



Biological Control in Southern Europe, a breakthrough

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Biological control in Southern Europe

- **Winter plantings** (Campo de Cartagena)
 - analogous to North Europe
- **Summer plantings** (Almeria)
 - High Pest Pressure vs. Lower Income
 - Requires different approach

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Convergence

1. *Amblyseius swirskii*

- Developed by:
 - University of Amsterdam (Sabelis, Jansen, Nomikou)
 - Research Station Bleiswijk (Messelink & Ramakers)
 - Koppert
- Highly effective against whiteflies and thrips
- Economic mass-rearing technology (patent pending)
- Commercially launched in 2005

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Amblyseius swirskii



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Convergence

2. Greenpeace Germany

- Resistance problems
- Leading to high pesticide usage and use of illegal products
- High residue levels of legal and illegal products
- Action by Greenpeace Germany
- Re-action by supermarkets ...

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Essen ohne Pestizide

Einkaufsratgeber und
Supermarktvergleich für
Obst und Gemüse

Neuaufgabe
2007



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Current situation

- Biological control is currently used on:
 - > 6.000 hectares of sweet peppers
 - > 1.000 hectares of eggplants and cucurbits
- Results so far successful
- Issues
 - Residues of imidacloprid in the soil
 - TSWV
- Challenges
 - Technical and “psychological” support

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Future

- Biological control of whiteflies with predatory mites is new breakthrough
- Technical and Economic Feasibility of biological control in summer plantings in the Mediterranean are proven
- Increased use of biological control in other areas of the Mediterranean and in other areas with similar conditions is to be expected

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Thank you

www.allaboutswirskii.com

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