

THE NEW SEED BANK IN GOZO

*ACTION THROUGH THE PROJECT, POTENTIAL FOR THE TERRITORY AND
OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE*

CLOSING EVENT
WEDNESDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2021 - CATANIA

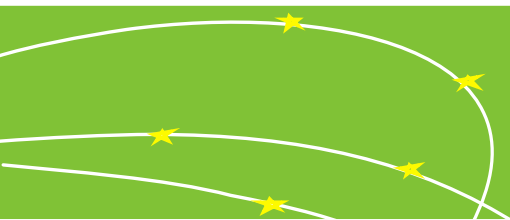
MINISTRY FOR GOZO
GOVERNMENT OF MALTA

ST FRANCIS SQUARE
VICTORIA – GOZO - MALTA



PARTNER 4

MINISTRY FOR GOZO



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- Participation and assistance to the Lead Partner in the project management
- Participation in project events, Steering Committees and Technical Meetings
- General administration



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Recruitment and training of a Research Assistant – today permanently employed with the partner in order to secure the knowledge and experience gained during the project.**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- Establishment of a new Seed Bank and ancillary research facility in Gozo



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- Establishment of a new Seed Bank and ancillary research facility in Gozo



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment**
 - **Seed growth chambers**
 - **Incubator for seed storage**
 - **Stereo microscope**
 - **Column Blower**
 - **Certified graded sieves and Sieve shaker**
 - **Climatic chamber / dehumidifier**
 - **Heating chambers – drying oven**
 - **Hygropalm and accessories**
 - **Automated Kjeldahl apparatus**
 - **Microwave digester**
 - **Flame photometer**
 - **In-situ Soil sampling kit**
 - **Analytical balance**
 - **Autoclave , Vacuum dessicators, meters and glassware**
 - **Laboratory furniture setup**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – Seed growth chambers**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – Column blower**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – drying oven**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – stereo microscope**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – hygropalm and accessories**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – analytical balance**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – soil sampling kit**



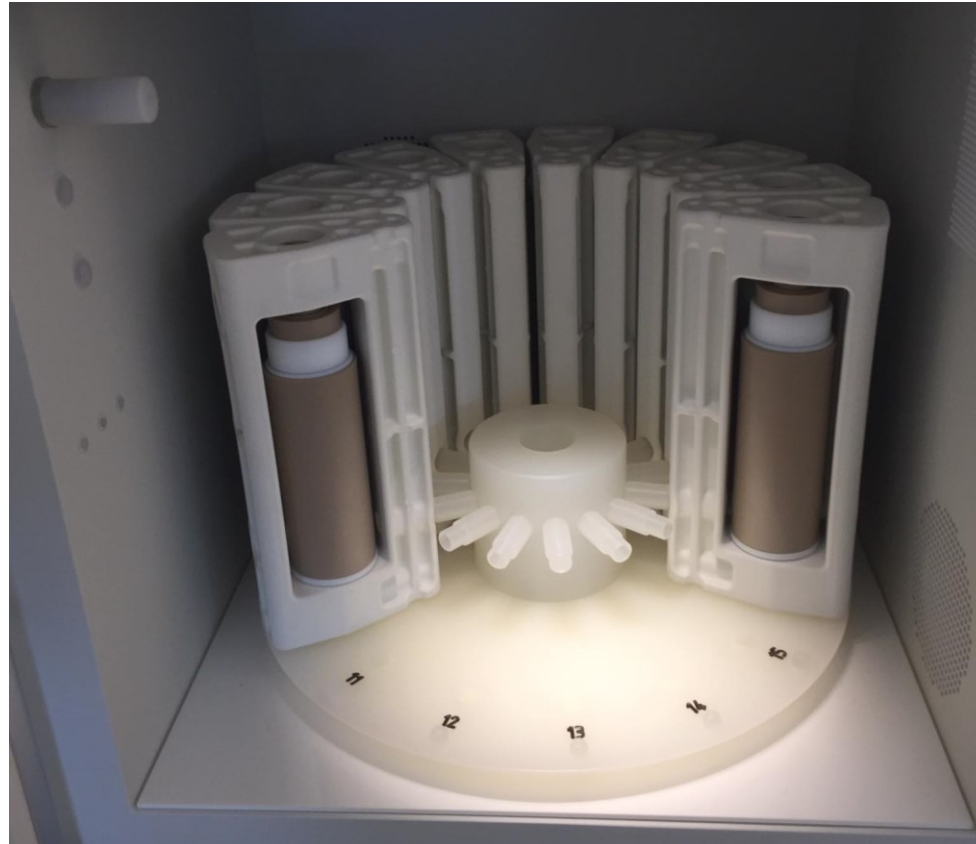
GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

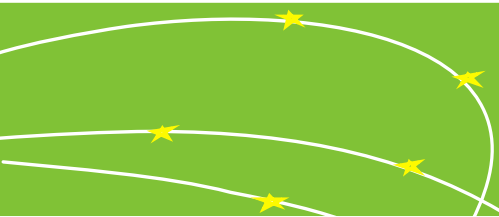
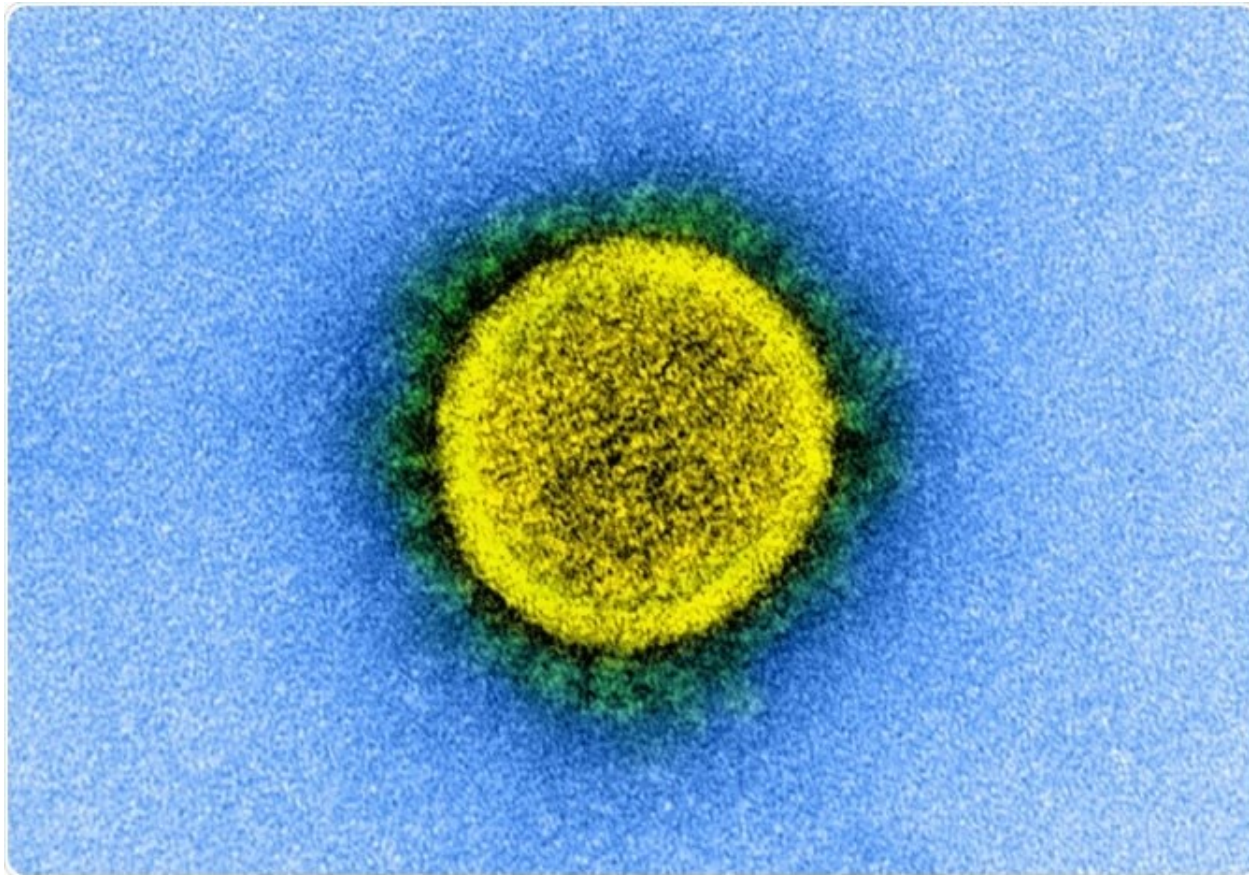
- **Equipment – sieve shaker and graded sieves**



GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Equipment – microwave digester**





- **Delays in the delivery of equipment**
- **Very serious limitations on activity and travel**
- **Involvement of Schools and Local Councils delayed and ultimately cancelled.**
- **Cancellation of additional pilot projects that had been planned**
- **In-person training at the University of Malta postponed indefinitely**
- **Some training (e.g. for Gardeners and other stakeholders by University of Malta) conducted online**

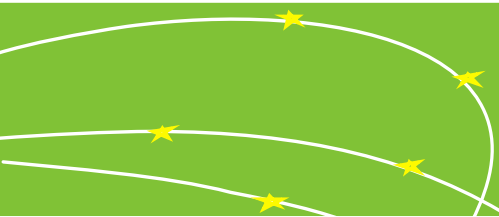


GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

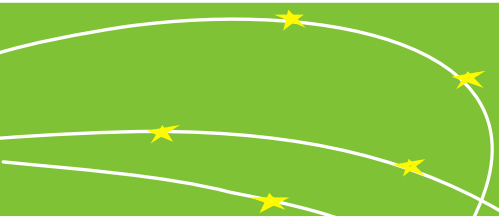
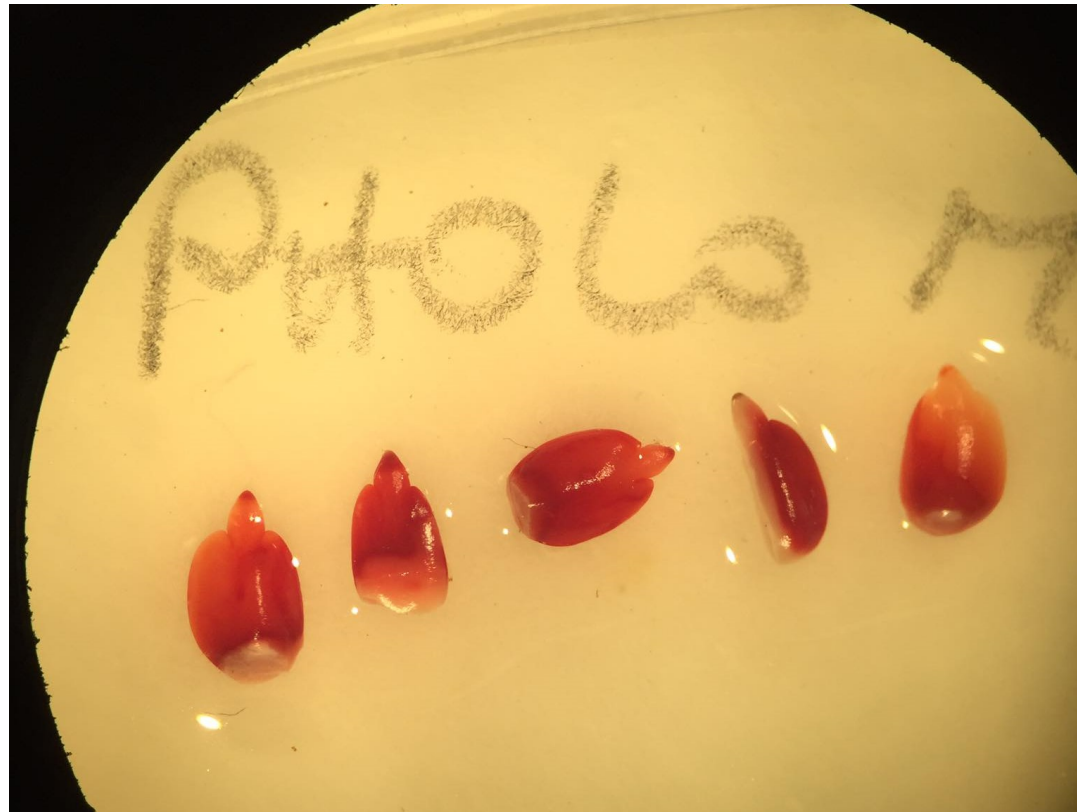
- **Limited activity / partly accomplished due to Covid-19 situation**
 - **Training of Gozo scientists and gardening staff in Malta, Catania and Marianelli – limited activity in Malta and Catania accomplished**



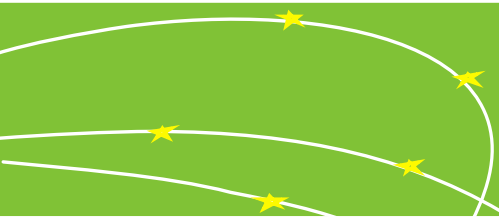
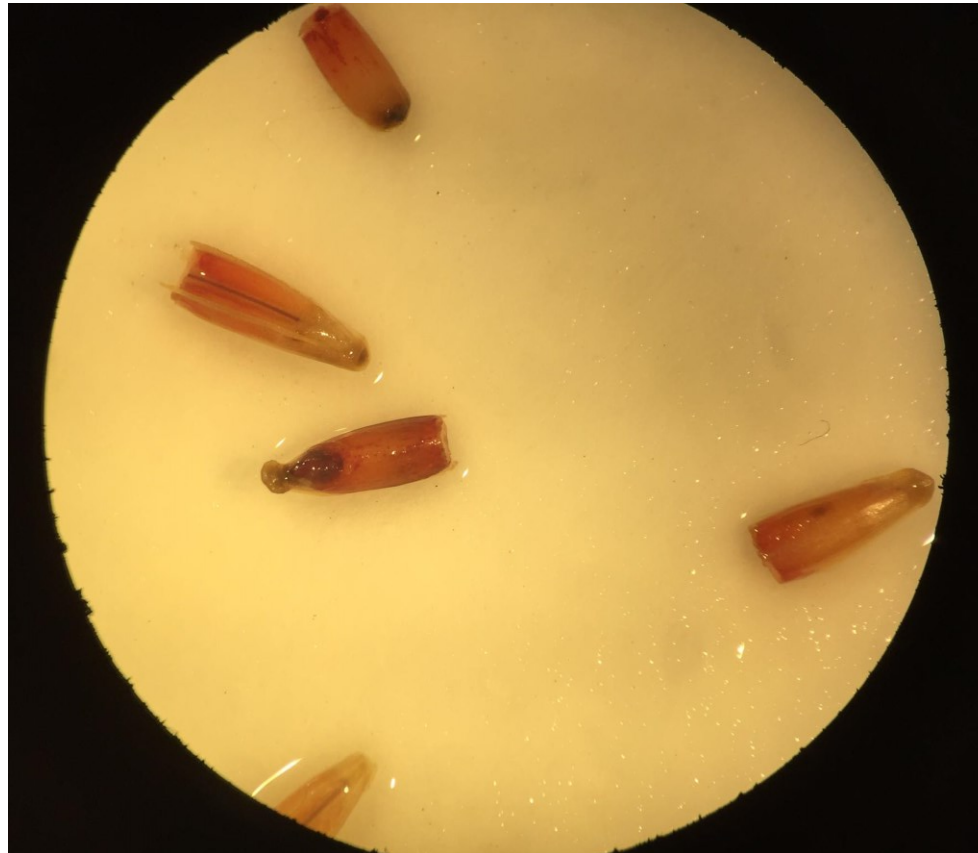
GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT



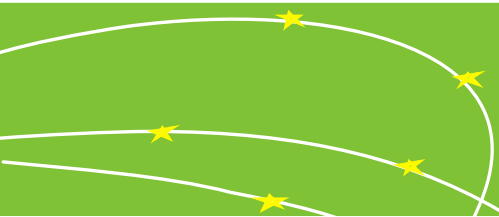
GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT



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GOZO IN THE SIMASEED PROJECT

- **Limited activity / partly accomplished due to Covid-19 situation**
 - **Project event and Fieldwork in Gozo not held**



FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Once the Covid-19 situation is brought under control:

- 1. More training and involvement of more personnel**
- 2. New collaborations with the Simaseed partners**
- 3. Involvement of Local Councils and use of native species for landscaping**
 - i. Valorisation of local genetic resources**
 - ii. Education**
 - iii. Reduced use of water**
 - iv. Climate change adaptation**
 - v. Control of proliferation of Invasive Alien**
- 4. Involvement of Schools and use of native species for landscaping**
 - i. Valorisation of local genetic resources**
 - ii. Adoption of small 'biomes'/demonstration areas in public gardens managed by school children – conservation ex-situ but still accessible to the public**
 - iii. Education on local genetic resources for schools and the community**



FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Possible action on a wide variety of species with rare status in Gozo:

1. *Anacamptis pyramidalis* subsp. *urvilleana* (Maltese pyramidal orchid)
2. *Ophrys lutea* s.l. (Yellow bee orchid)
3. *Ophrys caesiella* or controversially *O. subfusca* (Maltese brown orchid)
4. *Ophrys iricolor* subsp. *mesaritica* (Cretan rainbow bee orchid)
5. *Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Lady's Tresses)
6. *Himantoglossum robertianum* (Giant orchid)
7. Other less fancy but equally important species (including species with an economic potential – such as in landscaping)
8. Possible knowledge transfer of the expertise gained into other areas such as agricultural activity



FUTURE PRESPECTIVES



source: Stephen Mifsud, maltawildplants.com





thank you

