



# EXPERIMENTAL FERTILIZERS FROM FOOD WASTE: A SUSTAINABLE WAY TO IMPROVE VEGETATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCES OF TOMATO PLANTS.

Agosti A (University of Parma), Nazeer S, Leto L, Del Vecchio L, Di Fazio A, Dhenge R, Rossi R, Hadj Saadoun J, Levante A, Maestri E, Rinaldi M, Lazzi C, Cirilini M, Chiancone B

Department of Food and Drug, University of Parma, Viale Parco Area delle Scienze 27/A, 43124 Parma, Italy



E-mail:  
anna.agosti@unipr.it  
benedetta.chiancone@unipr.it

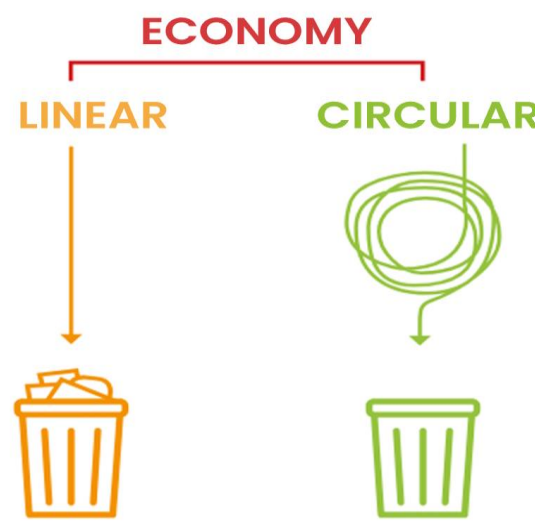
## 8.3.2

### NUTRIENT AND ORGANIC MATTER RECOVERING FROM WASTES TO REDUCE THE USE OF AGROCHEMICALS AND CLOSING WASTE CYCLE

#### Introduction



**Tomato** (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.), a commercially valuable crop, is increasingly cultivated using **soilless cultivation systems** to mitigate the effects of climate change. These systems typically rely on cocopeat or perlite as a substrate, but due to their high costs and environmental impact, there is a growing interest in **alternative substrates**.



Reducing the use of synthetic fertilizers by resorting to organic alternatives derived from agri-food waste is a valuable strategy for the transition from a **linear** to a **circular economy** in agriculture.

**Biochar** (BC) and **Wood Distillate** (WD), obtained from pyrolysis of agricultural wastes, are reported to improve yield and quality of the production acting respectively as an amendment and biostimulant.



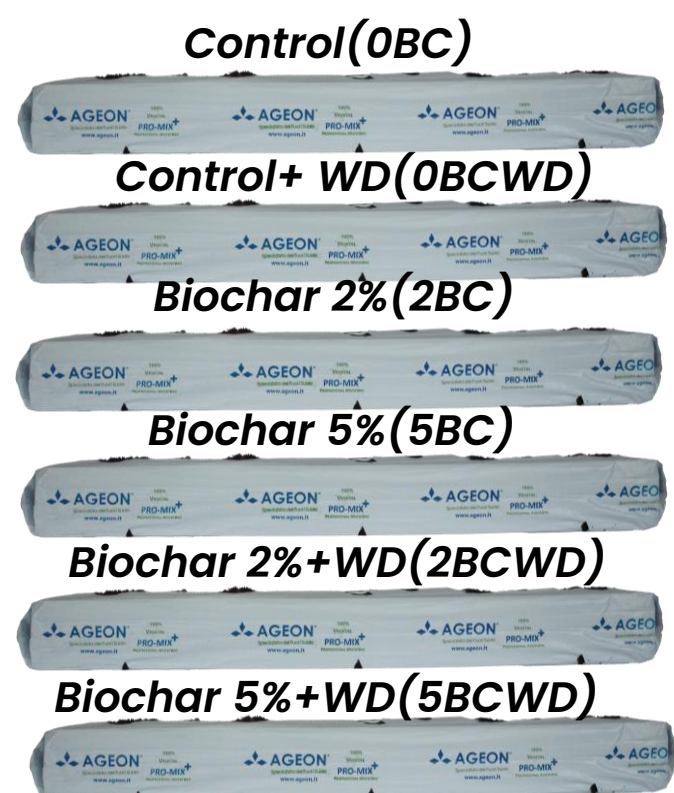
Nowadays, there is significant interest in using **agrifood waste** to develop experimental biostimulants.

A **biostimulant** is a substance or microorganism that is applied to plants, seeds, or soil to enhance natural processes, leading to improved plant growth, nutrient uptake, stress tolerance, and overall health.

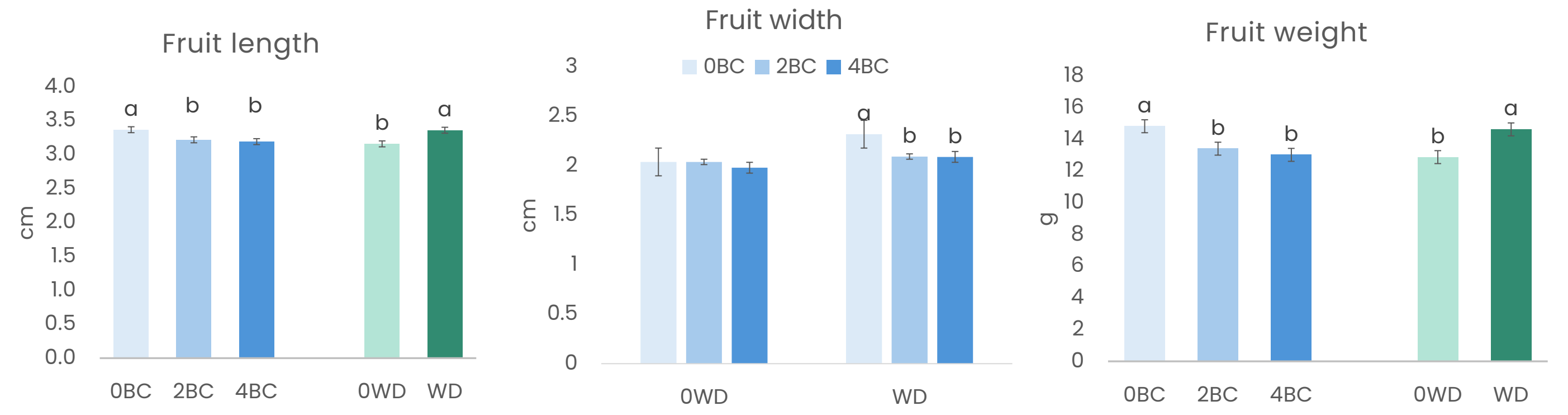
#### Aims

- 1) EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF BIOCHAR AND WOOD DISTILLATE ON VEGETO-PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCES OF TOMATO PLANTS GROWN IN SOILLESS CONDITION
- 2) EVALUATION OF EXPERIMENTAL BIOSTIMULANTS DERIVED FROM FOOD WASTE ON VEGETO-PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCES OF TOMATO PLANTS GROWN IN SOILLESS CONDITION
- 3) EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF BIOCHAR ON *IN VITRO* ROOTING OF TOMATO SEEDLINGS IN RESPONSE TO SALT STRESS

#### 1. EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF BIOCHAR AND WOOD DISTILLATE ON VEGETO-PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCES OF TOMATO PLANTS GROWN IN SOILLESS CONDITION

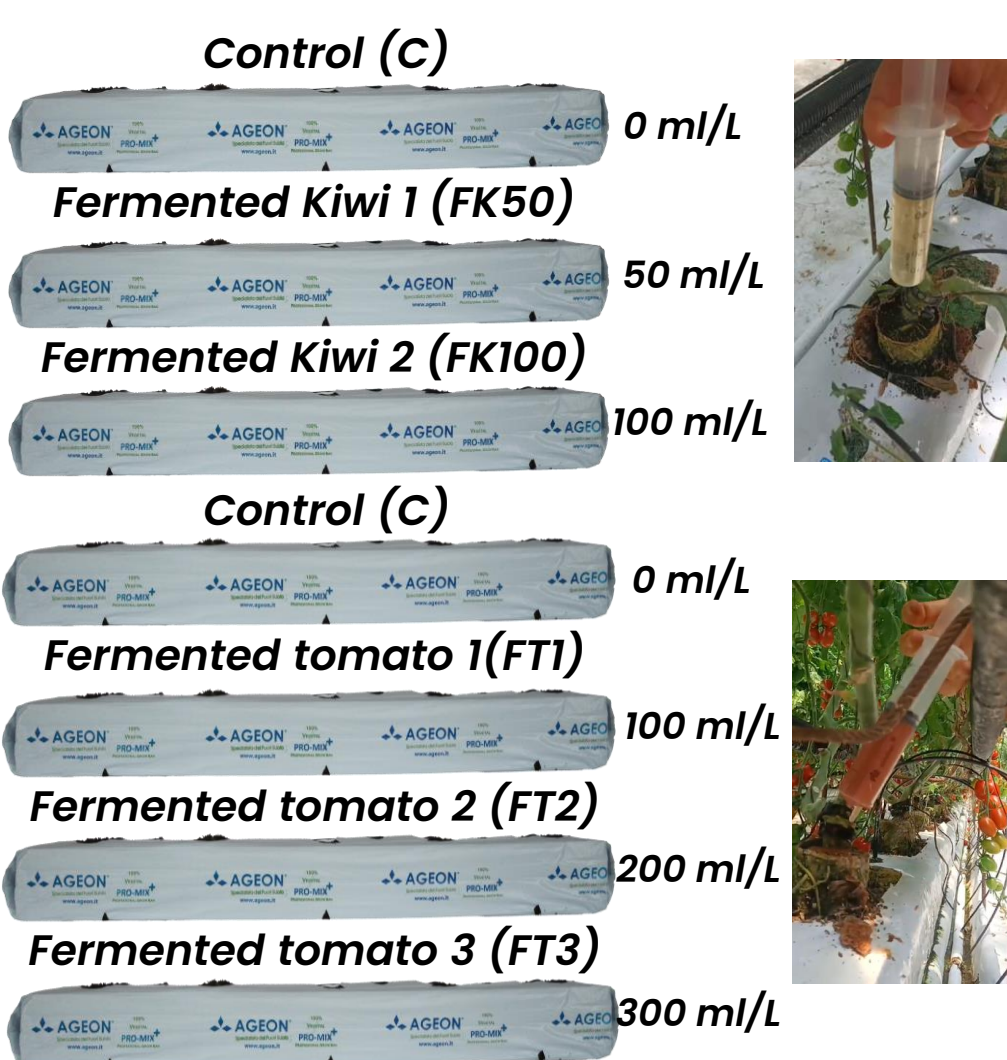


**Cultivars:** Solarino and Chikito  
**Substrates:** Coconut fiber and Perlite  
**N° of plants:** 18 plants per treatment (2023)  
30 plants per treatment (2024)



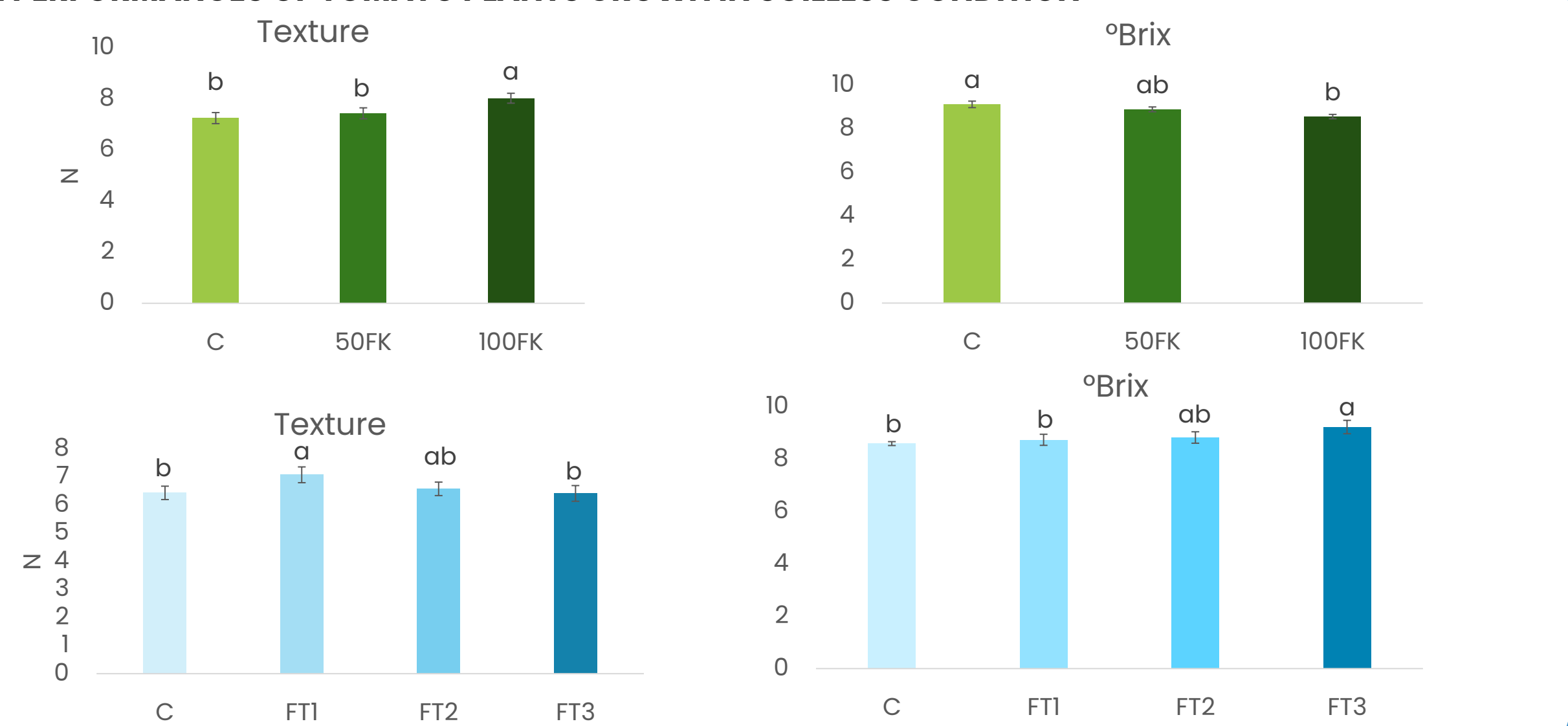
Two-way ANOVA, Tukey's test, p<0.05

#### 2. EVALUATION OF EXPERIMENTAL BIOSTIMULANTS DERIVED FROM FOOD WASTE ON VEGETO-PRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCES OF TOMATO PLANTS GROWN IN SOILLESS CONDITION



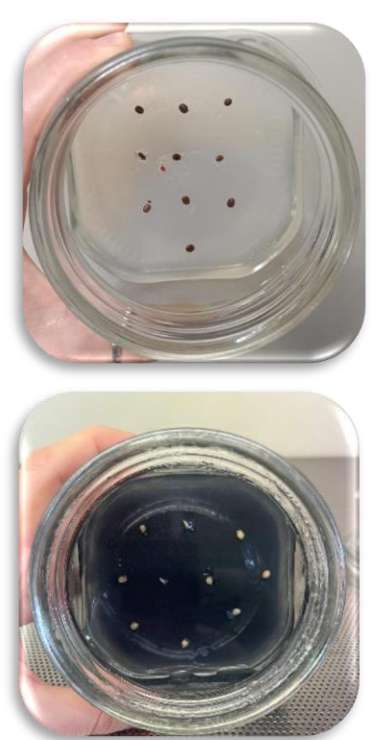
**Cultivar:** Solarino  
**Substrate:** Coconut fiber  
**N° of plants:** 18 plants per treatment  
**2 Type of biostimulant:** Fermented Kiwi waste (FK) and Fermented Tomato waste (FT)

In collaboration with Task 8.1.2



One-way ANOVA, Tukey's test, p<0.05

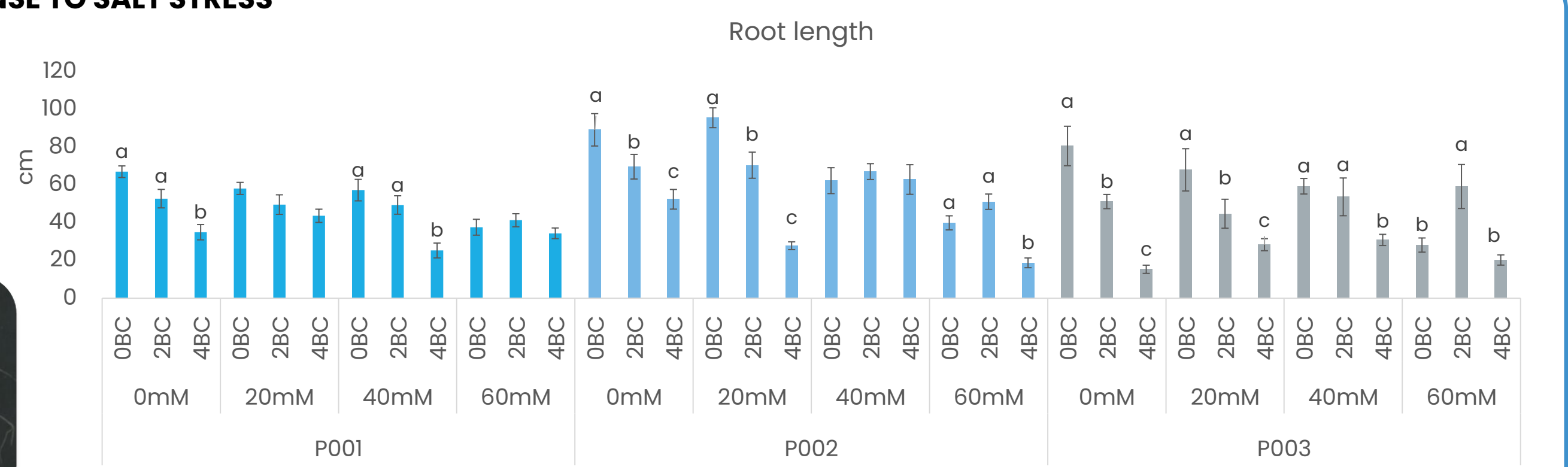
#### 3. EVALUATION OF THE EFFECT OF BIOCHAR ON *IN VITRO* ROOTING OF TOMATO SEEDLINGS IN RESPONSE TO SALT STRESS



**Genotypes:** 3 parentals  
**Substrate:** MS+BC+NaCl  
**N° of seeds:** 30 per substrate



In collaboration with ISI Sementi



Three-way ANOVA, Tukey's test, p<0.05

#### References

- Zulkarami et al., 2011, *Australian Journal of Crop Science*, 5(12): 1508-1514.  
Guo et al., 2021, *Science of The Total Environment*, 783, 147102.  
Resendiz-Nava et al., 2023, *Microorganisms*, 11(7):1633.  
Mannino, 2023, *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, 24(22), 16329.  
Rodrigues et al., 2020, *Agronomy*, 10(7), 988.

#### Dissemination

