



MANUEL TORNEL

Dr. Manuel Tornel is an agronomist engineer with a PhD in agricultural research. He leads the table grape team at IMIDA, the public institute for agricultural research. Together with ITUM, he has spearheaded a genetic breeding program to develop new seedless table grape varieties, using biotechnological techniques such as in vitro culture and molecular markers to produce seedlings.

He is the breeder of 21 new varieties that are already cultivated in Spain. The first commercial farms for these grapes are being established in Chile, Peru, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Namibia, and Australia, and will soon expand to South Africa, India, and the United States of America. Currently, more than 2,000 hectares of these new varieties are being grown, resulting in the creation of over 100 plant breeder rights. Two of these varieties carry genes for resistance to powdery mildew, with a focus on organic farming.

He has been a speaker and plenary presenter at international congresses in Singapore, Mexico, Chile, Italy, Germany, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, France, Greece, and Peru. Recently, he was appointed scientific secretary for table grapes SCRAISIN at the International Organization of Vine (OIV).