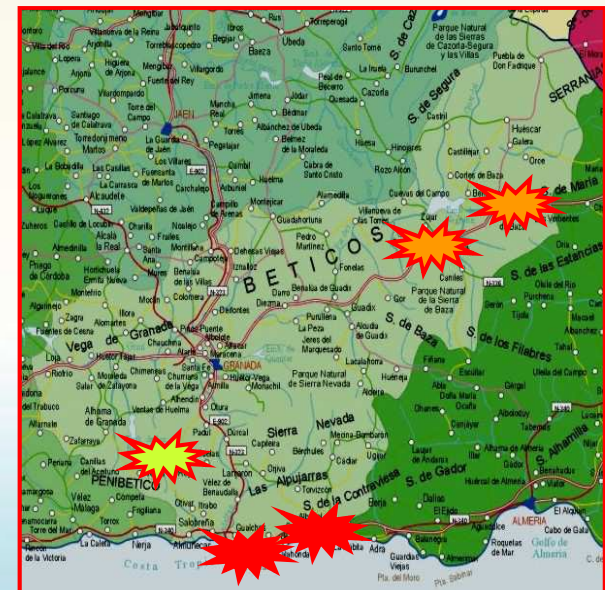
-Look out for tools!




Inoculum sources:

- Kitchen gardens and orchards (38 samples) = 15% *Phytophthora*
- Tractor wheels and tools (8 tractors) = 12,5% *Phytophthora*

-Way of contamination and dissemination of pathogens



(de Cara et al., 2011)



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4. Biological control.

4.1. Evolution.



Baker and Cook (70's, 80's)



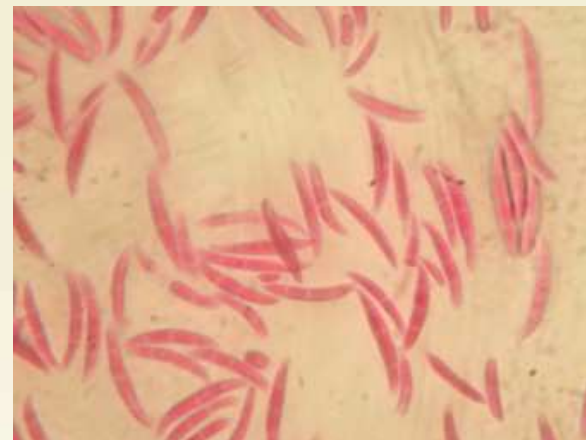
Hoitink et al. (90's)



Commercial availability (90's)



**¿Results?
(XXI Century)**



4. Biological control.

Weaknesses of B.C. in greenhouses



Correct diagnosis → Is there disease in the crop?

B.C. product correctly labeled → What are we going to apply?

Right application → How to apply?

B.C.A. check → Is it established in the soil/crop?

Assesing of control → Is B.C.A. working as it is expected?



Model of B.C. for insects

4. Biological control.



Correct diagnosis → Is there disease in the crop?

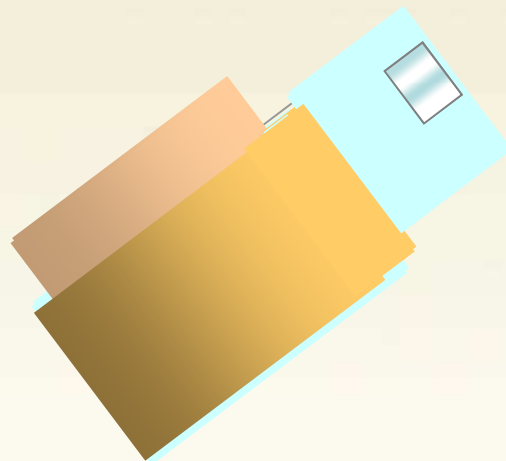
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4. Biological control.



- Biofertilizer
- Phytofortificant
- Biostimulant
- Fungicide

Correct diagnosis → Is there disease in the crop?

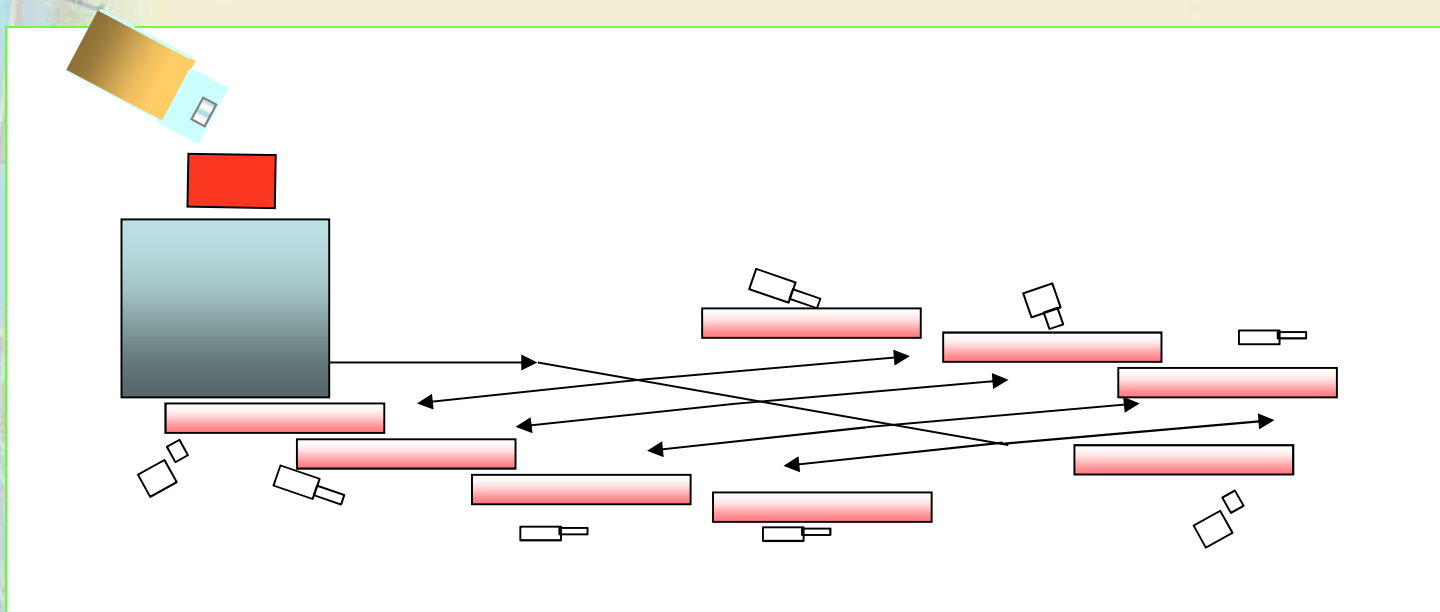
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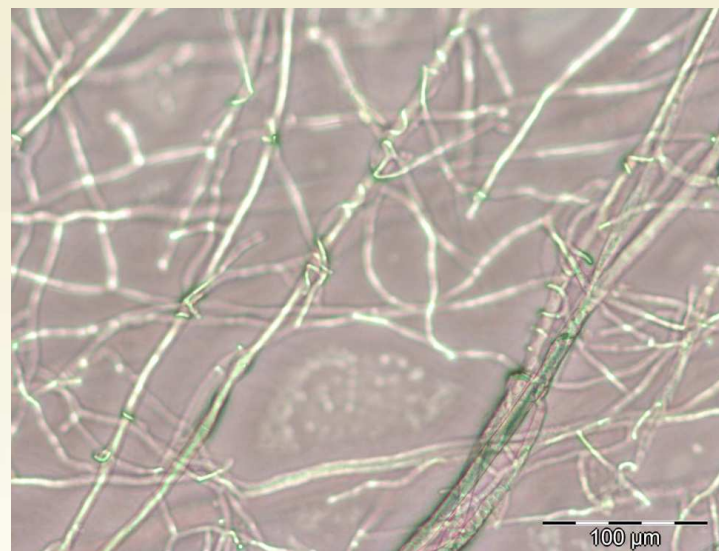
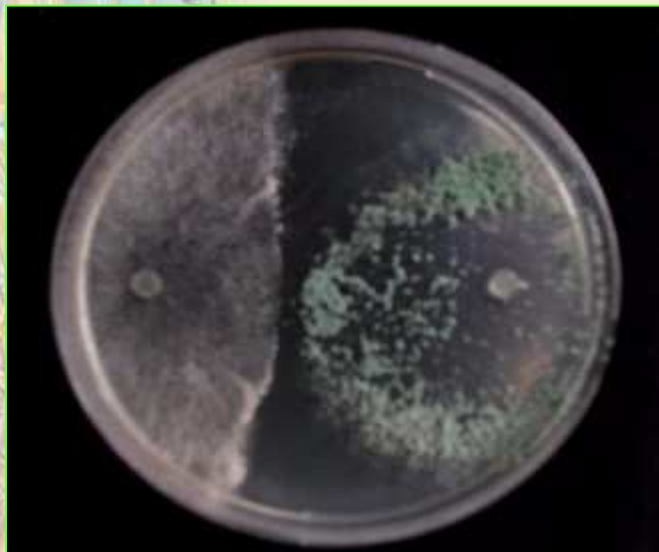
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4. Biological control.



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4. Biological control.

There are not clear successes for B. C. in Almería's greenhouses

There are Plant Promoting effects on plants (nursery level) when some B. C. Organisms are applied, such as *Trichoderma* spp. (Systemic Resistance Acquisition?, Increased availability of nutrients?)

More need to be done...




General practices to manage soilborne diseases.

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2. Plant resistance: cultivars and rootstocks.
3. Prevention.
4. Biological control.

COMBINATION



~~**ROTATION**~~




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3. Prevention.
4. Biological control.

Allow management of plant residues
In summer fast decomposition of organic matter
Compatible with other practices

Difficult to make it compatible with “suelo arenado”
In winter not enough to disinfect soils
Labourious task




General practices to manage soilborne diseases.

1. Biodisinfection (biofumigation, solarization, both).
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4. Biological control.

**Safer than other practices
As simple as buy them
Rootstocks allow cropping local varieties**

**Expensive
Highly dependant on seed companies
Resistances to all pathogens are not present**



General practices to manage soilborne diseases.

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Water disinfectants need to be allowed/developed
Seed coating protective products need to be developed
Fungicides and bactericides for nurseries need to be developed
Certified horticultural seeds are desirable

General practices to manage soilborne diseases.

1. Biodisinfection (biofumigation, solarization, both).
2. Plant resistance: cultivars and rootstocks.
3. Prevention.
4. **Biological control.**

Rational method
Easy to use

Not as effective as needed
Specific application instructions needed
Low availability for the whole spectrum of pathogens

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