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## **BIOSCHAMP, THE SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR MUSHROOM PRODUCTION PROVE SUCCESSFUL AT THE ISMS CONGRESS**



*Figure 1: Innovative experiments of the BIOSCHAMP project with sustainable mushrooms.*

Madrid, Spain – March 2024 - The mushroom industry, traditionally reliant on peat for casing soil, is set to undergo a transformative change with the groundbreaking results from the [BIOSCHAMP](#) project. This international initiative, comprising 13 partners from 7 countries, aims to provide an **alternative and sustainable low-peat casing for the mushroom industry**, ultimately enhancing productivity, sustainability, and profitability within the European mushroom sector. BIOSCHAMP now introduces two alternative casing soils, both complementing at least 50% of peat.

The project, which includes 6 Research Technological Centres/Universities, 3 large companies, and 4 SMEs, recently conducted semi-commercial scale trials at [INAGRO](#) (Belgium) and [CTICH](#) (Spain). These trials, carried out in accordance with standard practices, aimed to assess the viability of the alternative casing soils in two distinct mushroom cultivation systems prevalent in the EU.

**The results were presented** on the 20th ISMS International Congress on the Science and Cultivation of Edible and Medicinal Mushrooms ([ISMSC](#)) in Las Vegas, USA, showcasing **two alternative casing soils**. Both solutions namely Alternative A from [Kekkila-BVB](#) and Alternative B from [NewFoss](#) fibre by, were tested based on previous [BIOSCHAMP](#) results. The trials produced promising outcomes.



**The results from the semi-commercial trials at both [INAGRO](#) and [CTICH](#) are encouraging.** The yield of the tested alternative casing soils was found to be comparable to the 100% peat reference traditionally used in mushroom cultivation. Furthermore, close monitoring of cultivation techniques revealed that corresponding crop management was similar, facilitating the potential seamless implementation of the alternative casing materials.

The [BIOSCHAMP](#) project marks a significant step forward in promoting sustainability within the mushroom industry. By successfully demonstrating the feasibility of sustainable peat alternatives for casing soil, the project paves the way for an environmentally friendly and economically viable future for mushroom cultivation in Europe.

For more information about the BIOSCHAMP project and its outcomes, please visit the website <https://bioschamp.eu/> or contact **Marga Pérez (BIOSCHAMP project coordinator)** [direccion@ctich.com](mailto:direccion@ctich.com) and **Daniel Gallardo (BIOSCHAMP Dissemination and Communication responsible)** [daniel.gallardo@innovarum.es](mailto:daniel.gallardo@innovarum.es)



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