

# Creating new synergies between solar energy and agriculture

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



## Newsletter #2

July 2024

This second newsletter is about the period January - July 2024

### 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

### Fieldtrip in Agrópolis – Barcelona



Agrópolis is one of the future project demos hosted by the Parque UPC - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, in Spain.

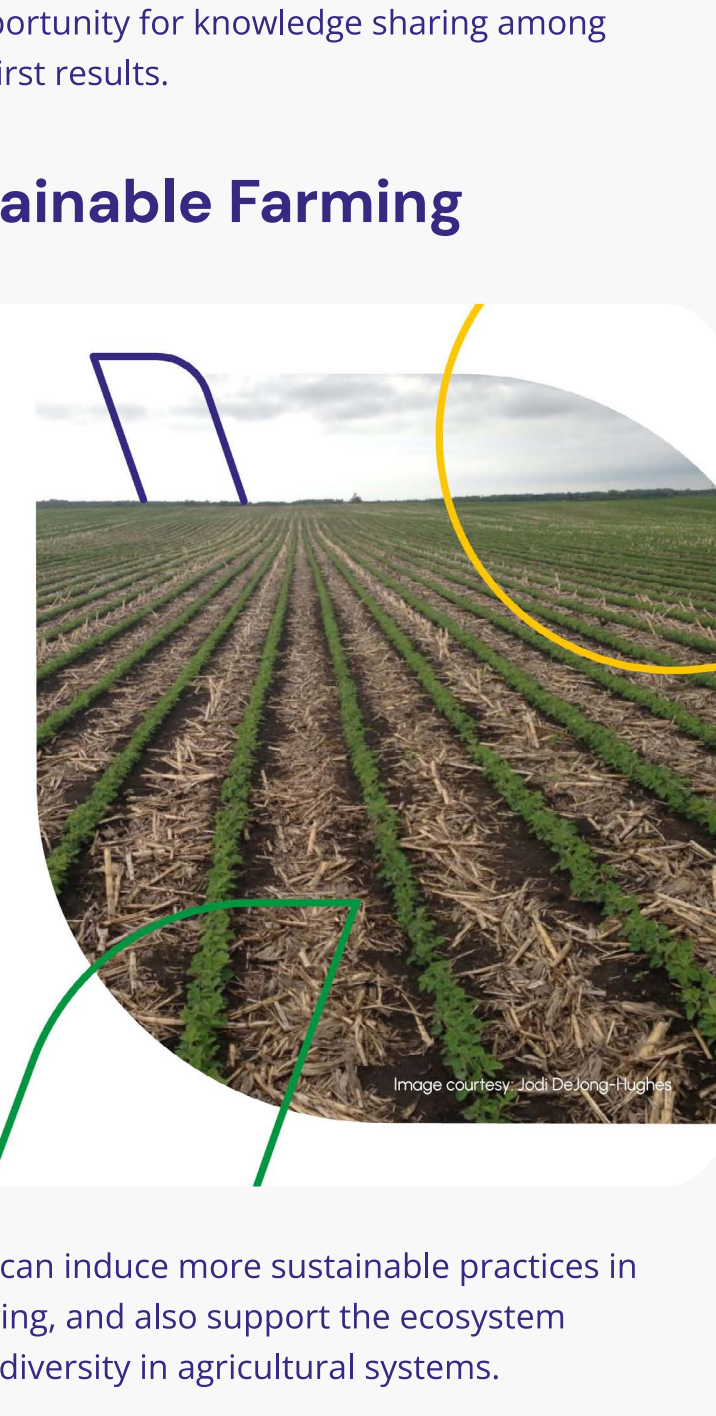
On January 24th, project's partners conducted a field visit of the future demo plant site and a workshop to explore justice implications in agrivoltaics.

The demo plant will be an Agri-PV system constituted by fresh vegetables cultivation (tomatoes, onions, beans, lettuce) and overhead single axis tracker PV strings. It will have two scenarios: two distinguished plots where PV strings differ per elevation from the ground and spatial layout. A third plot will be the reference scenario.

[@ENGIE](#) – with site leader James Macdonald – will coordinate the works of the demo plant construction at UPC references, while [@Valmont Solar](#) will be responsible for the structural part of the tracker system, and [@UPC](#) for the monitoring of the agronomic aspects.

The monitoring of plants vigour will be analysed by a robot regularly running in-between the vegetables rows, and prototyped by UPC.

### Second and third General Assembly



During these months, all partners took part to the second and third General Assembly. The second General Assembly was hosted by [@UPC](#) - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, in Barcelona, on January 25th, while the third one was held virtually on June 14th.

Both internal project meetings were a great opportunity for knowledge sharing among partners and updates on project activities and first results.

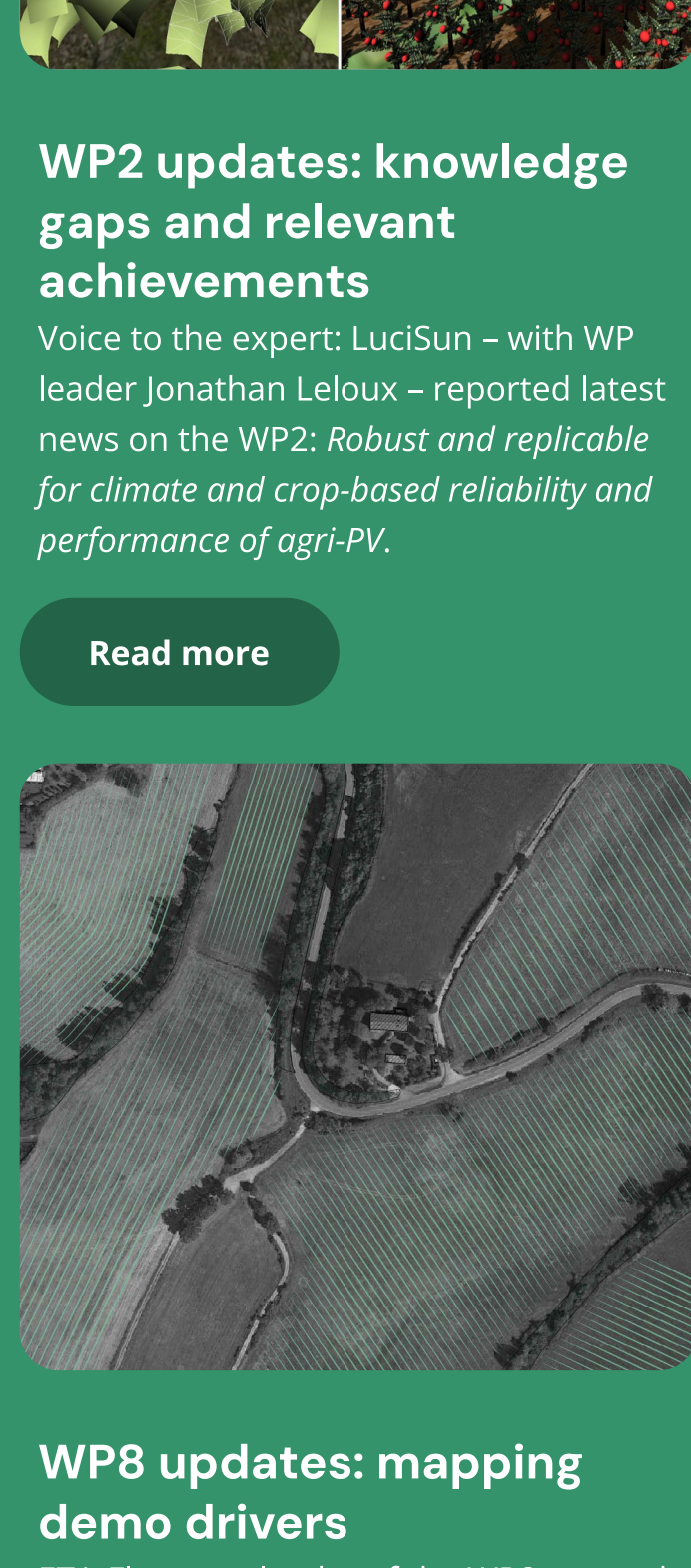
### Training Webinar on Sustainable Farming



## Benefits for sustainable farming and ecosystem functions in agrivoltaic systems

6 June 2024 | 2:00 PM (CEST)

Training webinar

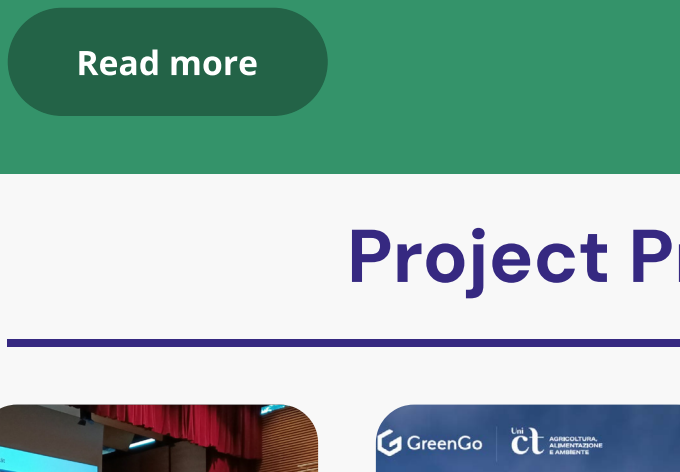


The webinar discussed how agrivoltaic systems can induce more sustainable practices in farming, such as minimum tillage and water saving, and also support the ecosystem functioning such as ecological corridors and biodiversity in agricultural systems.

The webinar was moderated by Paolo Picchi, of ETA-Florence, and Federica Colucci, of ENEA. Leading the discussion were Gabriele Canali, of the Catholic University of Piacenza, Giuseppe Ferrara, of the University of Bari 'Aldo Moro', and Francesco Marinello, of the University of Padua.

The recording will be available soon on the website of the project.

## Relevant Facts



### New Demo Drivers

New demo drivers have recently joined Symbiosyst project. The Kick-off meeting was held on the 5th of May. Read more on the website.

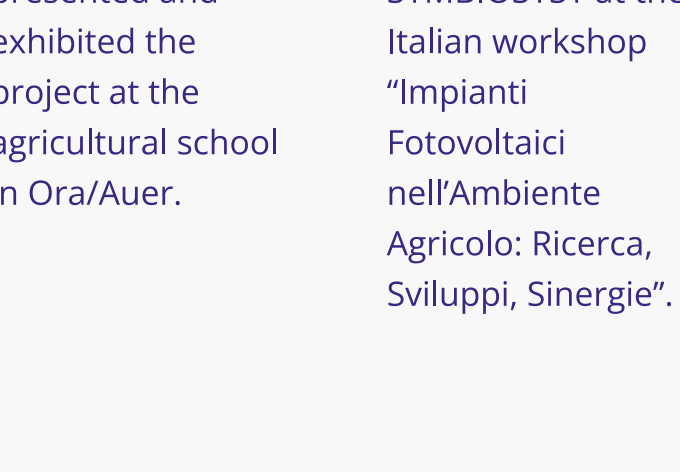
Discover more



### WP2 updates: knowledge gaps and relevant achievements

Voice to the expert: LuciSun – with WP leader Jonathan Leloux – reported latest news on the WP2: *Robust and replicable for climate and crop-based reliability and performance of agri-PV.*

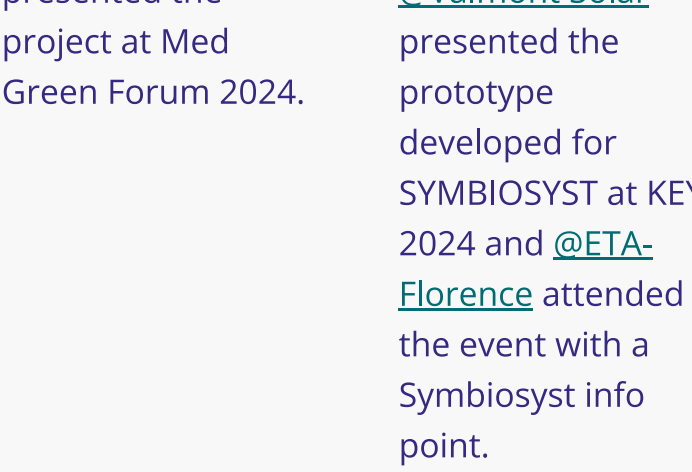
Read more



### Project public deliverables

The first public deliverables of the Symbiosyst project are now available online. Check out the documents on the website.

Read more



### WP8 updates: mapping demo drivers

ETA-Florence, leader of the WP8, started a mapping of the landscapes of demo cases and project demos. The material will be available soon on the dedicated section of the website.

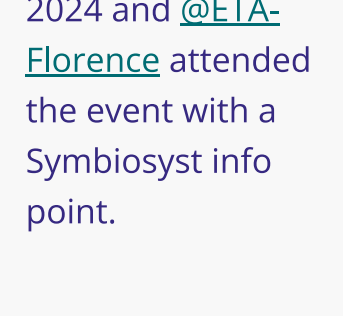
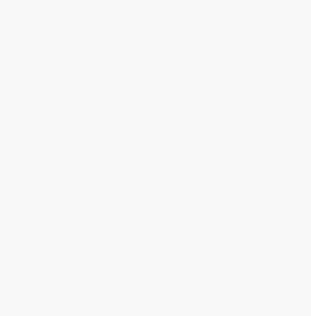
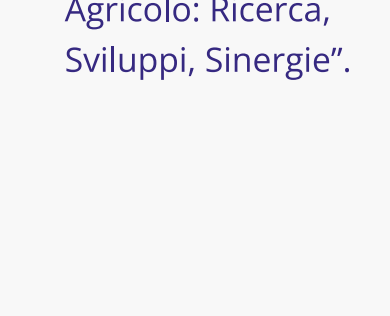
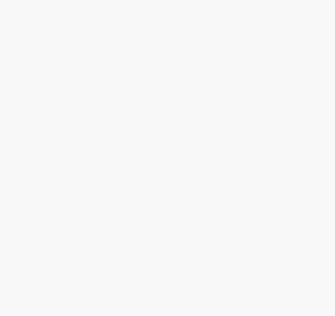


### Scientific publications

In the last months, Symbiosyst came out with new scientific publications.

Read more

## Project Presentations



**17 January 2024**  
[@SBB](#) and [@Eurac](#) presented and exhibited the project at the agricultural school in Ora/Auer.

**8 February 2024**  
[@Eurac](#) presented SYMBIOSYST at the Italian workshop "Impianti Fotovoltaici nell'Ambiente Agricolo: Ricerca, Sviluppo, Sinergie".

**16 February 2024**  
[@ETA-Florence](#) presented the project at Med Green Forum 2024.

**28 February - 1 March 2024**  
[@Valmont Solar](#) presented the prototype developed for SYMBIOSYST at KEY 2024 and [@ETA-Florence](#) attended the event with a Symbiosyst info point.

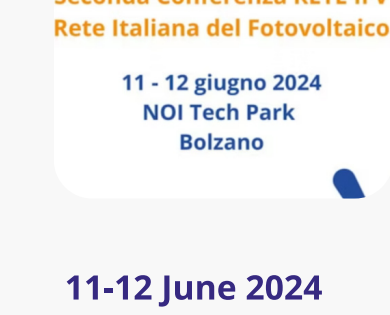


**14 March 2023**  
[@Eurac](#) presented the project at the workshop organised by AREA ZERO Cluster.

**22 March 2024**  
[@SBB](#) presented SYMBIOSYST at the annual meeting of the Union of Agronomists in South Tyrol.

**19 April 2024**  
[@EF Solare](#) presented the project at the Italian event "L'Agrivoltaico sostenibile tra cultura e colture".

**9-10 May 2024**  
[@EF Solare](#) and [@Valmont Solar](#) presented the project at Macfruit. [@ETA-Florence](#) attended with a Symbiosyst info point.



**11 June 2024**  
[@ENGIE](#) and [@imec](#) presented the project activities at AgriVoltaics 2024.

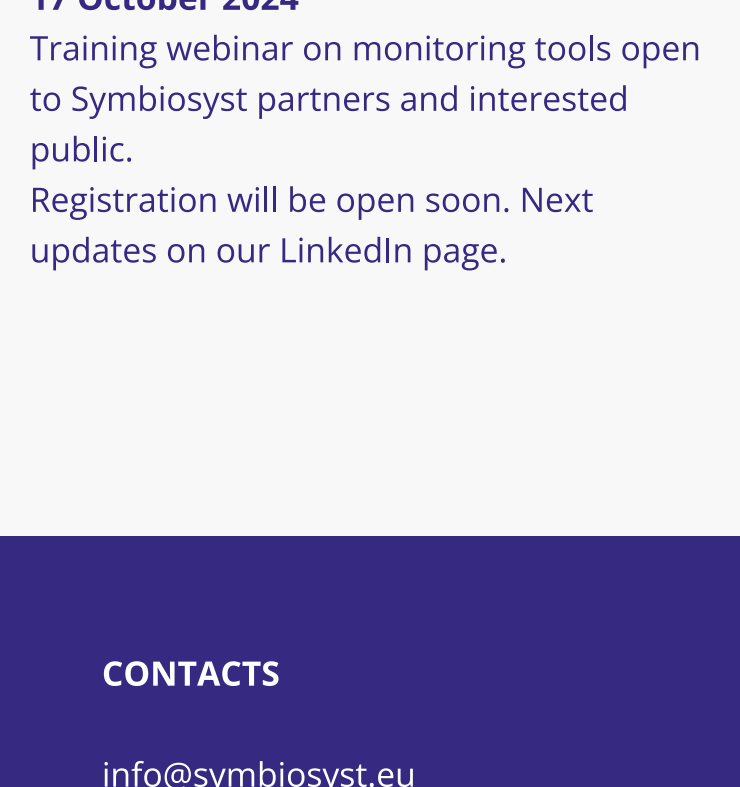
**11-12 June 2024**  
[@Eurac](#) and [@ETA-Florence](#) attended the event with a Symbiosyst info point.

**9 July 2024**  
[@UPC](#) presented the research projects in horticulture at the Second Agropolis Conference.

## Upcoming Events



**26 September 2024**  
Oral presentations at EU PVSEC 2024. [@LuciSun](#) will present "Shaping Europe's Agrivoltaic Future: Design of Four Innovative Demonstrators through Advanced Modeling in the SYMBIOSYST Project" and [@TU DELFT](#) will present "Modelling, design, and performance evaluation of agri-PV orchards".



**17 October 2024**  
Training webinar on monitoring tools open to Symbiosyst partners and interested public. Registration will be open soon. Next updates on our LinkedIn page.

### 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

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SYMBIOSYST Project