

Creating new synergies between solar energy and agriculture

Thanks to the development of innovative photovoltaic systems for open field and greenhouse agriculture



Newsletter #1

December 2023

The project

SYMBIOSYST investigates innovative systems to go beyond the idea of solar energy production and agriculture as two separate sectors, and find a new synergy where land & crops and photovoltaics can have a mutually beneficial relationship.

The project develops different PV solutions for open field and greenhouse agriculture and their demonstration in four agricultural scenarios, in three different Countries.

Project events



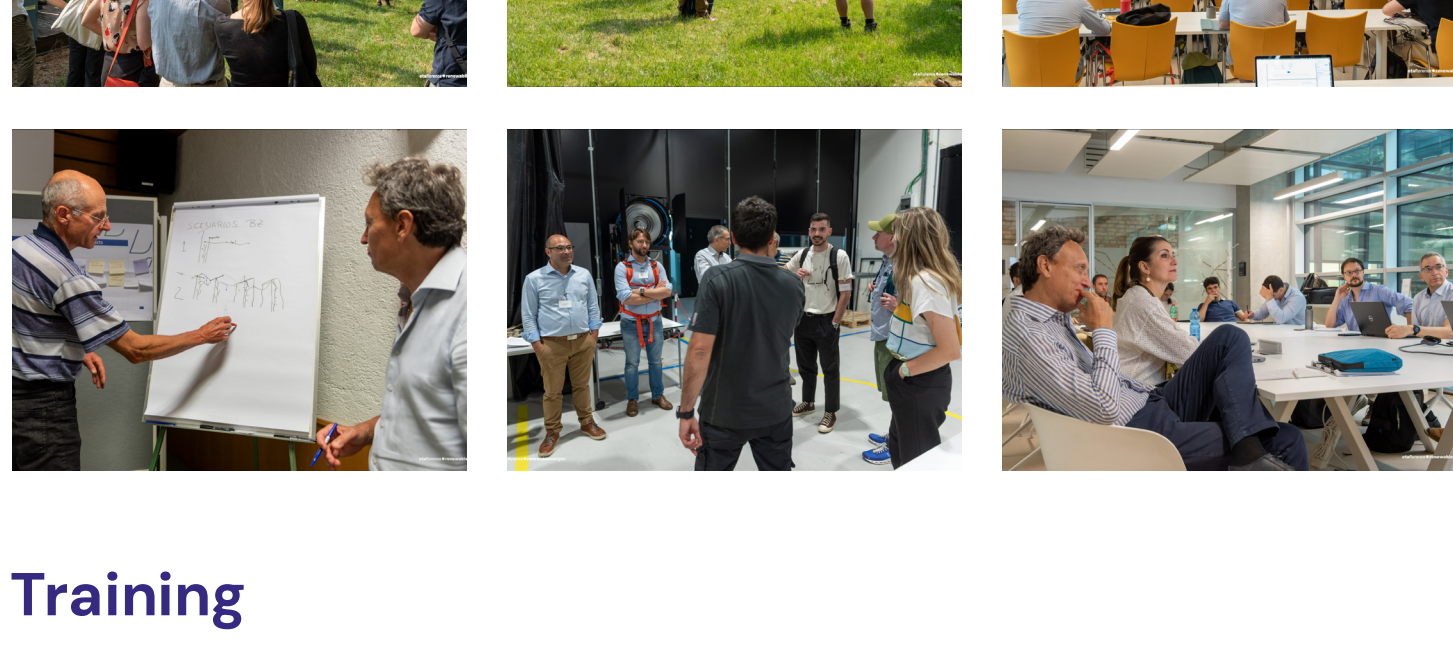
First General Assembly and Fieldwork in South Tyrol, Italy

In June 19th and 20th 2023 the first Research Project General Assembly took place hosted by Eurac Research in the awesome NOI Techpark and Laimburg Research Centre in Bolzano/Bozen, in South Tyrol, Italy.

The two days included a field visit and a design workshop in one of the future demo projects sites. This is part of an apple orchard where Laimburg Research Centre conducts data observations and analysis in Ora/Auer, South Tyrol, Italy.

It has been a relevant moment for team building since this was the first time partners met in person.

Symbiosyst ambitions are high because an agri-PV system is by definition a complex system that makes two different worlds meet: the agriculture and the solar energy ones. Therefore, partners will make a real effort in sharing knowledge and competences and in Bolzano/Bozen they had a really good start.



Training



Webinar on Open Science

8 June 2023

The webinar focused on open science practices, research data management and open access to publications. The webinar learning objective was to understand the open science key requirements in Horizon Europe Projects. Invited speakers were Maria Bellantone & Liise Lehtsalu from the Research Support Officer at Eurac Research.



Webinar on biodiversity

9 November 2023

The webinar presented theoretical approaches and experiences on possible implications of agrivoltaics on both fauna and flora biodiversity, above and below the ground line. Invited speakers were Anna Maria Bevivino, Division Biotechnologies and Agroindustry, ENEA, Italy, Leonardo Latella, Head of the Natural History Collections of the Verona Museum, Italy and Lisa Bunge, Renewable Energies Chair, University of Evora, Portugal. Anna Maria Bevivino talked about the role of soil microbiome for a sustainable agriculture and how the agrivoltaics could influence the biodiversity. Leonardo Latella talked about the response of mesofauna to different soil uses and possible implications within Agri-PV systems while Lisa Bunge presented a case study in South Portugal where agricultural and nature conservation strategies are combined in an Agri-PV Power Plant.

Relevant Facts



European Cross Cooperation for Agri-PV development

On September 21st 2023, at the EU PVSEC in Lisbon, SYMBIOSYST Project launched the European Cross Cooperation for Agri-PV development. The cooperation searches for relevant Agri-PV experiences and pilot plants in all EU Member States, stakeholder networks, pilot developers, etc. The cooperation aims at knowledge sharing activities, good practices exchanges and presentations in webinar and events. The final aim is to build a truly European community for Agri-PV development.

[Apply now](#)



Position Paper

In October 2023 SYMBIOSYST Project released a position paper on Agri-PV. Photovoltaics is widely seen as one of the key technologies to drive the energy transition, yet due to different reasons large utility-scale photovoltaic installations in open fields are not an option in many regions. Here Agri-PV, making dual use of land for both agriculture and PV generation, is our future challenge, yet the existing deployments of a large variety of novel agrivoltaic projects and the diverse range of interpretations and definitions for Agri-PV is causing huge debate in many economic and socio-cultural fields. The position paper provides the project consortium position on the current Agri-PV debate in Europe.

[Read more](#)

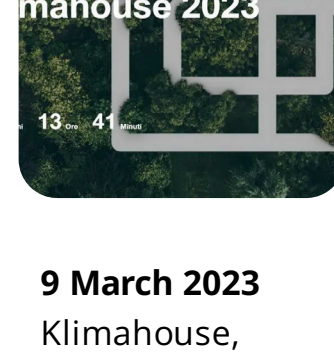


Call for Agri-PV Demo Drivers

In October 2023 SYMBIOSYST Project opened a special call for Agri-PV Demo Drivers. The call aim was to learn from existing experience, innovate in demos and transfer the knowledge to others. The special call wanted to gather experiences within the agri-PV sector, projects that have involved several stakeholders, and best practices to share, promote, and raise their visibility.

[Read more](#)

Project Presentations



26 Jan 2023
Bioland Seminar
2023 of Bioland Südtirol,
South Tyrol (IT)

22 Feb 2023
Confagricoltura,
Bozen (IT)

9 March 2023
Klimahouse,
Bozen (IT)

24 March 2023
Key Energy,
Rimini (IT)



6 June 2023
European Biomass
Conference 2024,
Bologna (IT)

11 July 2023
Seminar on Solar
Energy in EU and
Japan, online

21 Sept 2023
EU PVSEC 2023,
Lisbon (PT)

24 Oct 2023
Jornada
"Renovables Paisatge
Urbanisme",
Tarragona (ES)



13-14 Nov 2023
17th SET-Plan
conference,
Barcelona (ES)

23 Nov 2023
Agrialp 2023,
Bozen (IT)

Upcoming Events



24-25 Jan 2024

Second General Assembly and Fieldwork in Catalunya, Barcelona (ES)

THE PROJECT

SYMBIOSYST – Create a Symbiosis where PV and agriculture can have a mutually beneficial relationship, is an Horizon Europe Innovation Action started in January 2023 that will continue through December 2026

CONTACTS

info@symbiosyst.eu

david.moser@eurac.edu

David Moser,
project coordinator

