



Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Program (BIP)

CROPS PRODUCTION JOURNEY: FROM AGROECOLOGY TO AGROBIOTECHNOLOGY

There are many crop production systems in use today. The aim of agriculture is to produce quality food for people and domestic animals while preserving natural resources such as soil, water and air, as these are the sources of plant production and must be protected. However, there are two main production streams: one based on natural ecological processes with minimal human intervention (i.e. “agroecological systems”), and another based on the use of technologies to optimise production per unit of surface area, thereby reducing the acreage needed to feed the population and protecting natural ecosystems. Both systems have supporters and opponents, but as both systems have potential consumers, they deserve attention at higher education institutions (HEIs). In this course, we will visit organic farms guided by agroecological principles, as well as farms using the most advanced agrotechnological and agrobiotechnological technologies, and the companies that develop these technologies through R&D&I. In practical terms, there is an ideological confrontation between the proponents of these two systems. Setting ideology aside, are they compatible or complementary, or must they simply coexist in peace? This course will provide you with the knowledge to form your own opinion.

DURATION: THE FACE TO FACE PART WILL BE FROM 4TH TO 8TH MAY 2026 IN LEÓN, SPAIN. ONLINE PART TO BE AGREED

CREDITS; 3 ECTS

CREDIT TRANSFER, THE STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE AN ACCREDITATION OF 3 ECTS (PROVIDING THEY COMPLETE SUCCESSFULLY THE COURSE)

FINANTIATION FOR THE INCOMING STUDENTS: TYPICALLY THE STUDENTS COME WITH A GRANT FROM LOCAL UNIVERSITY THAT IS MANAGED BY THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

I HOPE THAT YOU CAN FIND THIS PROPOSAL INTERESTING!

CONTACT:

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Tentative program:

Monday 4th May 2026. Agrobiotechnology

09.00h Welcome at the School of Agrarian and Forestry Engineering (Avda. Portugal, 41. 24009 León N 42°35'00'', W 05°35'19'').

10.00h Theoretical-practical session on Microbial Plant Biostimulants (MPB/Regulation (EU) 2019/1009)

13.30h Lunch at the EIAF cafeteria

Visit to the research facilities of the research institute in engineering I4.

Continue practical session on MPB.

Visit to León city centre

Tuesday 5th May 2026. Agrobiotechnology

Visits to FICOSTERRA production plant in **Burgos**, a business dedicate to produce Non Microial Plant Biostimulants <https://www.ficosterra.com/en/>

Outdoor picnic-style lunch

Visit in Palencia (cooperative or similar/to be defined)

Wednesday 6th May 2026. Agroecology

Visit to PATATAS HIJOLUSA in **León**, a business dedicated to cultivating, selecting, packaging and marketing potatoes, with a strong focus on research and innovation <https://hijolusa.es/>

Lunch at the EIAF cafeteria

Visit to NUESTRA HUERTINA (<https://www.nuestrahuertina.com/>) belonging to APAYCACHANA company. NUESTRA HUERTINA runs a high tech greenhouse with a reduced carbon footprint thanks to the reuse of heat excess from a cogeneration plant.

Thursday 7th May 2026. Agrotechnology

Visit to agroecological experiences in Bierzo region in León province.

Quilós: visit to organic orchards and transformation projects of organic products.

Outdoor picnic-style lunch

Cacabelos: Visit to caves Puerta del Viento <https://www.puertadelvientowines.com/> an organic vineyard and cave that produces wine without added sulphites.

Fryday 8th May 2026

09.00h Evaluation of the BIP activity at the School of Agrarian and Forestry Engineering (Avda. Portugal, 41. 24009 León N 42°35'00'', W 05°35'19'')

13.00h Closing.