



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

## Deliverable 6.4 Draft report on IP & exploitation management

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<b>Project acronym:</b> VIRTIGATION	<b>Project Number:</b> 101000570
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# 1 PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

This Deliverable is the first report on the actual exploitable results attained up till now at mid-term of the VIRTIGATION project, and further outlines the measures taken so far by result owners to ensure the (post-)project use of their results. As is the case with the DEC Plan (cf. D6.1, D6.3) and the Data Management Plan (cf. D7.2, D7.4), this draft report on IP & exploitation management constitutes a living working document which includes preliminary information that will be continuously updated till the end of the project and feed into the post-project exploitation plan deliverable (D6.8, due in M48).

This intermediate report comes at a crucial junction in the project, when semi-field and field trials are expected to start in the coming months, which should generate substantial raw data to potentially support the long-term development of new plant varieties and biopesticide formulations. This Deliverable also analyses markets, chances, barriers and other factors regarding the economic and other planned impact of all anticipated project results. Moreover, this report includes details on various IP & exploitation management issues discussed so far in the project, such as Technology Readiness Level (TRL) assessment, clarification of ownership claims, design of suitable IP protection strategies and preliminary measures to ensure adequate use and dissemination of results. Additionally, a list of challenges for post-project exploitation is provided in the conclusion. The next activities for the task underlying this deliverable, Task 6.4, is already provided in the DEC plan P2 update (cf. D6.3).

VIRTIGATION partners have reported on their results following the Exploitation - Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) defined in the DEC Plan (cf. D6.1, D6.3), which contains the methodology adopted by the consortium to identify exploitable results and elaborate their corresponding (post-)project exploitation plans. Consortium members already reported on their preliminary results for the P1 reporting, and updated their reporting for this Deliverable at the mid-term mark of the project. RTDS as task leader facilitated these processes by notably raising awareness on the necessary procedures and obligations related to the protection, exploitation and dissemination of results through bilateral consultations with partners, as well as 2 internal online workshops.

The project results outlined in this report exhibit significant potential for diverse applications and have the capacity to create a tangible impact in their respective fields. In addition to expanding existing knowledge, these results offer practical solutions to the current challenge of mitigating the emerging ToBRFV and ToLCNDV plant viruses in tomatoes and cucurbits for the entire value chain. To facilitate the post-project exploitation phase, partners have collectively agreed upon a range of measures. These measures include establishing robust IP protection, developing comprehensive research and development plans, formulating potential commercialisation strategies, fostering collaborations with partners, securing adequate funding and investment, and maintaining continuous monitoring and adjustment of the exploitation strategy based on market trends and regulatory requirements.

The monitoring of project results and exploitation planning activities will continue until the end of the project. The assessment of project results will be further focused on tracking the TRL development and identifying ownership claims, aiming at facilitating the negotiation of access rights needed to ensure the adequate development of potential key exploitable results (KERs) and defining the strategies to overcome the foreseen challenges for successful exploitation of results after the end of the project.