



*“ZeroParasitic” the Second Physical Meeting took place from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 in Jordan at National Agricultural Research Center (NARC)*

## Word from the Coordinator

In this third issue of ZeroParasitic Newsletter, we report on the progress made by the various partners of the ZeroParasitic project, as presented by several scientists who attended the meeting. The second physical meeting was kindly hosted by the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) in Amman (Jordan) from May 16-19, 2022. The Director General of NARC, Prof. Nizar Haddad, and Dr. Adel Alabed, the National Coordinator and Director of NARC's Dair Alaa Research Station, provided an excellent working environment during the meeting. Participants from Germany, Greece, Spain, Tunisia and Jordan took part in the

meeting.

The participants discussed the results achieved and the adjustments requested by some partners. The participants agreed to organize a scientific workshop on *Orobanche* spp./*Phelipanche* spp. to present the latest results of the project in Tunis in spring 2023, before the project is officially closed on April 9, 2023.

In addition, the participants have agreed to ask for an extension of 6 months. We would like to thank Prof. Nizar Haddad for hosting the meeting and for the excellent coverage of the event by the Jordanian media.



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The **ZeroParasitic** consortium had his second physical meeting in Amman (Jordan) from 16 to 19 May 2022:

The National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) kindly hosted this meeting in its headquarter in Amman. The participants had also the opportunity to visit the Dair Alla Station to see the research conducted in the station mainly those concerning the ZeroParasitic Project. Delegations from Germany, Greece, Spain, Tunisia and from Jordan participated in this meeting. The participants presented and discussed the progress of different work packages and the work plan for the coming period. Pr. Haddad, DG of NARC, presented to participants the main activities of the Institute. Pr. Haddad and the national coordinator (Dr. Adel Abed) did a great effort for the communication in National Media.



Group photograph with all the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Physical Meeting of the project



Group photograph from the visit at the Dair Alla Agricultural Research Center

## Meeting Objective:

**Review tasks and activities and define the action plan for the third year.**

The meeting took place in Amman, Jordan between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2022. The meeting tasks and activities were reviewed, and the third year's action plan was discussed. More specifically, the following tasks and activities took place:



## Monday 16 May (NARC):

**Dr. Nizar Haddad**, DG of NARC and **Dr. Adel Alabed** (the hostess of the meeting) welcomed us to the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARC). The director of NARC (Dr. Nizar) showed us each laboratory, the facilities, and the actions of the institute. Afterward, the following tasks were presented and discussed by each task leader:

- **Task 2.1.** Use of rootstocks to improve parasitism tolerance in tomato (presented by CSIC - CEBAS)
- **Task 2.3.** Utilizing stimulants/biocontrol agents to deplete soil seed banks and inhibit parasitism (presented by BPI)
- **Task 2.4.** A Biocontrol system through insects with specificity to broomrapes [presented by AU]
- **Task 3.1** Model and predict broomrape parasitism about climate change and soil-climatic conditions (presented by BPI)
- **Task 3.3.1** Local sensing technologies (UAVs) to map parasitism (presented by BPI)
- **Task 4.1.** Hormone and metabolomics analysis in the parasite-plant interactions (presented by CSIC-CEBAS)
- **Task 4.3.** Exploiting the genetic diversity of broomrapes (presented by AUA)
- **Task 4.4.** Analysis of the expression of host genes associated with resistance (presented by AUA)

Finally, the audience discussed any arising problems regarding those tasks.



## Tuesday 17 May (NARC):



The coordinator of the project **Dr. Chachalis** welcomed the partners and the following tasks were presented and discussed by each task leader:

- **Task 5.1.** Greenhouse and field screening of germplasm for resistance to broomrapes (presented by INRAT)
- **Task 5.2.** Identification of defense-triggering molecules of parasitic plants (Lead by FAU)
- **Task 5.3.** Novel resistance-conferring receptors of resistant germplasm (Lead by FAU)
- **Task 6.1.** End-user attitude elucidation on broomrape solutions (Led by AUA)
- **Task 6.2.** Assessment of economic effectiveness and Cost Benefit Analysis (Led by INRAT)
- **Task 6.3.** Measures to increase adoption by end-users (Led by AUA)
- **Task 7.1.:** Communication and Exploitation Plan (presented by INRAT)
- **Task 7.2.:** Stakeholder engagement plan (presented by INRAT)
- **Task 7.3.** Project dissemination dossier (presented by INRAT)

## Wednesday 18 May (NARC):

**Dr. Chachalis** (the coordinator) and **Dr. Alabed** organized an Open-Dissemination Seminar regarding the ZeroParasitic project. Researchers, agronomists, and students participated. Firstly, all the partners introduced themselves. Subsequently, we had an open discussion regarding the broomrape, the problems, and the challenges. Finally, management methods and suggestions were presented by the partners of the project. The objective was the presentation of the project and its importance and impact on agriculture in the Mediterranean, the exchange of ideas among the participants and the creation of a network.

## Thursday 19 May (Dair Alla Agricultural Research Center):

**Dr. Alabed** welcomed the partners to the Dair Alla Agricultural Research Center. **Dr. Alabed** showed us the experiments and crops that are cultivated at the research center. We visited several greenhouses with tomato plants where we observed broomrapes and some other weed species. We discussed the phenotypic characteristics of the specific broomrape species and management methods. Moreover, we visited a date palm orchard they explained some of its main characteristics and described the agronomical techniques they apply.

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