Koppert brings together distributors from Spain and Portugal in Almeria to train them in biological control

A group formed by forty companies of the agricultural sector of Spain and Portugal has participated in the first edition of the course organized by Koppert Spain to keep updated the knowledge of their distributors on biological control of pests and natural pollination. During two very intense days the theoretical training has been combined with the practical visits to the Koppert Research Center in Vícar and to ecological production farms located in Poniente almeriense.

The program of the course, which was developed during the past week, *has focused on the novelties related to the biological control of pests, especially the selection of natural enemies more suitable for each pest and the techniques of biological control of conservation. In addition, the course has analyzed in detail the methodology for developing integrated control programs in green areas, berries, vineyards and table grapes, cereals, citrus fruits, vegetables under shelter and outdoors, fruit trees, subtropics, flowers, ornamentals and crops. inside.*

The participants have also had the opportunity to know the latest news obtained by the R + D department of Koppert Spain. In this sense, the advances with entomopathogenic nematodes have

been shown and research results have been disseminated that facilitate the biological control of diseases through the use of beneficial microorganisms such as fungi and bacteria, which will revolutionize the way of doing agriculture in the short term because they will allow introducing biological control in the underground part of the plant to solve diseases that originate in the soil and roots.

"Although our distributors already have a knowledge base, with this course we offer them the opportunity to learn first hand all the research and development work that is behind each commercial product, while we help them improve the technical advice that They offer their clients because we share with them all our experience in the field acquired in an area as dynamic as Almeria ", explains Antonio Giménez, technical director of Koppert Spain.

In addition to the biological control of pests and diseases, the course program has included a specific section for natural pollination with bumblebees. The specialists in pollination of Koppert Spain have analyzed the advantages of the new hive Natupol Excel and have explained in detail the benefits of pollination with bumblebees both for crops under shelter and for outdoor crops. It has aroused great interest pollination in berries, fruit and almond, which is in full expansion in Portugal and in areas of the interior of Spain, such as Castilla-La Mancha.

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