

Zero herbicides in Mediterranean perennial crops

Zéro herbicides en cultures pérennes méditerranéennes

LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON, FRANCE

Starting date - expected end date | March 2015 – December 2018

The project "Zero herbicides in Mediterranean perennial crops" aims to evaluate and promote innovative soil management techniques without herbicides in perennial crops, as vineyards and orchards. Because of water pollution, herbicides are on the spot, and farmers are looking for new ways of working without herbicides. Today, the only effective way to do so is mechanical weed control by tillage, which is time and fuel consuming, aggressive for both soil and roots, increasing soil erosion... Our project is focused on an innovative weed management system, using under row cover crops instead of tillage. Cover crops naturally protect the soil, needs less interventions and therefore save time and money for farmers. 8 experimental fields were set in the French Mediterranean area in order to evaluate the agronomic impact of the cover crop on grapevines or trees, and to screen cover crop species that could fit for a under row setting. In addition, 2 demonstration sites are planned to promote the results to farmers.



Lead partner

French Wine and Vine Institute (IFV)

Other partners

Advisory / applied research

- ▶ Chambres d'Agriculture de l'Hérault, du Gard, de l'Aude et des Pyrénées-Orientales
- ▶ SERFEL
- ▶ CEHM

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