

Practice abstracts batch 3-RP3

Deliverable 9.6

16 July 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) promotes innovation and knowledge exchange in agriculture, forestry and rural areas. It supports an interactive innovation model in which farmers, advisers, researchers, businesses, public administrations and other relevant actors work together to co-create practical solutions and promote their uptake.

Within the EU CAP Network, Operational Groups and Horizon Europe projects are expected to share their results and practice-oriented solutions through concise summaries known as Practice Abstracts. These abstracts use the EIP-AGRI common format, which provides a harmonised way to communicate research and innovation outputs in language that is useful for end-users.

For BeXyl, Practice Abstracts are a key dissemination tool to translate project results on Xylella fastidiosa into accessible, practice-oriented information for farmers, nurseries, advisers, plant health services, policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders. They complement scientific publications, deliverables and communication materials by focusing on practical implications, recommendations and potential applications.

The first BeXyl Practice Abstracts (PA1 and PA2) were submitted using the former e-mail-based procedure available before April 2023. Subsequent Practice Abstracts were submitted through the EU CAP Network digital form, following the instructions provided to Horizon Europe project coordinators. All BeXyl Practice Abstracts are linked to the BeXyl project profile on the EU CAP Network platform. The link to the BeXyl project in EU-CAP network website is:

https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/beyond-xylella-integrated-management-strategies-mitigating-xylella-fastidiosa-impact_en

To increase accessibility and dissemination, BeXyl also prepared extended versions and dedicated visual materials for selected Practice Abstracts. These materials are available on the BeXyl website, in a dedicated tab:

https://bexylproject.org/outcomes/documents/practice-abstracts/

and have been disseminated through the project's communication channels and social media.

2. THIRD BATCH OF PRACTICE ABSTRACTS

Three Practice Abstracts were planned for the third Reporting Period under Deliverable 9.6 and were submitted as planned (Annex 1) and they have been delivered in four Practice abstracts. These Practice Abstracts present key BeXyl results with direct practical relevance for growers, nurseries, advisers and plant health stakeholders:

- Practice abstract (3.1) reporting factsheets describing the new resistant olive/almond selections to *Xf* (referring to the results detailed in D4.1). **(Delivered as PA9 and 16)**
- Practice abstract (3.2) describing the best agronomic practices for the management of tolerant/resistant cultivars in *Xf*-infected areas (referring to the results detailed in D7.1). **(Delivered as PA17)**

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- Practice abstract (3.3) synthetizing the most effective and sustainable IPM scheme to mitigate Xf impacts (referring to the results detailed in D7.3). **(Delivered as PA18)**

These four Practice Abstracts were submitted together with two Practice Abstracts originally foreseen for the second reporting period but not submitted at that stage because their content depended on deliverables scheduled for later submission (Annex 1):

- Practice abstract (2.2) illustrating the maps of relative risk to *Xf* in EU based on the identified major biotic and abiotic factors that drives *Xf* epidemics (referring to the results from WP1 detailed in D1.1). **(Delivered as PA15)**
- Practice abstract (2.3) summarizing the technical aspects of the applicability of TT therapy for Xf on plant propagation material at commercial scale (referring to the results from WP3 detailed in D3.2). **(Delivered as PA14)**

As explained in Deliverable 9.5, the submission of Practice Abstracts 2.2 and 2.3 was postponed because they were linked to deliverables with later due dates:

- **D1.1:** Due date 30/04/2026
- **D3.2:** Due date 31/05/2026

In Annex 1 a copy of these six edited short practise abstracts is included as appear in the dedicated tab of BeXyl web page:

https://bexylproject.org/outcomes/documents/practice-abstracts/.

3. BEXYL PRACTICE ABSTRACT PORTFOLIO: GLOBAL OVERVIEW

Across the lifetime of the project, up to July 2026, BeXyl prepared and submitted 20 Practice Abstracts. This exceeds the number originally planned in the Grant Agreement (8 Practice Abstracts) and reflects the breadth of practice-oriented outputs generated by the consortium. The Practice Abstracts cover surveillance, diagnostics, host resistance, vector management, biological control, thermotherapy, risk assessment, agronomic practices and integrated management.

Table 1 summarises the full BeXyl Practice Abstract portfolio, including the originally planned reporting period, the actual reporting period of submission, the submission date, the EU CAP Network link and the contributing authors, where available.

In addition, the BeXyl consortium has compiled a booklet containing all Practice Abstracts produced during the project. This booklet is intended to facilitate dissemination and reuse by project partners, stakeholders, advisers, growers, plant health authorities and other end-users. The booklet is available at the following link:

https://saco.csic.es/s/fgQ9n2XxBHq4F3S

Finally, although this deliverable reports the Practice Abstracts submitted up to July 2026, the consortium does not exclude the possibility that additional Practice Abstracts may be produced between the submission date of this deliverable and the end of the project on 31 August 2026.

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Table 1. BeXyl Practice Abstract portfolio submitted to the EU CAP Network up to July 2026, with reporting period, submission date, online link and contributing authors.

Nº	Title	Committed RP*	Submitted RP	Date	Link	Contributing authors
PA1	Main project research investigations and expected research outcomes	RP1	RP1	feb-24	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa1-beyond-xylella-integrated-management-strategies-mitigating-xylella_en	Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA2	New strategies and improved methods for surveillance, early detection and monitoring of *Xylella fastidiosa* and its vectors	RP1	RP1	feb-24	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa2-new-strategies-and-improved-methods-surveillance-early-detection_en	Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC) and Antonio Vicent (P2-IVIA)
PA3	Innovative and environmentally friendly approach for controlling *Xylella fastidiosa* insect vectors using entomopathogenic fungi	RP2	RP2	ago-25	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa3-innovative-and-environmentally-friendly-approach-controlling_en	Enrique Quesada, Meelad Jousef (P3-UCO) and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA4	Ground cover management as a sustainable strategy for *Philaenus spumarius* management	NP	RP2	ago-25	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa4-ground-cover-management-sustainable-strategy-philaenus-spumarius_en	Clara Lago, Alberto Fereres Arantxa Moreno (P1-CSIC)
PA5	Tracking Threats: Identifying New Hosts and Strains of *Xylella fastidiosa* Relevant to European and Mediterranean Plant Health	NP	RP3	ago-25	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa5-tracking-threats-identifying-new-hosts-and-strains-xylella_en	Blanca B. Landa and Juan A. Navas-Cortés (P1-CSIC)

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Nº	Title	Committed RP*	Submitted RP	Date	Link	Contributing authors
PA6	Genomic and Molecular Insights into Olive Immunity to *Xylella fastidiosa*: Comparative Analysis of Apulian cultivars *Ogliarola salentina* and *Leccino*	NP	RP3	mar-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/genomic-and-molecular-insights-olive-resistance-xylella-fastidiosa_en	Silke Robatzek (P12-LMU MUNCHEN); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA7	Reconstructing the spread and host adaptation of *Xylella fastidiosa*	NP	RP3	feb-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/reconstructing-spread-and-host-adaptation-xylella-fastidiosa_en	Rodrigo Almeida (P10-UC) and Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA8	Innovative Bacteriophage-Based Strategies to Control *Xylella fastidiosa*	NP	RP3	feb-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa8-beyond-xylella-innovative-bacteriophage-based-strategies-control_en	Esther Marco (P2-IVIA) and Ana Sánchez (P1-CSIC)
PA9	Identification of crop plants resistant to *Xylella fastidiosa*	RP3	RP3	mar-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa9-identification-crop-plants-resistant-xylella-fastidiosa_en	Ofir Bahar (P11-ARO VOL); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA10	Educating and raising awareness about *X. fastidiosa* and other plant pathogens through a citizen science approach in Costa Rica	NP	RP3	may-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/educating-and-raising-awareness-about-xylella-fastidiosa-and-other_en	Carlos Chacón (P16-UCR); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA11	Use of sentinel plots for early detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* across contrasting climates and cropping systems	NP	RP3	may-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/use-sentinel-plots-early-detection-xylella-fastidiosa-across_en	Juan A. Navas-Cortés, Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)

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Nº	Title	Committed RP*	Submitted RP	Date	Link	Contributing authors
PA12	What makes *Xylella fastidiosa* strains prefer some hosts and not others?	NP	RP3	may-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa12-what-makes-xylella-fastidiosa-strains-prefer-some-hosts-and-not_en	Leonardo de la Fuente (P9-AU); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA13	Integrated spatial assessment of *Xylella fastidiosa* infection in the Iberian Peninsula	NP	RP3	jun-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa13-integrated-spatial-assessment-xylella-fastidiosa-infection-iberian_en	Montserrat Vila, Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
PA14	Commercial-scale thermal treatments of plant propagation material against *Xylella fastidiosa*	RP2	RP3	jul-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa14commercial-scale-thermal-treatment-plant-propagation-material_en	Pierfederico Lanotte (P5-CNR); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
P15	Mapping climatic suitability for *Xylella fastidiosa* to support quantitative pest risk assessment in Europe	RP2	RP3	jul-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa15-mapping-climatic-suitability-xylella-fastidiosa-support_en	Juan A. Navas-Cortés, Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
P16	New resistant olive and almond germplasm for sustainable management of *Xylella fastidiosa*	RP3	RP3	jul-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa16-new-resistant-olive-and-almond-germplasm-sustainable-management_en	Ofir Bahar (P11-ARO VOL); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)

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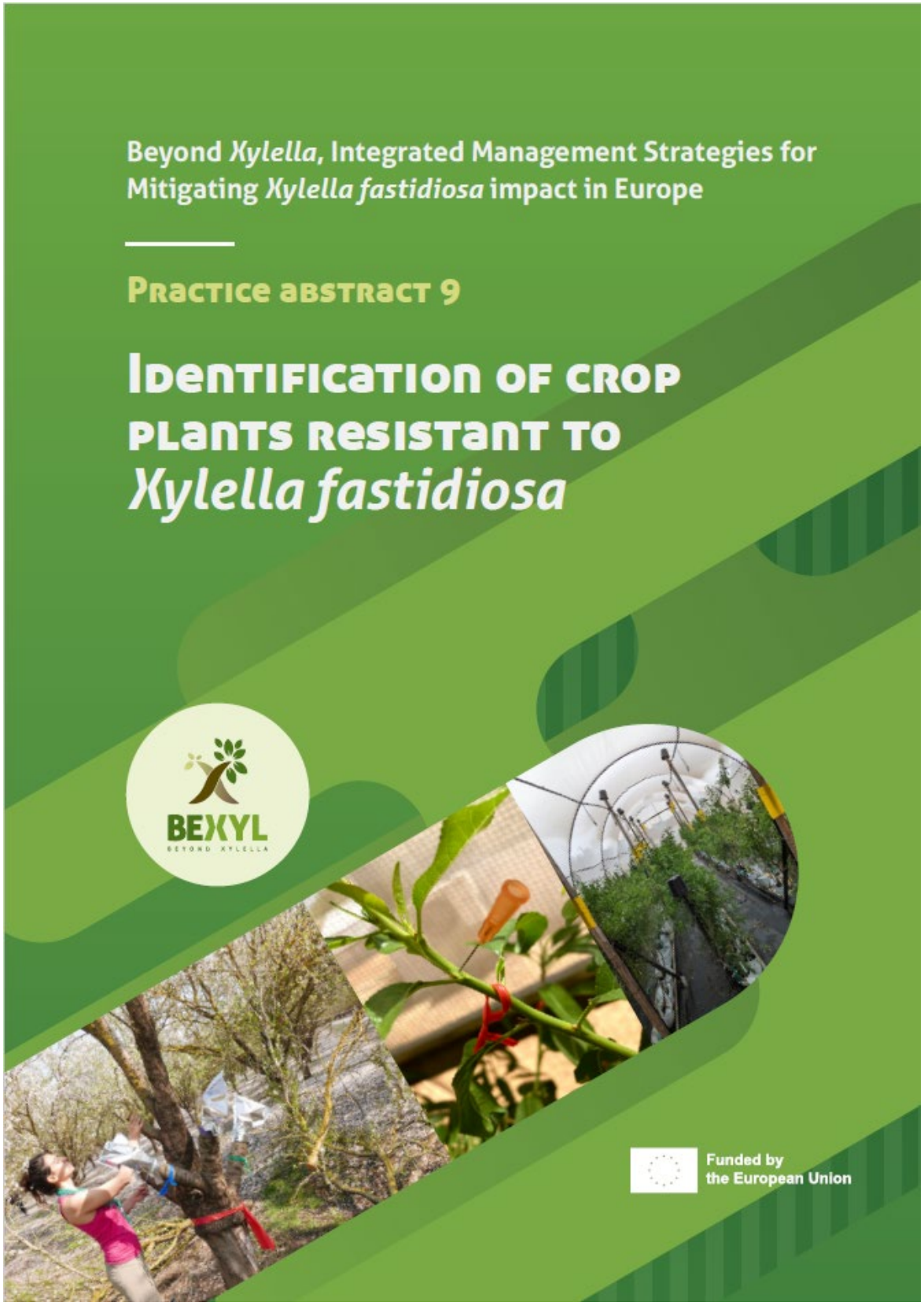
Nº	Title	Committed RP*	Submitted RP	Date	Link	Contributing authors
P17	Managing resistant/tolerant olive groves under *Xylella fastidiosa* pressure in Apulia	RP3	RP3	jul-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa-17-managing-resistanttolerant-olive-groves-under-xylella-fastidiosa_en	Gianni Gilioli, Anna Simonetto, Igor Weber (P7-UNIBS); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
P18	Turning science into action: decision support for implementing IPM schemes against *Xylella fastidiosa* in Europe	RP3	RP3	jul-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa18-turning-science-action-decision-support-implementing-ipm-schemes_en	Gianni Gilioli, Anna Simonetto, Igor Weber (P7-UNIBS); Ana Sánchez and Blanca B. Landa (P1-CSIC)
P19	Development of beneficial bacterial consortia for in planta control of *Xylella fastidiosa*	NP	RP3	jul-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/p19-development-beneficial-bacterial-consortia-planta-control-xylella_en	Blanca B. Landa, Ana Sánchez and Luis A. Moll Dos Santos (P1-CSIC)
P20	A multi-scale approach for early detection and monitoring of *Xylella fastidiosa*	NP	RP3	jul-26	https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/projects/practice-abstracts/pa20-multi-scale-approach-early-detection-and-monitoring-xylella_en	Blanca B. Landa, Rocío Calderón, Miguel Román-Écija, Valle García Cobrero, Juan A. Navas-Cortés and Ana Sánchez (P1-CSIC)

* NP= Not planned.

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ANNEX 1

PA9. Identification of crop plants resistant to *Xylella fastidiosa*



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Identification of crop plants resistant to *Xylella fastidiosa*

The **BeXyl** project addresses the urgent need for sustainable, long-term solutions to mitigate the impact of ***Xylella fastidiosa*** (***Xf***) by focusing on the identification and deployment of crop plants with enhanced resistance or tolerance to infection. Rather than relying solely on vector control, this approach exploits natural genetic and physiological variation in host plants to limit pathogen colonization, disease development, and yield losses. Resistant and tolerant cultivars can be readily integrated into existing agricultural systems and represent a key component of integrated pest and disease management strategies, while also reducing reliance on chemical inputs.



How will BeXyl make a difference?

Screening of Genetic Resources: large and diverse collections of economically important crops, including olive, almond, and grapevine, are systematically evaluated under both controlled and field conditions to identify genotypes with improved resistance or tolerance to ***Xf***.

Integration into Breeding Programs: selected genotypes are incorporated into breeding pipelines to develop new cultivars that combine durable resistance with desirable agronomic and commercial traits, ensuring their suitability for practical use.

Development of Genetic tools: molecular markers associated with resistance are being developed to accelerate selection and improve breeding efficiency through marker-assisted approaches.

Understanding resistance mechanisms: comparative studies are used to uncover the molecular and physiological processes underlying resistance, providing a foundation for more targeted and durable strategies.

Impact: By combining large-scale screening, applied breeding, and fundamental research, BeXyl aims to deliver resistant crop varieties that support sustainable agriculture. These efforts will help reduce disease impact, limit pathogen spread, and promote environmentally friendly production systems across affected regions.

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PA14. Commercial-scale thermal treatments of plant propagation material against *Xylella fastidiosa*



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Commercial-scale thermal treatments of plant propagation material against *Xylella fastidiosa*



The movement of infected plant material is a critical pathway for the long-distance spread of ***Xylella fastidiosa***. **BeXyl** evaluated thermal treatments (**TT**) as nonchemical phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of moving the bacterium through nursery stocks.

Tests on olive, almond, cherry, peach, fig, walnut, white mulberry and other ornamental and forest woody hosts show that **TT** performance depends on the plant species and cultivar, type and diameter and physiological status of the propagation material, and treatment temperature and exposure time.

Consequently, a single **TT schedule** is not suitable for all plants and propagation systems.

How will BeXyl make a difference?

BeXyl defined the technical requirements to transfer **hot-water treatment** (**HWT**) from trials to commercial nursery operations. Propagation material should be dormant and adequately hydrated before **HWT** and grouped into uniform batches according to species, cultivar, material type and size.

Commercial equipment must ensure complete immersion, stable water temperature and uniform circulation in the chamber. **TT** duration should be measured only after the target temperature has been reached, including within the plant tissue, which is particularly important for thick woody material. After **TT**, rooting, graft success, bud viability and subsequent plant growth should be monitored because excessive temperatures or exposure times can reduce propagation success.

In **BeXyl** trials, commercial-scale **HWT** confirmed that the approach can be integrated into nursery workflows, but showed marked differences in heat tolerance among species and cultivars. Before routine commercial use, experimental validation is needed, as well as assessment of treatment capacity, energy use and operating costs.

Impact: BeXyl will provide a technical basis for crop-specific HWT protocols and phytosanitary standards. Once validated for both bacterial inactivation and differential plant viability, HWT could support safer production and movement of planting material.

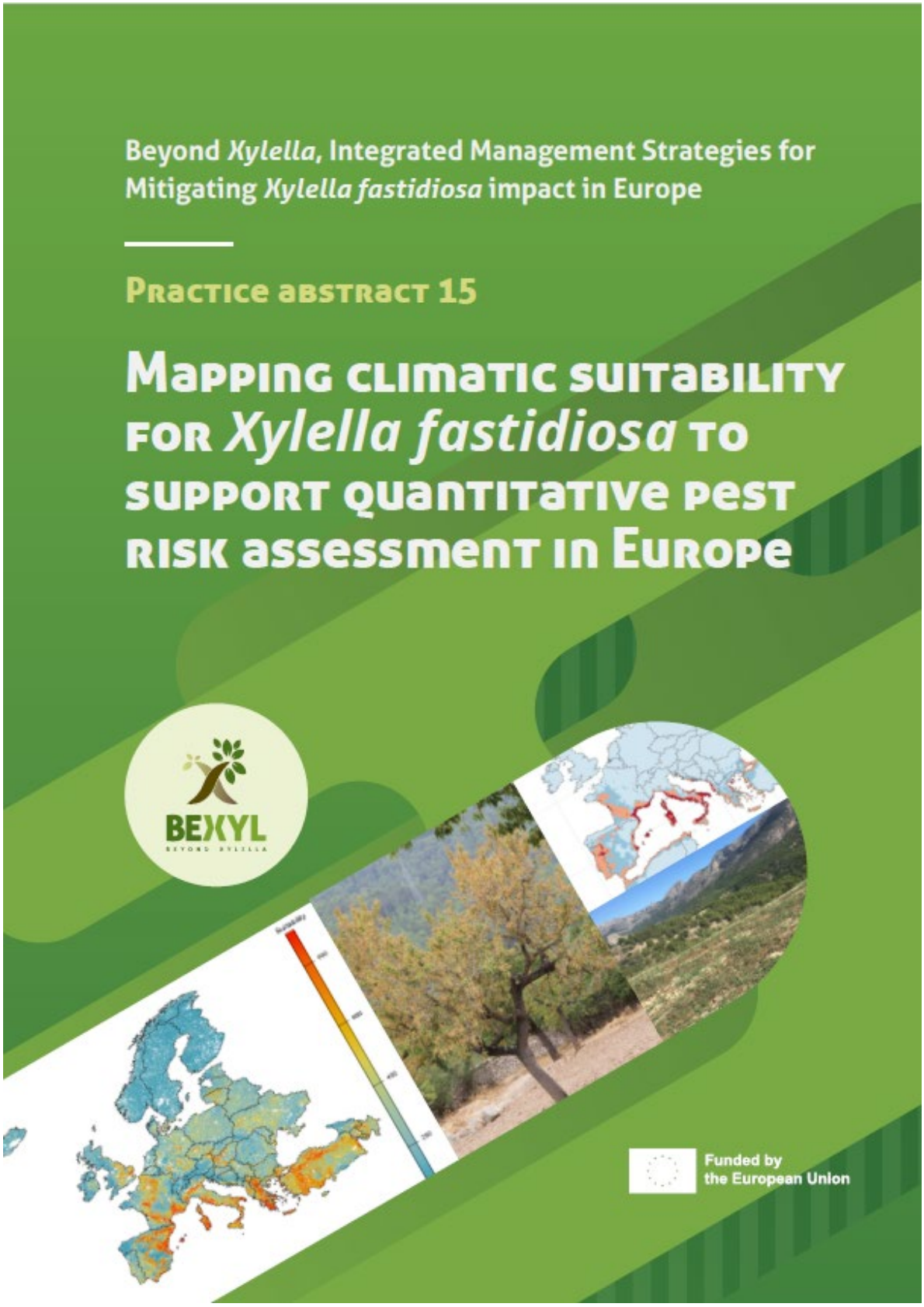
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PA15. Mapping climatic suitability for *Xylella fastidiosa* to support quantitative pest risk assessment in Europe



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Mapping climatic suitability for *Xylella fastidiosa* to support quantitative pest risk assessment in Europe



Xylella fastidiosa threatens agriculture and natural ecosystems in Europe. Identifying where climate is suitable for establishment is essential for pest risk assessment, preparedness, and surveillance.

Species distribution models (SDMs) use known occurrences and environmental conditions to estimate climatic suitability in unsurveyed areas. Ensemble approaches combine algorithms to produce more robust maps.

How did BeXyl make a difference?

BeXyl developed ensemble SDMs for ***X. fastidiosa*** and its three major subspecies: ***fastidiosa, multiplex***, and ***pauca***. The models combined georeferenced records with high-resolution climatic data. Pseudo-absence selection strategies, variable selection, and spatial block cross-validation were used to reduce bias and evaluate predictions in new geographical areas.

Main outcomes

BeXyl's modelling work contributed to the update of the EFSA quantitative pest risk assessment (QPRA) of ***X. fastidiosa***. The approach and results will appear in the forthcoming EFSA Technical Report "Ensemble species distribution modelling for ***Xylella fastidiosa*** and its three major subspecies".

The final climatic suitability maps will be made available through ***BeXyl* Deliverable 1.1**, "Maps of relative risk to ***Xylella fastidiosa*** for selected areas in the EU based on the identified major biotic and abiotic factors that drive ***X. fastidiosa*** epidemics". The maps depict spatial variation in climatic suitability, providing a spatially explicit basis for interpreting potential establishment patterns in Europe.

Impact: **The species distribution maps can support risk-based preparedness and surveillance by helping plant health authorities identify areas where climate may favor *X. fastidiosa* establishment. Climatic suitability does not represent overall pest risk and should be considered with host distribution, vectors, pathways, and other epidemiological factors.**

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PA16. New resistant olive and almond germplasm for sustainable management of *Xylella fastidiosa*



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New resistant olive/almond selections to *Xylella fastidiosa*

***Xylella fastidiosa* (*Xf*)** threatens olive and almond production across the Mediterranean, while effective curative field treatments are unavailable. **BeXyl** addressed this challenge by identifying resistant germplasm to support breeding programmes and future **resilient orchards**.


Ascolana tenera

How did BeXyl make a difference?

Large-scale screening under natural epidemic conditions. BeXyl evaluated hundreds of olive and almond genotypes under greenhouse and field conditions. In olive, more than 400 olive cultivars and selections were monitored for up to ten years in Apulia orchards infected by ***Xf subsp. pauca***, providing a unique opportunity to assess resistance under real epidemic pressure. This was complemented by greenhouse evaluations and almond germplasm screening by several **BeXyl** partners.

Identification of new resistant germplasm. Beyond confirming the resistance of 'Leccino' and 'Fs17', **BeXyl** identified additional resistant olive cultivars, including 'Cipressino', 'Ascolana Tenera' and 'Leccio del Corno'. Promising olive selections (S215, S105, GM9 and GM25) and advanced breeding lines (F10P30, F12P98, F8P17, F6P43, F8P9 and F6P5) are currently under agronomic evaluation. In almond, resistant cultivars and breeding lines included 'Lauranne', 'Usha', 'Bab al Hawa', 'Harmon', 44-1, 44-18, 'Varyo', 'Marinada', 'Mare de Deu' and 'Soleta'.

Accelerating the development of future cultivars. The newly identified resistant material is being incorporated into breeding programmes and genetic studies, expanding the diversity of resistance sources and providing valuable parents for the next generation of olive and almond varieties.

Impact: BeXyl has significantly expanded the portfolio of olive and almond germplasm with demonstrated resistance to Xf. These resources provide breeders and growers with new material to develop resilient orchards, reduce disease losses and support sustainable crop production while decreasing reliance on chemical vector control.

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PA17. Managing resistant/tolerant olive groves under *Xylella fastidiosa* pressure in Apulia



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Managing resistant/tolerant olive groves under *Xylella fastidiosa* pressure in Apulia



Resistant olive cultivars are is one of the main strategies available to support the regeneration of olive production in areas infected by ***Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca***.

However, their long-term performance depends on vector pressure, agronomic management and local epidemiological conditions. **BeXyl** evaluated these factors in 16 commercial olive groves planted with 'Leccino' and 'Fs17' cultivars in the infected area of Apulia, Italy, from 2023 to 2025.

How did BeXyl make a difference?

BeXyl monitored commercial groves rather than small experimental plots, allowing assessment under real farming conditions.

The project compared soil management, planting density, vector abundance, ***X. fastidiosa*** incidence, symptom expression and within-canopy infection dynamics using field surveys, vector monitoring and qPCR testing.

Main outcomes

Juvenile vector populations were dominated by ***Philaenus spumarius*** and were generally higher in mulched groves and unmanaged field borders. Adult vectors were more abundant early in the season, especially on ground-cover vegetation.

X. fastidiosa incidence ranged from 1.68% to 69.45% and increased from 2024 to 2025 in all monitored groves. Soil management alone did not explain infection incidence, whereas cultivar and vector-density class were significantly associated with infection levels. Incidence was lower in 'Leccino' than in 'Fs17' groves, and fields with low vector density had lower infection than those with medium or high vector density. Most infected groves showed no or limited symptoms, and within-tree infection was heterogeneous and dynamic.

Impact: **The results show that resistant cultivars can support olive production recovery in infected areas, but they are not sufficient as a stand-alone measure. Sustainable management requires site-specific strategies combining cultivar resistance, vector suppression, reduction of local inoculum pressure and long-term monitoring.**

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PA18. Turning science into action: decision support for implementing IPM schemes against *Xylella fastidiosa* in Europe



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Turning science into action: decision support for implementing IPM schemes against *Xylella fastidiosa* in Europe



As the epidemics of ***Xylella fastidiosa*** **(*Xf*)** become established and widely distributed in some European regions, eradication of the pathogen becomes unfeasible and management priorities must shift from emergency toward long-term, adaptive Integrated Pest Management (**IPM**) strategies. BeXyl is addressing this need by developing a user-oriented Decision Support System (**DSS**) to help farmers, nurseries, advisors and plant health authorities select practical **IPM** schemes for managing ***Xf*** in important cropping systems in Europe.

What is IPM?

IPM means the careful consideration and combination of available plant protection methods to prevent, monitor, and manage harmful organisms in a coordinated way. It aims to keep pest and disease pressure below damaging levels while keeping the use of plant protection products and other forms of intervention to levels that are economically and ecologically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human health and the environment.

How did BeXyl make a difference?

Turning knowledge into practical guidance: BeXyl synthesised scientific evidence, expert knowledge and field experience into clear IPM schemes against *Xf* epidemics for almond, grapevine and olive.

Evaluating the IPM schemes: The proposed schemes are being assessed by experts and stakeholders to identify those that are effective, feasible, safe and ready for practical implementation.

Providing context-specific recommendations: The DSS will guide users towards suitable IPM schemes according to the crop, user profile, management objective and level of management intensity.

Helping users understand implementation conditions: The DSS will also provide supporting information on recommendations, constraints and practical considerations for applying the schemes in the field.

Impact: The DSS aims to support informed decision-making for the effective management of *Xf* epidemics, contributing to the long-term resilience and sustainability of agricultural production in affected regions of Europe.

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