Cítric-sà

CONTROLLED USE OF NEW PHYTOSANITARY TREATMENT AGAINST PLANOCOCCUS CITRI PESTS OR “MEALYBUGS. TREATMENTS MADE FROM NATURAL SUBSTANCES

Project CÍTRIC-SÀ aims to produce new phytosanitary treatments against several species of planocuccus pests (mealybugs), for citrus and persimmon fruit cultivation (Delottococcus aberiae de Lotto Planococcus citri Risso, Pseudococcus longispinus Targioni-Tozzetti and Pseudoccocus viburni Signoret).

The new formulas will be developed from natural and botanical extracts with suitable physiochemical properties to make them effective and resistant in the environment.

Different innovative methodologies will be considered when developing the new formulas.

FOLIAR APPLICATION

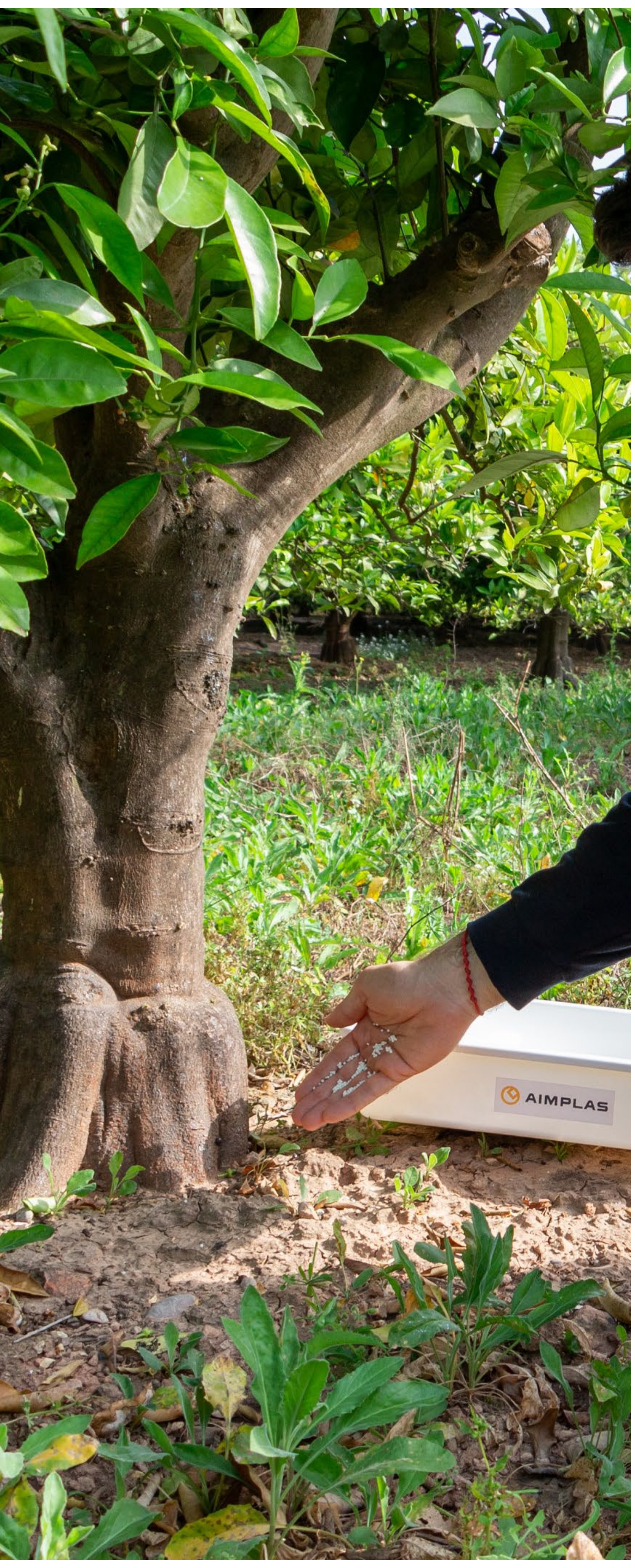
Natural formula to be sprayed on leaves.

TRUNK APPLICATION

New functionalised whitewash for orange trees to reduce the damage caused by “mealybugs”. Natural trunk paint is combined with porous substrates loaded with natural active substances.

SOIL APPLICATION

New functionalised capsules to be places around the base of the tree. These capsules are loaded with natural active substances and coated with biopolymers to control their release into the environment.



To create these treatments, a protocol on how to use the products will be developed. This will establish a system to control and evaluate the pests and will include:

- Controlled and localised use of the plant protection product according to where the pests are in their lifecycle. Holistic control of the mealybugs.

- Controlled release. A study comparing the suitability and performance of biocontrol products carried out in experimental citrus and persimmon plots.

- A study on the reduced use of conventional phytosanitary products.

CÍTRIC-SÀ is committed to following Integrated Pest Management models that are in line with the objectives of the European Green Pact, the Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy. CÍTRIC-SÀ aims to fulfil the following quantifiable targets by the year 2030:

- A 50% reduction in the use of pesticides

- A 50% reduction in the toxicity of the most hazardous pesticides.

The companies participating in the CÍTRIC-SÀ project complement each other to form a balanced consortium. Each partner is an expert in their field, which means that the consortium boasts expert knowledge of the products CÍTRIC-SÀ intends to make, mealybug control methodologies and treatments currently used on citrus and persimmon crops.

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