

## Improved and resource efficiency throughout the post-harvest chain of fresh-cut fruits and vegetables – CEREAL EU Project

*Fernandez-Alba A.R.<sup>1</sup>; Martinez Bueno M.J.<sup>1</sup>; Rosal R.<sup>2</sup>; Hernando MD.<sup>3</sup>; Silvestre C.<sup>4</sup>; Mathew A.<sup>5</sup>; Muranyi P.<sup>6</sup>; Mänttari M.<sup>7</sup>; Yüce S.<sup>8</sup>.*

<sup>1</sup>EURL-FV & University of Almeria (UAL)

<sup>2</sup>Universisty of Alcalá (UAH)

<sup>3</sup>National institutal and food research and technology (INIA)

<sup>4</sup>Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche (CNR)

<sup>5</sup>Lulea university (LTU)

<sup>6</sup>Fraunhofer (IVV)

<sup>7</sup>Lappeenranta university (LUT)

<sup>8</sup>RWTH AACHEN University (RWTH)

[amadeo@ual.es](mailto:amadeo@ual.es)

The relevance of fruit and vegetables extends as they play a pivotal role in promoting consumers' health, thus reducing costs associated to obesity, cardio-vascular and other social diseases. Nevertheless, the introduction of new and safe ready-to-eat fresh products, particularly in fruit and vegetable, it requires significant improvements in produce cleaning. Proper disinfection technology is needed to ensure microbial safety avoiding at the same time the formation of disinfection by-products such as chlorinated chemicals. Furthermore, the quality of fresh-cut products also depends critically on packaging technology, which has to preserve good appearance and flavour, as well as meet safety requirements.

In view to increase the capacity of the EU industry to provide safer and more durable produces the project goals are:

- The reduction of the inputs used in the processing of fresh-cut fruits and vegetables.
- The increase of the shelf life of the packed fresh cut products.
- The accomplishment of a higher level of chemical and microbiological safety of processed produces.

The CEREAL project was one of the nine projects funded, being the first in the ranking, in the 1st Joint Call for Proposals of the FP7-ERA-Net SUSFOOD. General information about CEREAL project, expected results and benefits as well as results of high industrial relevance will be published on the project website.

