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Agrimax welcomes new project to realise commercial production of natural bio-resins from tomato wastes and by-products

Work has begun on developing a commercial production plant in northern Italy, which will process tomato processing waste to make bio-resins for use as coatings in food packaging. The new facility's bio-resin production will reduce CO₂ emissions and hazardous chemical use, compared to the production of existing, fossil fuel-based resins.

The bio-resin is made from cutin extracted from tomato peel and will be used as a coating for metal cans, packaging for - among other things - tomato sauces. New start-up **Tomapaint** is developing the facility, which will ultimately be capable of processing 1500 t of tomato waste a year and providing enough cutin to satisfy both Italian, European and international markets. Carbon emissions are 730 mg lower per metal can, compared to conventional coatings. If used across all of Italy's metal can production, this would represent a reduction of emissions equivalent to 1 million kg of CO₂ per year.

TomaPaint's technology is based on almost 10 years of research, as part of the European projects: BIOCOPAC, LIFEBiocopacPlus (coordinated by SSICA) and Agrimax. The project to scale up the plant is funded by the European Union's EIC Accelerator Horizon 2020 Green Deal.

Tomapaint cofounder, Stefano Chiesa, said *"We are really proud of our technology, which we hope will revolutionize the metal food packaging business. We are using food processing waste to create a product that is both eco-sustainable and a valid alternative to the synthetic equivalent."*

Agrimax coordinator Georgios Chalkias from IRIS Technology Solutions said *"This a significant milestone for the Agrimax project, proving the economic viability of the Agrimax research and helping us fulfil our mission of maximising the EU's sustainability, while providing new biobased compounds for the chemicals, food-packaging and farming sectors."*



Horizon 2020
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Notes for editors

Agrimax is an EU-funded project that is developing and demonstrating the production of multiple, high-value products from crop and food-processing waste. The project is also developing economically competitive routes to the commercialisation of these products, using flexible, and possibly cooperatively run, processing facilities. Agrimax will maximise the EU's sustainability, while providing new biobased compounds for the chemicals, food packaging and farming sectors. Agrimax has received funding from the Bio Based Industries Joint Undertaking under the European Union's

Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 720719.
www.agrimax-project.eu

TomaPaint srl was founded in 2019. The cofounders are Angela Montanari, Stefano Chiesa, Alessandro Chiesa and Tommaso Barbieri. Its core business is the industrialization and commercialization of a natural bio-resin obtained from industrial tomato processing by-products. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101009114. www.tomapaint.com