



Press Release No 5

## Final FruitCREWS Workshop at the European Parliament: Advancing Sustainable Water Management for European Agriculture

**Brussels, 24 June 2026** – Researchers, policymakers, growers’ representatives and irrigation stakeholders from across Europe and beyond will gather at the European Parliament’s INFO-HUB in Brussels for the final workshop of the COST Action CA21142 [FruitCREWS](#) (Fruit Tree Crop Responses to Water Deficit and Decision Support Systems Applications).

Entitled “**Sustainable Water Management for EU Agriculture: From Water Scarcity and Heat Waves to the Adoption of Technologies to Improve Irrigation Efficiency**”, the event will provide a unique platform to discuss scientific advances, policy priorities and practical solutions to address one of the most pressing challenges facing European agriculture: increasing water scarcity under climate change.

The event will be hybrid, so it will be possible to follow presentations and discussion at the link below.

Over the last four years, [FruitCREWS](#) has brought together **more than 350 experts** from **more than 40 countries** to improve understanding of fruit tree responses to water deficit and to promote the development and adoption of innovative irrigation management tools and decision-support systems. The Action has fostered interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, growers, advisors, technology providers and policymakers, creating a strong international network focused on improving agricultural water resilience.

The workshop will open with perspectives from researchers and stakeholders representing some of the most important fruit producing regions at EU and extra EU level, who will share regional experiences and challenges related to water resilience in agriculture in fruit production systems.

A dedicated session will present the main achievements of [FruitCREWS](#), including advances in sustainable irrigation strategies, barriers and opportunities for innovation adoption, and recommendations for future research and policy actions. These presentations will highlight how scientific knowledge can support the transition towards more resilient and resource-efficient agricultural systems.

The second part of the event will focus on the policy dimension of water management. Representatives of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (**DG AGRI**), together with Members of the European Parliament from the Agriculture and Rural Development (**AGRI**) and Environment, Climate and Food Safety (**ENVI**)



Committees, will discuss current and future policy frameworks aimed at strengthening water resilience in European agriculture.

The workshop will conclude with a high-level roundtable bringing together key European stakeholder organisations, including **AREFHL**, **Copa-Cogeca**, **Irrigants d'Europe** and the **European Irrigation Association**. Participants will exchange views on research priorities, innovation uptake and policy measures needed to accelerate the adoption of efficient water management practices across the European fruit sector.

As the concluding event of COST Action [FruitCREWS](#), the workshop represents an important opportunity to consolidate the Action's legacy and to strengthen dialogue between science, policy and practice. By bringing together leading experts and decision-makers, the event aims to contribute to the development of coordinated European strategies that ensure sustainable water use, resilient fruit production systems and long-term food security in a changing climate.

## About COST Action CA21142 FruitCREWS

[FruitCREWS](#) (Fruit Tree Crop Responses to Water Deficit and Decision Support Systems Applications) is a COST Action funded by the European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). The Action has established an international network of researchers and stakeholders dedicated to improving knowledge of fruit tree responses to water stress and promoting innovative technologies and decision-support systems for sustainable irrigation management.

## Event Information

**Workshop:** Sustainable Water Management for EU Agriculture

**Date:** 24 June 2026

**Venue:** INFO-HUB of the European Parliament, Brussels

**Organiser:** COST Action CA21142 FruitCREWS

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**LINK TO JOIN THE EVENT ONLINE:** [link](#)

Starting Date: October 2022

Duration: 48 months

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COST ACTION **CA21142**

Fruit tree Crop REsponses to Water deficit and decision support Systems applications

