



>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

SAFEWAX NEWS

Sustainable Crop Protection Inspired By Nature



SAFEWAX PARTNERS MEET AT BASF, LUDWIGSHAFEN, GERMANY, APRIL 2024

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024

As we reflect on 2024, the SafeWax project has achieved remarkable milestones, driven by the dedication and collaboration of our consortium partners. From scientific breakthroughs to impactful dissemination activities, we are proud to share the progress made in our mission to revolutionize sustainable agriculture. This newsletter captures the highlights of the year, showcasing the efforts that bring us closer to delivering innovative crop protection solutions.

In April 2024, the SafeWax Consortium gathered at BASF facilities for an intensive two-day meeting. This event fostered collaboration among partners, with presentations on scientific progress, technological advancements, and strategic planning led by Coordinator Prof. Boaz Pokroy. Discussions culminated in a visit to BASF Agricultural Solutions Division, where stakeholders engaged in joint dialogues about the implementation of SafeWax technologies. The meeting underscored the importance of partnership in achieving the project's ambitious goals.

**1ST GENERAL
ASSEMBLY MEETING**



THIS YEAR, SAFEWAX SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK TO BRING OUR INNOVATIVE CROP PROTECTION SOLUTION CLOSER TO REALITY.

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>>> HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EXTENSIVE WORK:

The project team is actively refining SafeWax's sprayable coating to enhance its stability, ease of application, and resilience in agricultural conditions. Our materials researchers at the Technion, University of Bologna, and BASF are investigating the intricate structure and superhydrophobic properties of the coating to enable fine-tuning of its anti-adhesive, self-cleaning, and antifungal characteristics. These ongoing studies aim to optimize the coating's performance under a variety of environmental conditions.



Fungal pathogens, which pose a significant threat to crops, remain a central focus for SafeWax. The team has identified target fungal pathogens and is developing standardized protocols for antifungal testing in both laboratory and field settings. These protocols developed at the University of Bologna and IVF (French Wine and Vine Institute) will provide a robust framework for future research, ensuring consistency, reliability, and comparability across all project activities.

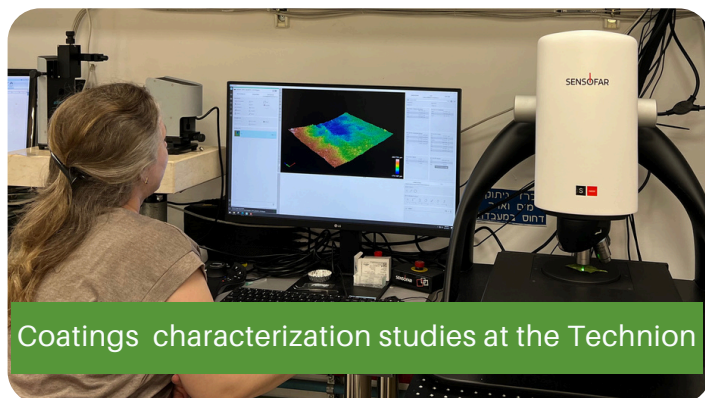


Open field experiments on potted grapevines at the University of Bologna



Ensuring crop safety remains a priority alongside pathogen defense. Phytotoxicity studies are in progress to assess the compatibility of SafeWax with sensitive plants like grapevines.

Together, these efforts represent significant progress in laying a solid foundation for SafeWax's potential applications in sustainable agriculture.



Coatings characterization studies at the Technion



Laboratory tests are underway to evaluate the antifungal capabilities of SafeWax's coating against major fungal pathogens and results are promising.



Antifungal studies at the Technion



The Eurofins team conducted QSAR, which stands for Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship analysis (a method used to predict the safety or potential harm of chemicals based on their structure), alongside *in silico* assessments of SafeWax ingredients. Together, these approaches evaluated the toxicology, ecotoxicology, and environmental fate of the ingredients.





SAFEWAX HAS ACTIVELY ENGAGED DIVERSE AUDIENCES THROUGHOUT 2024, ENGAGING WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND AUDIENCES.

In 2024, SafeWax actively engaged with diverse audiences through high-profile scientific conferences, public events like the European Researchers' Night in Bologna, and agricultural exhibitions. These activities showcased our work, facilitated meaningful discussions, and amplified our reach through collaborations and media outreach.

Our social media platforms have played a pivotal role in connecting with stakeholders. Regular updates on LinkedIn and other channels have significantly boosted engagement, with thousands of views and interactions. Additionally, the release of our first project video offered a dynamic overview of SafeWax's goals and achievements, further enhancing visibility and awareness.

Prof. Claudio Ratti, Prof. Elena Baraldi, and their team at the University of Bologna's presenting Safewax at the European Researchers' Night

SafeWax 1st video is released (May 2024)



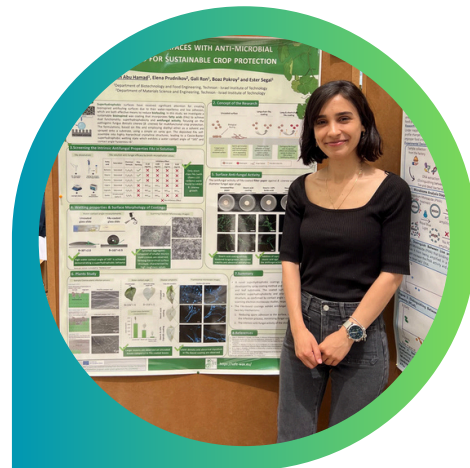
MEDIA OUTREACH

SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES



**EDUCATIONAL AND
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

Technion science fair for graduate students



ONLINE ENGAGEMENT



Prof. Boaz Pokroy at the Gordon Conference (Aug 2024)

EXHIBITIONS



Prof. Ester Segal and student Hanan Abu Hamad at the SafeWax booth at the Agromashov 2024 Exhibition



SafeWax website and social media channels



GOODBYE 2024, WELCOME 2025!



As we wrap up an eventful 2024, the SafeWax team extends its heartfelt gratitude to all partners, collaborators, and stakeholders who have contributed to our progress. Your support and collaboration have been instrumental to our progress.

We look forward to an even more impactful 2025, filled with new discoveries and opportunities to revolutionize sustainable agriculture. Best wishes for the new year from the entire SafeWax team!

2025
HAPPY NEW YEAR

»»» STAY TUNED

**FOLLOW SAFEWAX ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UPDATES
ON OUR SUSTAINABLE WAX COATINGS PROTECTING
CROPS FROM FUNGAL PATHOGENS**



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