



First demo plot in Europe with a plantation of radiata pine somatic trees in Spain, Basque Country.

**Our project MULTIFOREVER: on its way towards intensification of conifer production through multi-varietal forestry based on somatic embryogenesis**

For more information please visit:

<https://www.multiforever.com/>

### News from our project partner

**NEIKER** MEMBER OF BASQUE RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY ALLIANCE

- a technological research institute located in the Basque Country ([www.neiker.eus](http://www.neiker.eus)).

**on the topic of communicating our research with the public, stakeholders and authorities.**



*The first planted demonstration trial of somatic radiata pines in Europe, namely in the Basque country, Spain (location see arrow).*

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### **Aim** Presenting scientific news to an interested public and legislative powers that show solutions for forests of the future

- **Senior officials of the Basque Government visit NEIKER to learn about conifer tissue culture, especially about somatic embryogenesis\***



*NEIKER team leader Paloma Moncaleán explaining development and opportunities of somatic plants for a multi-varietal forestry.*

During a visit to NEIKER's research lab in January 2020, the team around Paloma Moncaleán welcomed Basque Government representatives (Basque Government's President Lehendakari, Iñigo Urkullu, Minister of Economic Development Sustainability and Environment Arantxa Tapia, Vice-minister of Technology, Innovation and Digital Transformation Estibaliz Hernáez, Vice-minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Policy Bittor Oroz, Director of Technology and Strategy Alberto Fernández, and the Director of Basque Research and Technology Alliance-BRTA Ricardo Bueno) to get to know the research work on somatic embryogenesis\* carried out in the frame of the MULTIFOREVER project. During the visit, politicians learned about the possibilities of tissue culture techniques in order to achieve high quality plants for 21<sup>st</sup> century forestry.

- **It's time for a change in thinking – and planting**

### Field visit to NEIKER's trial with radiata pine somatic plants

Another visit to present our field of work took place in May 2021. For this green day the Basque team had invited forest owners and forestry technicians to the experimental plot that NEIKER had planted on the Iñarrondo mountain in Llodio (Álava).

This plantation is the first trial with radiata pine somatic plants in Europe as part of the project MULTIFOREVER. During the visit, stakeholders, public administration

technicians and landowners had the opportunity to learn about the possibilities of somatic embryogenesis to establish multi-varietal forestry in the Basque Country. Moreover, they were informed about the experiments carried out by NEIKER in order to induce priming in somatic tissues to produce plants with a better adaptation to the new geoclimatic conditions as a consequence of the climate change.



*Visitors inspecting the recently planted somatic trees of radiata pine in the mountain Iñarrondo, Basque country.*

\*Somatic embryogenesis is an *in vitro* tissue culture method used for high-throughput (vegetative/clonal) multiplication of seed embryos.