



Deliverable 7.2.1
Kick-off meeting minutes
June 2022

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Program of the Kick-off meeting

The kick-off meeting of SIRAM was held according to the agenda described in details in Figure 1. This agenda was previously shared and agreed by all project partners, and also submitted to the project officer for approval.



SIRAM kick-off meeting

8-9th June 2022

Italian partners will meet in presence at the facilities of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, the rest partners of the partners will be connected by Teams.

Wednesday 8th of June Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	
16.15-16.30	Technical test
16.30-17.00	SIRAM project overview (Edoardo Puglisi, UCSC)
16.30-18.30	Meeting of all partners and WP leaders, recap and general discussion on the project.
Thursday 9th of June Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	
09.00-09.10	Welcome remarks Prof. Marco Trevisan, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, UCSC
09.10-09.30	Presentation of WP1 (Rachid Lahali, ENAM)
09.30-09.50	Presentation of WP2 (Andrea Fiorini, UCSC)
09.50-10.10	Presentation of WP3 (Michel Chalot, UBFC)
10.10-10.30	Break
10.30-11.00	Presentation of Monitoring rules and MEL platform (Fabrice Dentressangle, EU Project Officer)
11.00-11.20	Presentation of WP4 (Francesc Domingo-Olivé, IRTA)
11.20-11.40	Presentation of WP5 (Georgios Karkatsanis, EVO)
11.40-12.30	Presentation and discussion of all SIRAM case studies
12.30-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-13.50	Short film on the Italian case study, presentation on regenerative agriculture approaches (Andrea Fiorini, UCSC)
13.50-14.50	Discussion on SIRAM experimental plan: samples, delivery and analyses
14.50-15.10	Presentation of WP6 (Gabriele Sacchetti, OPENT)
15.10-15.30	Discussion on SIRAM dissemination plan
15.30-15.50	Break
15.50-16.20	Discussion on WP1, WP2 and WP3 (WP and task leaders)
16.20-16.50	Discussion on WP5 and socio-economic analyses (Georgios Karkatsanis, EVO)
16.50-17.30	Overview of deliverables and milestones, detailed planning for the first 12 months (Edoardo Puglisi, UCSC)
17.30-18.00	Feedbacks and questions, closing of the kom

Figure 1. Agenda of the SIRAM kick-off meeting

Attendance list

The kick-off meeting was held in a hybrid form, with Italian personnel from UCSC and OPENT attending in person at UCSC facilities in Piacenza, Italy, and the rest of the partners attending remotely by Teams video-conference (Figure 2). The reason for this choice was due to the fact that the official beginning of the project was set on the 1st of June, and not all partners already had budget available and accountable for travel and accommodation costs.

The attendance list of the kick-off meeting is reported in Table 1, with the form (in presence/remote) indicated per each participant

Table 1. List of attendants of SIRAM kick-off meeting

Participant	Affiliation	Presence/Remote
Edoardo Puglisi	UCSC	P
Andrea Fiorini	UCSC	P
Vincenzo Tabaglio	UCSC	P
Luigi Lucini	UCSC	P
Gabriele Sacchettini	OPENT	P
Alice Tediosi	OPENT	P
Dina S.S. Ibrahim	ARC	R
Francesco Doingo-Olivè	IRTA	R
Elena Gonzales Llinas	IRTA	R
Judit Vallverdu	IRTA	R
Ivet Caballe	IRTA	R
Georgios Karakatsanis	EVO	R
Dimitris Mnagoudis	EVO	R
Rachid Lahali	ENAM	R
Abderrahim Lazraq	USMBA	R
Paula V. Morais	UC	R
Isabel Abrantes	UC	R
Isabel Mata de Conceicao	UC	R
Lobna Hajji	CRRA	R
Khaled Elmnasri	CRRA	R
Michel Chalot	UBFC	R
Jun Zhou	UBFC	R

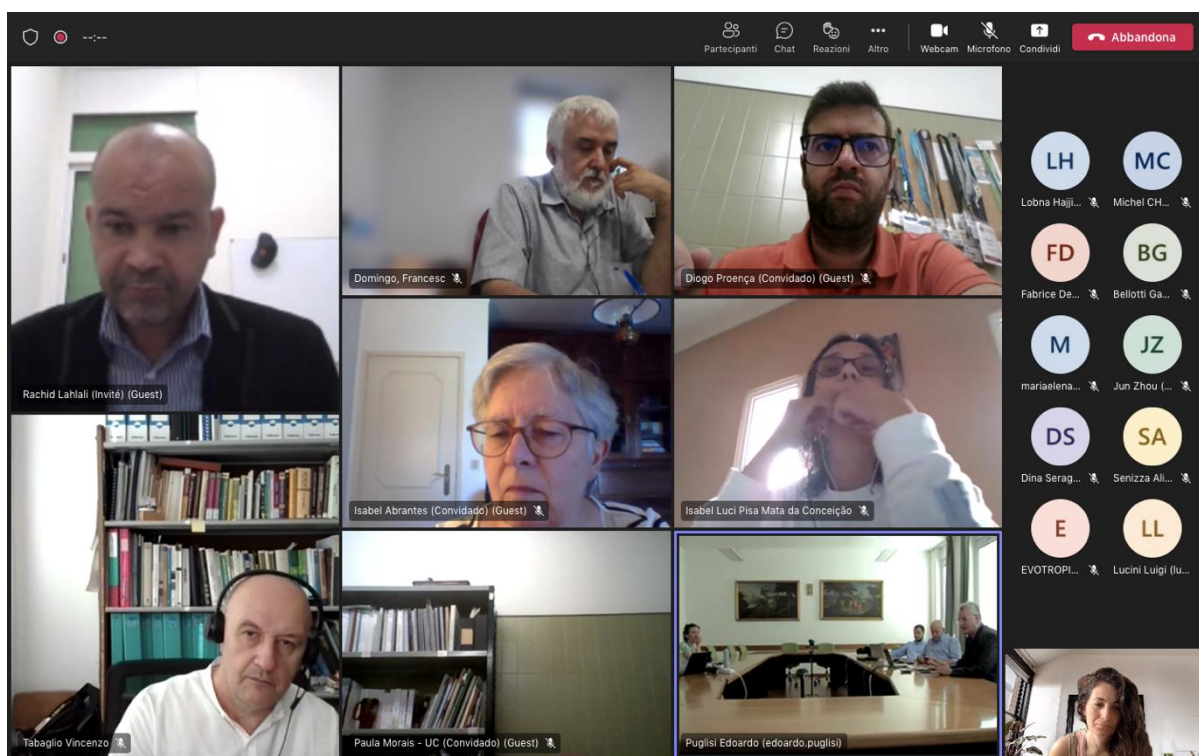


Figure 2. Screenshots of the Teams meeting of SIRAM kick-off.

Day 1 – 8 June 2022

SIRAM project overview

The work packages, partners and the objectives of the project were presented by the coordinator Prof. Edoardo Puglisi. The project has 6 WPs, which regard the experimental and agronomic results (WP 1-4), the socio-economic aspects (WP 5) and the communication (WP 6). Objectives would be especially important for the definition of deliverables and their connection with the different WPs was underlined. Expected impacts are also to be taken into account when producing results and writing deliverables. The main issues to be addressed during the main meeting of June 9 were outlined:

- definition of the activities for each case study (CS): number of treatments, number of replicates, parameters to be measured and shared protocols
- time scheduling of tasks for each WP: for WP1, the most urgent objectives are the isolation of novel strains and the measurement of growth rates on different biomasses. The isolation of resistant varieties and specific tests should also be started soon since they would require time. For WP2, molecular tests to monitor the strains must be setup. WP3 requires definition of parameters to be monitored. For WP4 definition of regenerative agriculture practices to be implemented in each CS is needed, as well as a choice of the samples on which performing molecular

microbiological analyses. For WP6 it will be important to outreach the numerous stakeholders already identified and organize the dissemination agenda.

- Financing status for each partner. A short update about the situation was discussed. UCSC has already received financing, IRTA is going to get it in one month. EVOTROPIA (GR) is receiving an answer by the end of June about the amount of the budget which will be made available. ENAM (MA), ARC (EG) and UBFC (FR) will have the money by September, but are already working on things related to the project and have some people involved. UC (PT) did not get any fund yet, but it is able to start working.
- Platform for data sharing among consortium members.
- Organization of a 2-days physical meeting in Autumn (probably November)

Day 2 - 9 June 2022

Greetings and introduction

The second day of the meeting was carried out following the program of the agenda, and was opened by a short presentation of all participants, and then by a welcome remark by the Dean of the Faculty of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Science of UCSC, Prof. Marco Trevisan, who is also member of the UCSC team of SIRAM. Prof. Trevisan greeted all participants in the name of the Faculty, and highlighted the relevance of projects such as SIRAM for the progress and sustainability of the Mediterranean Agriculture. He highlighted how the topics addressed by SIRAM are more relevant than ever in the scenario of abrupt climate changes being faced in all the areas where the project is working.

After the welcome remarks, the presentation of each WP was made by each respective WP leaders. A general discussion on all WPs activities followed.

WP1: Screening and selection of beneficial microorganisms, recyclable biomasses and resistant varieties.

Leader: ENAM, Presentation: Rachid Lahali

The first task will be lead by UC (Paula Morais), the second by ARC (Dina Ibrahim) and the third by CRRA (Lobna Hajji). The aim of the WP1 task 1 is to deliver a complete list of beneficial microorganisms with the best properties in terms of growth promotion, considering also the specific field of application in CSs. The list would be ready by the end of September. The second task will produce a list of biomasses, with their characteristics: the parameters to be studied (e.g. cost, availability, agronomic and microbiological features) should be defined. It could be good to provide a list of microorganisms or compost to use in combination with each biomass. The third task will consist in the search, in the germplasm bank, of varieties of citrus, olive, potato and other crops used in CSs resistant to abiotic and biotic stresses. The screening will be performed by molecular techniques (PCR, biomarkers) and validated in greenhouse experiments.

WP2: Formulation and tailoring or regenerative agriculture solutions for different Mediterranean scenarios.

Leader: UCSC, Presentation: Andrea Fiorini

The experiments and analyses due for the first task will be shared among UCSC, UBFC and IRTA (since this WP overlaps in part with WP4). The first step for the second task would be the assessment of soil characteristics to determine the agronomic practices to implement, taking into account the climate conditions, too. Test will be lead first in pot experiments and then in the field. The definition of microorganism and biomasses coformulation will be based on the outcomes of WP1 activities.

WP3: Unravelling basic mechanisms in soil-plants-microbes interactions.

Leader: UBFC, Presentation: Michel Chalot

Work can start early since some work from WP1 has already be done. For the first task, the most relevant microorganisms should be selected to find and study markers of stress resistance. Molecular analyses will focus in particular on small RNAs: a presentation of the technology and its exploitations within SIRAAM was carried out by Jun Zhou, post-doc researcher of the UBFC team.

Results will be validated in pot experiments, by whole genome sequencing, but it should be decided if targeting soil or root microorganisms. EVOTROPIA will be involved in identifying the economic value of genetic information. UCSC could participate also in finding technical tools to perform tests also in field.

Presentation of the MEL platform

Following the agenda, a presentation of the **MEL platform** was given by Dr. Fabrice Dentressangle, PRIMA officer who also attended most of the day meeting.

MEL is a platfomr useful to share information between partners, with the evaluators and to be visible to collaborators, but it will not substitute the website. A special session for coordinators will be organized to go in detail into the functioning of the platform. The platform is divided in three parts: edit, manage and report. The project is already present on the platform: each participant has the access already, but only the coordinator can edit. The Funding Agencies can be invited to read the material on the platform, too: each partner should upload updates about use of grant. The third part is public and thus useful to find new collaborations with other projects. This part can be linked to social media, too. Each communication product should present EU logo and the details of the SIRAAM grant. Uploading of midterm project report is due by month 18, but it will always be possible (and it is reccomended) to upload deliverables and other updates on the platform. The midterm report will be discussed with an evaluator and the Funding agencies. Intellectual property rights should be clearly defined since the beginning.

WP4: Case studies reflecting different Mediterranean scenarios.

Leader: IRTA, Presentation: Francesc-Domingo Olivé

The WP should start in the second year of project, but since many partners are already working in field, work can start earlier. Pot and greenhouse experiments planned in the other WPs were defined. The first deliverable for the WP is due by month 8 and it will include description of all CSs, i.e. their climate and agronomic features and experiments to be performed there, according to the represented pillars. Overlap with WP2 is only

conceptual, not in terms of practical activities because in the first practices are selected, in the second experiments are performed in field.

All the CSs were briefly presented by each CS leaders, and afterwards an Excel file was prepared and shared, listing the agronomic features of each CS, the number of treatments, of replicates and of samplings. An extract of this file is here reported in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of the main features and beneficial practices to be implemented in each SIRAM case study.

	Location	System	Agricultural practices	Crops	Biomasses	Available	Microorganisms	Available	Resistant varieties	Available
CS1	Emilia-Romagna	Conv	No-till, cover crops, crop rotation	Maize, soybean, winter wheat	Manure	Y	Bacteria and fungi	Y	Quinoa?	Y
CS2	Lombardia	Organic	Cover crops	Maize, soybean, sunflower	CCs residue	Y	Bacteria and fungi	Y	Olive varieties	Y
CS3	Fes-Meknes	Both		Olive tree			Bacteria and fungi	Y	Citrus varieties	Y
CS4	Al Minya	Both		Olive tree, citrus, potato	Compost	Y	Bacteria and fungi	Y	Winter wheat	Y
CS5	Berkane	Both		Citrus			Bacteria and fungi	Y	Olive varieties	Y
CS6	Catalunia	Conv	No-till, cover crops	Winter cereals, maize	Manure, digestate	Y	Bacteria and fungi	Y	Potato	Y
CS7	Sidi Bouzid	Both	No-till	Olive trees, tomato, potato	Compost	Y	Bacteria	Y		
CS8	Portugal	Both	Cover crops	Potato						

The discussion also focused on the samples collection and delivery, on the analyses methods and on the partners in charge. The partners prepared a draft of a detailed table, which is now being implemented by the project coordinator.

WP5: Socio-economics analyses

Leader: EVOTROPIA, Presentation: Georgios Karkatsanis

The WP leader presented the main socio-economic analyses that will be carried out in the project, as outlined in the WP5 tasks. Great attention was given to the data input that other WPs will have to provide to run and assess the models, and how the outcomes of this WP will provide a number of relevant outputs of the project.

The partners agreed about further ad hoc meetings to implement this collaboration and exchange, which is very relevant considering the fact that economists and other scientists need to communicate and engage in this activity.

WP6: Dissemination plan

Leader: OPENT, Presentation: Gabriele Sacchetti

The general approach for SIRAM dissemination was outlined by the WP leader. Details about the workshops and seminars to be organized were presented, clarified and discussed. The main characteristics of the SIRAM website were discussed, as well as the general strategy for scientific publications. It was finally agreed to have both the website hosted by MEL as well as a new ad hoc website.

Possible issues about open access and intellectual property were also taken into account.

General discussion and final deliberations

The meeting was closed by a general discussion about all points addressed, and by final conclusions and outcomes. The coordinator reminded all partners about duties and deadlines, with a focus on WP and CS leaders responsibilities, and on the agenda of Deliverables and Milestones deadlines.

After the discussion all project participants agreed on future steps and decisions related to the SIRAAM project implementation:

- Meetings for WPs 1, 2 and 3 shall be carried out no later than the end of July 2022, in order to discuss with further details the activities of each WP.
- Since a physical meeting as explained above could not be held, the partners agreed to have a physical meeting in Piacenza, Italy on the 17-18 November 2022.
- The partners agreed about adopting the MEL platform for exchanges and communications related to the project, but also decided to implement a Goggle Drive shared space to share and work together on documents. The Gdrive has already been created, and among other files, the presentation of the kick-off meeting are being uploaded.
- OPENT will start working on the preparation of the SIRAAM website.
- UCSC as coordinator will share with project partners files and details related to the implementation of case studies, sampling, samples delivery, analyses protocols.