Edition #3

September 2025

>>> NEWSLETTER <<<

SAFEWAX NEWS

Sustainable Crop Protection Inspired By Nature

SAFEWAX PARTNERS MEET IN BOLOGNA UNIVERSITY, ITALY, JUNE 2025

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

MEETING PROGRESS AND COLLABORATION

In June 2025, the SafeWax Consortium convened at the University of Bologna (UniBo) for a dynamic two-day meeting that brought together all project partners to share research progress, align on key definitions, and plan the next phases of collaborative work.

The first day was dedicated to in-depth scientific and technical presentations and constructive discussions across work packages, setting a solid foundation for the months ahead.

On the second day, the consortium visited the UniBo experimental farm in Cadriano, where a real-time field trial provided a valuable opportunity to observe the project's practical implementation and discuss challenges and next steps directly on site. This was followed by a Roundtable dialogue on "Sustainable strategies for disease management in viticulture under climate change pressure," which fostered an engaging exchange of perspectives between project partners and local stakeholders. On this occasion, the consortium also welcomed a new Advisory Board member, Prof. Luca Casoli from the Provincial Plant Protection Consortium of Reggio Emilia.

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SafeWax partners at UniBo experimental farm in Cadriano, Italy

This meeting not only marked a significant milestone in the SafeWax project but also strengthened the collaborative spirit among partners, paving the way for the exciting work to come.

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

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

This successful gathering was thoughtfully organized by the UniBo partners, headed by Prof. Claudio Ratti, and coordinated by Prof. Boaz Pokroy, the scientific leader of the SafeWax project. With careful attention to detail, the hosting team created a welcoming and well-structured environment that encouraged open dialogue, deep collaboration, and generous exchange of ideas ensuring that every voice had space to contribute.

Prof. Boaz Pokrov presents SafeWax progress

Our progress highlights SafeWax's potential applications in sustainable agriculture, paving the way for innovative and practical crop protection solutions

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SAFEWAX ON GRAPEVINE: A NEW LAYER OF PROTECTION

Field application of SafeWax

No evident phytotoxicity

Experimental work at UniBo confirmed that SafeWax is safe for grapevine plants and showed no evident signs of phytotoxicity under the tested conditions. So far, studies show that SafeWax coatings did not show negative effects on gas exchange, water potential, leaf temperature, or berry development, confirming its biocompatibility and safety under real-world conditions.

SafeWax is a physical barrier

Acting as a physical barrier rather than a pesticide, SafeWax effectively reduces the severity and spread of fungal infections while its full impact on beneficial microorganisms is still under investigation. This preventive approach offers numerous advantages: it minimizes reliance on chemical fungicides, reduces environmental impact, and supports the goals of sustainable viticulture.

SafeWax-coated grapevine leaves

A collaborative effort

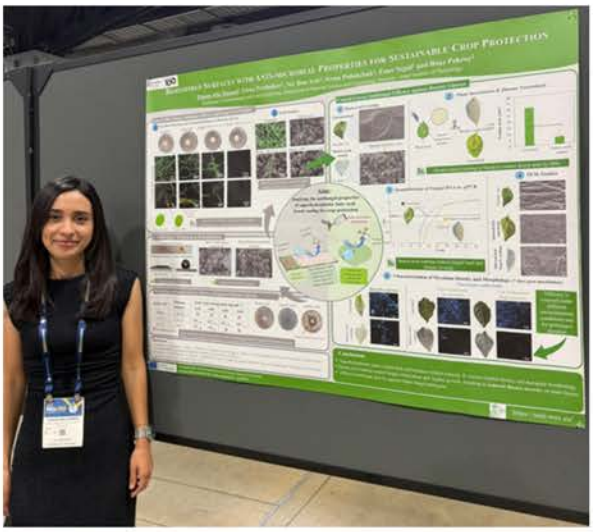
The SafeWax project continues to advance through the strong collaboration of its consortium, which unites leading academic and industrial expertise. At the Technion, researchers are developing eco-friendly SafeWax coatings and studying their antifungal activity for sustainable crop protection. The University of Bologna assesses long-term efficacy and safety on grapevine plants, supporting the transition from lab to field studies. BASF explores the anti-adhesive performance of SafeWax on model surfaces under simulated environmental conditions. Eurofins ensures safety, toxicology, and regulatory compliance. IVF contributes its expertise in vine physiology and field disease management, conducting vineyard trials in France to evaluate the ability of SafeWax to protect grapevines against highly relevant pathogenic fungi.

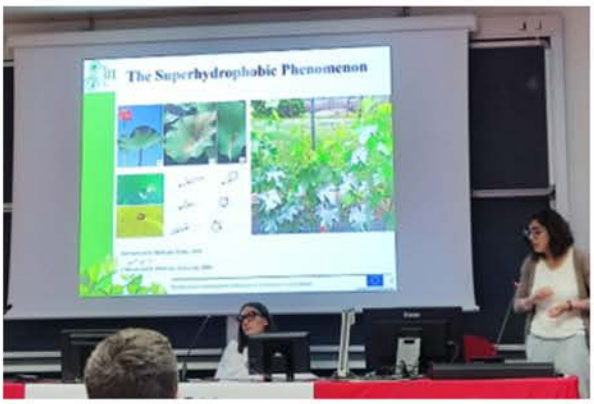
These findings position SafeWax as a sustainable, non-intrusive alternative to conventional fungicides in grapevine disease management.

SAFEWAX PRESENTED ACROSS DIVERSE FORUMS

Over the past months, SafeWax has been introduced at multiple scientific events through posters and presentations, reaching a diverse audience of researchers, students, and professionals in plant protection, formulation science, and sustainable agriculture. It was introduced at the 20th Israel Materials Engineering Conference (IMEC-20), American Chemical Society (ACS) fall conference and the annual conference of Israel Society for Microbiology (ISM). SafeWax was also featured in a workshop organized by the Italian Society of Horticulture (SOI) for PhD students in viticulture.

These occasions served to highlight SafeWax's superhydrophobic properties, its protective efficacy against fungal pathogens, and its potential as a novel coating technology. Each presentation helped build visibility, spark technical discussion, and strengthen connections within the scientific community — laying a strong foundation for future collaboration and impact.





FINAL WORDS >>>

The recent project meeting, along with SafeWax's growing presence across conferences and educational platforms, marks a meaningful step forward in both scientific progress and community engagement. We are sincerely grateful to all partners, researchers, and collaborators whose dedication continues to shape the direction and impact of this initiative.

As fall approaches, we celebrate not only the data and results, but also the shared spirit of curiosity, teamwork, and purpose that fuels this journey. Thank you for your commitment, insight, and ongoing support.

>>> STAY TUNED

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

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