



# III SIMPÓSIO DA CASTANHA

Bragança • 2018

**PROGRAMA/PROGRAMME**  
**LIVRO DE RESUMOS/ABSTRACT BOOK**



# 11|12|13 OUTUBRO



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## INDICE

INTRODUÇÃO.....	4
PROGRAMA .....	6
CONFERÊNCIAS/CONFERENCES.....	16
1ª SESSÃO – BIOLOGIA, FISIOLOGIA E GENÉTICA.....	19
2ª SESSÃO - GESTÃO DO SOLO E PATOLOGIAS DO CASTANHEIRO ..	25
CONFERÊNCIAS/CONFERENCES.....	33
3ª SESSÃO – ECONOMIA, MERCADO, COLHEITA E PROCESSAMENTO DA CASTANHA .....	36
COMUNICAÇÕES EM PAINÉIS .....	43



## Program for Chestnut Blight biocontrol based on Hypovirulence

### Programa de luta biológica para tratamento do Cancro do Castanheiro

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#### ABSTRACT

Chestnut Blight is an introduced disease in Portugal associated with virulent strains of the Asian fungus *Cryphonectria parasitica* (Murril) Barr. The disease causes great economic losses and presents a significant risk to the chestnut ecosystem. Eradication efforts and cultural sanitary measures didn't control the disease and actually more than 10% of chestnut trees are blighted. A new method based on hypovirulence was achieved and a program for biological control of Chestnut Blight was implemented for field extended application. The program is a transfer initiative that encourages the application of Hypovirus CHV-1 strains as a component of the integrated management of the disease. Hypovirus CHV-1 strains were timely approved by national authorities (Ministry of Agriculture-DGAV) and stakeholders and schedules of field applications implemented. General achievements and results of the program will be presented and evaluated.

**Key words:** Biocontrol Program, *Castanea sativa*, Chestnut Blight, *Cryphonectria parasitica* (Murr.), Hypovirulence