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► **To cite this version:**

Florence Poey, Carole Caranta, Juan J. Lopez-Moya, Miguel Aranda, Mark Tepfer, et al.. ResistVir : co-ordination of research on genetic resistance to plant pathogenic viruses, and their vectors, in european crops. 12. Rencontres de Virologie Végétale, Jan 2009, Aussois, France. hal-02756226

HAL Id: hal-02756226

<https://hal.inrae.fr/hal-02756226>

Submitted on 3 Jun 2020

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ResistVir: Co-ordination of Research on Genetic Resistance to Plant Pathogenic Viruses, and their Vectors, in European Crops

www.resistvir-db.org

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Plant viruses and their vectors cause serious economic losses, limit European crop production, and have negative effects on the quality and safety of food. ResistVir is an EU-funded Coordination Action of the 6th Framework Program involving 48 research organisations. Its aim is to improve co-ordination of research on genetic resistance as one of the best ways to control plant pathogenic viruses and vectors in European crops. ResistVir starting on 1st February 2005 will receive funds of € 2.3 million under Food Quality and Safety priority over a four-year period. ResistVir's specific objectives include:

- 1- to co-ordinate cutting-edge European research and provide future insights
- 2- to encourage harmonisation of European standards, legislation, ethical issues related to GM and traditionally bred crops
- 3- to provide an online European database offering a panorama of research activities www.resistvir-db.org
- 4- to promote collaboration with European industries and enhance good communication between the partners

A database dedicated to the current European research activities on plant genetic resistances to pathogenic viruses and their vectors in European crops has been initiated by this co-ordination action. Data about the research groups, their projects and their results are recorded in that database, as well as methods, technologies and resources used to control plant viruses. Documents and results related to that database project are available on this web site (www.resistvir-db.org). This will ultimately result in new sources and mechanisms of sustainable resistance to plant viruses/vectors, being used in conventional and GM crops, and in decreased pesticide usage.