



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Dipartimento di Scienze Bio-Agroalimentari

The Department of Bio-Agrifood Sciences (DiSBA) is one of the 7 Departments of the scientific network of the Italian National Research Council (CNR). The activities managed by the Department are performed in 9 Institutes, spread over the whole national territory and involving over 700 personnel.

DiSBA has been a member of the SAFE consortium since 2002.

The Department's mission is to contribute to the progress of scientific and technological knowledge for the conservation and valorization of biological resources and for the development of a sustainable and innovative agri-food system.

Currently, DiSBA research activities are grouped into three main projects held under its guidance.

Project AG.P01 "**Plant, Animal and Microbial Genomics**", involving 110 researchers, aims to study the genetic and biochemical mechanisms that control growth, development and interactions with the environment in plant, animal and microbial systems. Research activities investigate four different areas, namely: genetic characterization of plants and microorganisms; plant developmental and cellular biology, biochemistry and biotechnology; plant-environment interactions; and animal genomics and biochemistry.

Project AG.P02 "**Food**", involving 94 researchers, intends to develop new diagnostic techniques and new systems and technologies for improving food quality and safety, especially keyed at development and maintenance of health and well-being; and for gaining knowledge and exploitation of the quality of typical productions. Within the project, five different areas have been identified: characterization of food of the Mediterranean area; development of emerging methodologies (biosensors, micro and nano-tech); development of food with high nutraceutical value; study of pathogens (bacteria, moulds) and their metabolites (i.e. mycotoxins); improving knowledge on food related diseases.

Project AG.P03 "**Sustainable Agriculture**", involving 180 researchers, aims to improve knowledge of biology of cultivated plants and their interactions with the environment; to develop new research applications fostering sustainability in crop and animal production by innovative and environmentally sound practices, and eco-friendly products and processes. The five areas of investigation are: development of new sustainable systems, processes, methods and practices; conservation and valorization of biological diversity; strengthening of local economies; development and application of new and advanced technologies; study of responses and adaptation to stresses (biotic and abiotic).

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