



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)

FINANCIATION 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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Final program

1. **Online activity: Thursday 30th April 2026 from 09:00 h to 11:00 h (Madrid time)**
2. **In person activity:**

Monday 4th May 2026. Agrobiotechnology

09.00h Welcome at the School of Agrarian and Forestry Engineering **EIAF**. Avda. Portugal, 41. 24009 León <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xT2hHr25krZ4BK6N6> You may want to use a public transport. Search in google. This is the company which provides the service <https://www.alesa-alsa.com/>

10.00h Theoretical-practical session on Microbial Plant Biostimulants (MPB/Regulation (EU) 2019/1009) / Visit to the research facilities of the research institute in engineering I4

13.00h Lunch at the EIAF cafeteria (included)

14.30h Continues Theoretical-practical session/ Visit to the research facilities

16.30 h Social activity. Visit to León city centre. Transport from EIAF by private bus

At the end free time

Tuesday 5th May 2026. Agrobiotechnology/Agrotechnology

08.30 h Bus departures from Aparcamiento San Pedro - Catedral 2C. del Arquitecto Ramón Cañas del Río, 7, 24007 León <https://maps.app.goo.gl/aKEgZcm2HKT43WNA8>

11.00 h Visit to FICOSTERRA production plant in **Burgos**, a business dedicated to produce Non Microbial Plant Biostimulants <https://www.ficosterra.com/en/>

14.00 h Outdoor picnic-style lunch (included) at El Plantio Park in Carrion de los Condes (Palencia)

15.00 h Visit to CAR (*Cooperativa Agraria de Carrión de los Condes*) in Carrión de los Condes (Palencia) <https://www.car-carrion.com/>

18.00h (Aprox) Back to Leon city center (Aparcamiento San Pedro - Catedral 2C) (only this stop)

Wednesday 6th May 2026. Agrotechnology

09.30 h Bus departures from Aparcamiento San Pedro - Catedral 2C. del Arquitecto Ramón Cañas del Río, 7, 24007 León <https://maps.app.goo.gl/aKEgZcm2HKT43WNA8>

10.00 h 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/> At the end the bus will go directly to the EIAF.

13.00 h Lunch at the EIAF cafeteria (included)

14.00 h Departure from EIAF to visit NUESTRA HUERTINA LEONESA (<https://www.nuestrahuertina.com/>) owned by 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.

18.00h (Aprox) Back to Leon city center (Aparcamiento San Pedro - Catedral 2C) (only this stop)

20.30 h Social activity. Typical Spanish tapas dinner with local products from León (but sited at a table and only in one location 😊) at RESTARUANTE EZEQUIEL CALLE ANCHA Calle Ancha, 20, 24003 León <https://maps.app.goo.gl/jeQrhvWzSBQWJyuG9> (included)

Thursday 7th May 2026. Agroecology

08.30 h Bus departure from Aparcamiento San Pedro - Catedral 2C. del Arquitecto Ramón Cañas del Río, 7, 24007 León <https://maps.app.goo.gl/aKEgZcm2HKT43WNA8>

Visit to agroecological experiences in Bierzo region in León province.

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

Outdoor picnic-style lunch (included)

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

18.00h (Aprox) Back to Leon city centre (Aparcamiento San Pedro - Catedral 2C) (only this stop)

Fryday 8th May 2026. Evaluation

09.00h BIP evaluation. Each group will make a presentation summarizing what they have learned with the course. Be creative! Do not forget that in this kind of activities you learn about technical innovation and also about how to build a stronger Europe.

13.00h Closing.

Have a safe trip back home!