

# **Strategies to develop effective, innovative and practical approaches to protect major European fruit crops from pests and pathogens (DROPSA)**

## **Abstract**

Since its introduction in 2008, *Drosophila suzukii* has spread in Europe unabated and its eradication or containment is no longer possible. There is a pressing need for effective, innovative and practical control solutions and the development of targeted integrated pest management to minimise the economic impact of this pest on fruit producers in the EU.

To address these challenges DROPSA has integrated leading expertise in fruit pests (and pathogens), fruit production and orchard management from across Europe and more widely on a global basis.

The project's principal objective is to develop reliable, robust and cost-effective approaches to protect major European fruit crops from *D. suzukii*, and selected bacterial pathogens.

DROPSA's aims are to:

- determine the pathways of introduction and spread and develop strategies against the introduction of other fruit pests into the EU.
- utilise biology and ecology to develop effective and innovative solutions for control.
- develop practical, preventative and integrated pest management solutions for fruit crops.
- develop pest management solutions based on economic sustainability.

Progress made by DROPSA on the biology and management of *D. suzukii* will be discussed.

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