



Dipartimento di Protezione delle Piante  
e Microbiologia Applicata

Dipartimento di Biologia e Patologia Vegetale



SIPaV

Società Italiana di Patologia Vegetale



# Società Italiana di Patologia Vegetale

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Centro di Ricerca e Sperimentazione in Agricoltura "Basile Caramia" (CRSA)  
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- VI - 46**    **ORGANIC SEEDS, AN AREA THAT REQUIRES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.** L. Riccioni<sup>1</sup>, M. Zaccardelli<sup>2</sup>, M. Pasquini<sup>3</sup>, C. Micheloni<sup>4</sup> and M. Malinconico<sup>5</sup>. <sup>1</sup>CRA, Centro di Ricerca per la Patologia Vegetale, Via C.G. Bertero 22, 00156 Roma, Italy. <sup>2</sup>CRA, Unità di Ricerca per la Valorizzazione Qualitativa dei Cereali, Via Cassia 176, 00191 Roma, Italy. <sup>3</sup>CRA, Centro di ricerca per l'orticoltura, Via dei Cavalleggeri 25, 84098 Pontecagnano (SA), Italy. <sup>4</sup>Istituto di chimica e tecnologia dei polimeri del CNR, Via Campi Flegrei 34, 80078 Pozzuoli (NA). <sup>5</sup>Associazione Italiana Agricoltura Biologica, Via Piave 14, 00187 Roma, Italy. E-mail: luca.riccioni@entecra.it.

For obtaining organic productions, one of the requirements to be followed is the use of seeds from mother plants grown using organic methods (Reg. EC No 2092/91). In the early stages, given the total absence of organic seeds on the market, the EU had to provide mechanisms for exemption (Reg. EC No 1452/2003) to use conventional non chemically treated seeds. Data, available on the ENSE website, demonstrate the unavailability of organically produced seeds, and the use of massive amounts of untreated conventional seed. To encourage the development of organic seed production, the Italian Ministero delle Politiche Agricole, Alimentari e Forestali has therefore launched the project Pro.vi.se.bio, in which the Subproject "Organic seeds" aims at the "identification of the best agronomic practices to prevent infection to seeds and limit the use of treatments for the defense in the growing stages after sowing, and to the identification of new natural compounds for organic seed treatment". Three Institutions of CRA (CRA-PAV, CRA-QCE and CRA-ORT), the ICTP-CNR and AIAB participate in this Subproject. Technical choices will be investigated as the most suitable to contain the contamination/infection by: (i) *Fusarium* spp. to seeds of durum and bread wheat; (ii) *Colletotrichum lindemuthianum* to bean seeds; (iii) *Ascochyta rabiei* to chickpea seeds; (iv) *Alternaria* spp. to carrot seeds. Economically sustainable strategies for organic seed treatment will also be developed for the control of seed-borne fungi, without affecting negatively other agronomic parameters, and for protecting seedlings from attacks by pathogenic soil fungi. Preliminary results obtained during the first phase of the Subproject are reported.