



VIRTIGATION – Emerging viral diseases in tomatoes and cucurbits: Implementation of mitigation strategies for durable disease management

Deliverable 8.4 EPQ-Requirement No.4

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1 PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

The objective of the ethics deliverable D8.4 '*EPQ-Requirement No. 4*' is to provide further information about the possible harm to the environment caused by VIRTIGATION research activities and the measures that will be taken to mitigate the associated risks. In this project, the Consortium will be working with invasive pests such as whiteflies and plant viruses (begomoviruses and tobamoviruses), which can potentially harm the environment if released outside. However, these exotic pests will be kept in controlled quarantine laboratories, greenhouses and/or growth chambers inspected and approved for their use by the country-specific quarantine authorities. All partners have long track records of working with the respective viruses and insect vector targeted in VIRTIGATION project, and they have established facilities and procedures to contain any pathogen spread to the environment. Moreover, VIRTIGATION will focus on developing biopesticides, eco-friendly formulations and plant-based products to control the insect pest whiteflies. These technologies will be of immense help to reduce the use of synthetic pesticides and, thus, reduce the harm to the environment and other forms of life. The Consortium will also ensure the health and safety of their employees by adhering to the corresponding EU and national laws currently in force.