The PlantHealth consortium

PlantHealth is organised by a consortium of six Universities from four European countries: Montpellier Sup Agro, Agrocampus Ouest and Agro Paris Tech (France), University of Göttingen (Germany), University of Padova (Italy) and Universitat Politècnica de València (Spain). These Universities are highly proficient and experienced in teaching courses on general and specific aspects of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). In addition, all partners have an excellent reputation in research on various fundamental and applied aspects in plant health management, and keep strong links with enterprises of the plant protection sector and research institutes in Europe.

Universitat Politècnica de València is the coordinating institution of the PlantHealth Consortium.

Consortium Partners:
Why PlantHealth?

Plant health management is a key subject of global development with regard to food safety, food security and environmental preservation. With the increasing globalization and climate change, new diseases and pests threatening agricultural production will occur and have to be tackled. In many parts of the world, plant protection products are not used according to advanced regulatory and safety standards. A key issue is the need to take into account the population dynamics of pests, pathogens or weeds in the context of the whole agro-ecosystem, including beneficials, and the impact of the cropping system. The development of safe crop protection methods requires the education of highly skilled professionals for crop protection management in a sustainable agriculture.

PlantHealth provides students with an attractive and innovative programme which shall allow them to develop the ability to see plant health in a broad context with a focus on sustainability, taking into account all relevant agronomic factors, like plant variety, nutrition, soil tillage, crop rotation, etc. Students will obtain the skills and knowledge of advanced mycology, virology, entomology, nematology and weed science, to efficiently analyse or diagnose biotic and/or abiotic constraints in productivity of Sustainable Cropping Systems.

Study Programme

The PlantHealth programme provides students access to the best research-based teaching programme on sustainable plant health management in Europe. A distinctive and important feature of the Master Plant Health is the emphasis on applied plant health management.

On completion of the PlantHealth Master Degree, graduates will be able to:

- Diagnose and identify plant health problems
- Analyse the causes of these problems and evaluate their environmental, economic and social consequences.
- Conceive technically adapted, economically viable, socially acceptable, health and environment benign solutions, meeting the requirements of sustainable cropping systems.
- Apply research methods, instruments and tools appropriately.
- Use their knowledge and skills in a wide range of agricultural contexts, and transfer the scientific advances to a wide range of projects and actors at international level.

Mobility scheme

See details and specializations on: http://planthealth.upv.es

Employability

PlantHealth provides successful graduates with the competencies necessary to work in sustainable plant health management, with a sound theoretical background, the ability to apply their knowledge, the skills to act at international level, and the cultural-awareness required in a globalised world. Successful students will be able to apply to high-level PhD programmes or pursue a career in the practical plant health sector.

At present, job opportunities in the diverse sectors of plant health management are considered to be particularly favourable and they are expected to further improve in the future. Governmental authorities need experts to adapt regulations and to establish national policies for plant protection. The demand for well-trained professionals is also high in professional organisations to support farmers in private and public extension services, and in the agrochemical companies. The agro-industry urgently needs graduates at Master or Ph.D. level for positions in research and development of molecules, stewardship, registration and marketing.