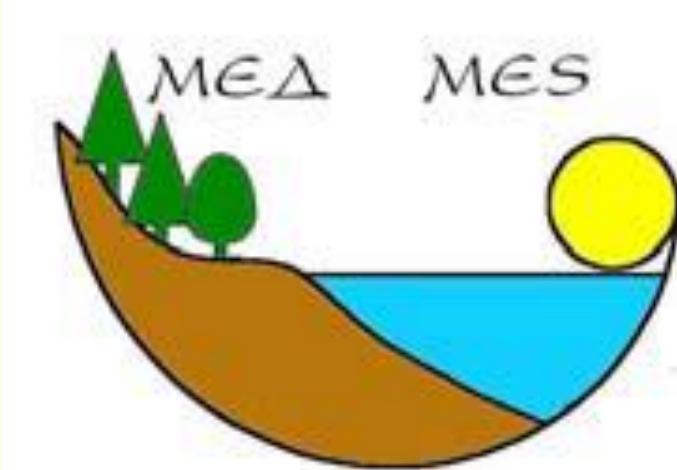


THE ROLE OF PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY METHODS IN SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE



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Introduction

Plant biotechnology is set of different scientific approaches and methods that are utilized to improve and modify plants for human and environmental benefit. Plant biotechnology can be used to meet the increasing need for food by improving yields, improving the nutritional quality of crops and reducing the impact on the environment. This paper presents several *in vitro* methods with successful application results and particular concern for improvement of the biodiversity of crops, important for Republic of Macedonia.

Results and discussion

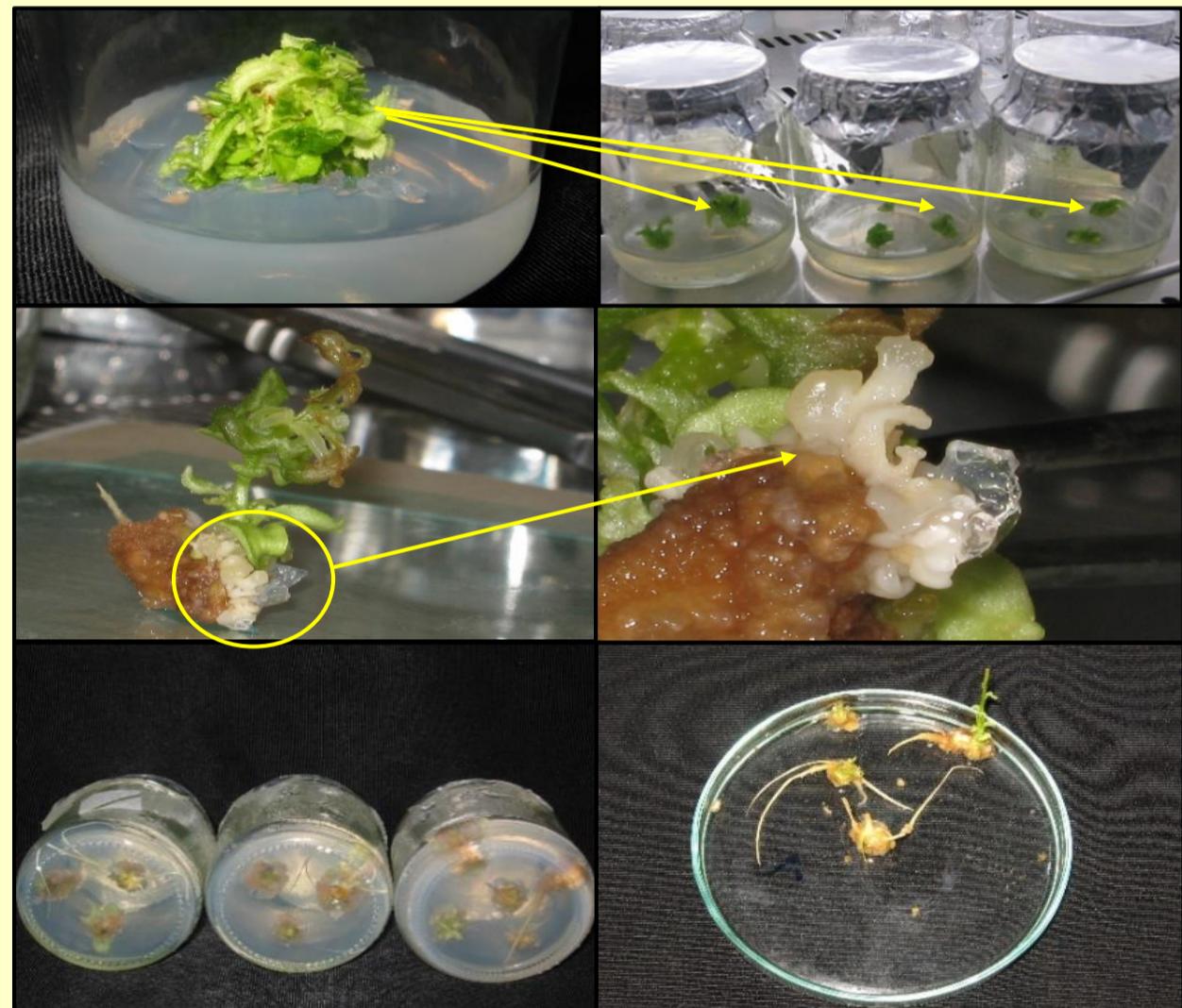


Figure 1. Embryo rescue technique in *Prunus ameniaca* L.

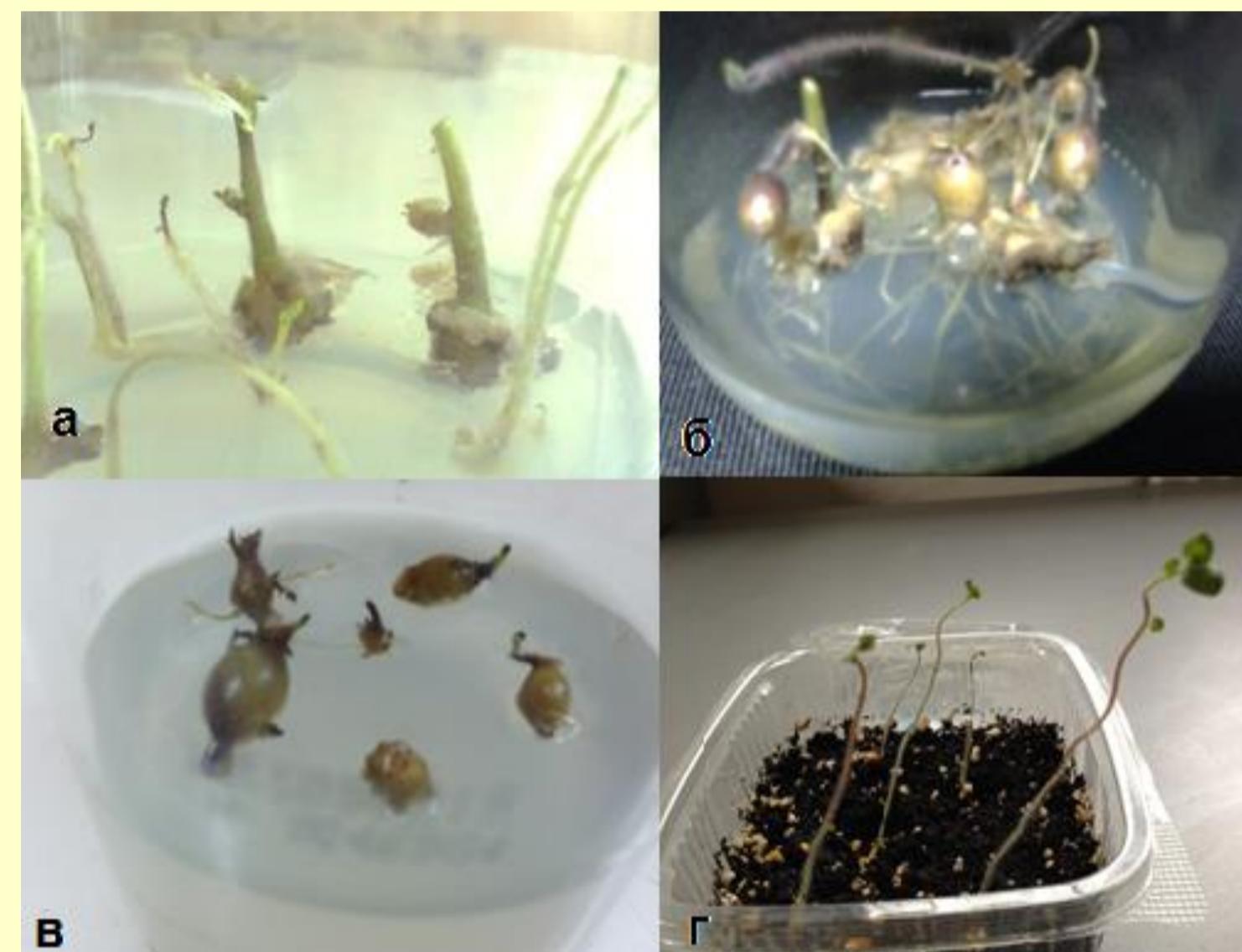


Figure 2. Microtuberisation of *Solanum tuberosum* L.



Figure 3. Micropropagation of *Eruca sativa* L.

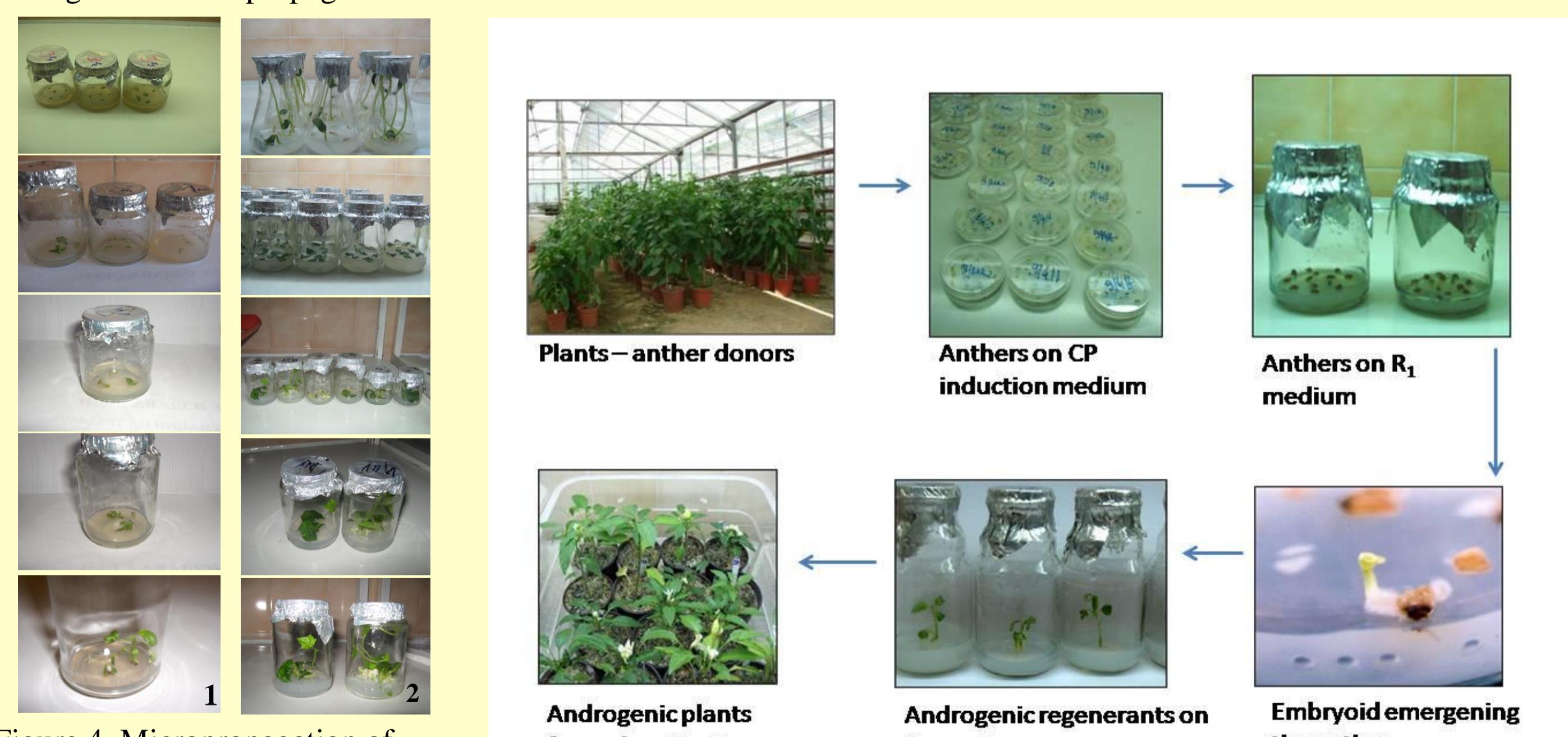


Figure 4. Micropropagation of (1) *Lycopersicon esculentum* Mill. and (2) *Cucumis sativus* L.

Figure 5. Androgenesis of *Capsicum annuum* L.

Materials and methods

Different plant biotechnology methods were developed and tested for mostly vegetables crops, but also for important ornamental, aromatic and medicinal crops. All utilized plant species, propagation starting material, and combination and concentration of applied growth regulators are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Review of different species and their utilization in *in vitro* culture.

Species	Explant	Medium + Growth Regulators (mg·l ⁻¹)	Results
<i>Petunia grandiflora</i>	apical meristem	MS + BAP + 0.1 IAA + 0.1 GA ₃	leaf rosette
		MS + 2 BAP + 0.1 NAA	
		MS + 2 BAP	shoots
<i>Dianthus chinensis x barbatus</i>	apical meristem	MS + BAP + 0.1 IAA + 0.1 GA ₃	
		MS + 2 BAP + 0.1 NAA	shoots
		MS + 2 BAP	
		MS + 5 BAP + 5 NAA	
<i>Lavandula vera</i> L.	apical buds	MS + 2 BAP	callus shoots
<i>Melissa officinalis</i> L.	apical meristem	MS + 2 BAP	leaf rosettes
	hypocotyls		
<i>Eruca sativa</i> L.	apical meristem	MS + 1 NAA	roots
		MS + 1 BAP + 0.5 IAA	leaf rosettes
			shoots
			roots
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L.	apical meristem		callus
		MS + 1 KIN	shoots
			leaf rosettes
<i>Prunus armeniaca</i> L.	seed embryos		callus
		MS + 1 BAP + 1 GA ₃	shoots
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> L.	nodes from initial potato sprouts	MS + 2 BAP + 0.5 NAA	de novo plants
		MS + 1 BPA + 0.5 NAA	somatic
		MS + 4 BAP + 2 NAA	embryoids
		MS + 6 BAP + 2 NAA	
<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.	apical buds	MS + 5.0 BAP + 0.5 NAA	microtubers
		MS + 10.0 BAP + 0.5 IAA	
	anthers	MS + 1.0 ZEA	callus
		CP + 0,01 KIN + 0,01 2,4D	shoots
<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> Mill.	hypocotyls	R1 + 0,01 KIN	embryos
		MS + 10.0 BAP + 0.5 NAA	
	1/3 cotyledons	MS + 30.0 BAP + 1.0 IAA	callus
		MS + 5.0 ZEA	
<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> Mill. var. <i>cerasiforme</i> (Dunal)	apical buds	MS + 2.5 2iP	
		MS + 4.5 BAP + 0.3 IBA	shoots
	hypocotyls	MS + 6.0 BAP + 0.4 IBAA	
	1/3 cotyledons	MS + 4.5 KIN + 0.3 IAA	callus
<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.	hypocotyls	MS + 1.5 BAP + 0.1 IBA	shoots
		MS + 3.0 KIN + 0.1 IAA	
	1/3 cotyledons	MS + 6.0 BAP + 0.4 IBA	callus

Utilization of the benefits of plant biotechnology will bring "economically sustainable" and "environmentally sound" agricultural production that shall be "socially equal".

It is a straight contribution of plant biotechnology to the sustainable agriculture.

Conclusions

Presented plant biotechnology methods are applied in production of diseases free propagation material, diversification of agricultural biodiversity and fast multiplication of starting propagation material.