



Prof. Raed Alkowni

Distinguished Professor

Former Dean, Faculty of Science

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Areas of Interest

Biotechnology: *Plant Pathology and Applied Microbiology.*

Main Themes: *Phytosanitary services; Biofertilizers; Conservation Biology; Biological control*

Biography

- Ph.D. University of Bari, Bari, Italy 2001 *Applied Microbiology - Molecular Virology*
- M.Sc. CIHEAM/IAM-B, Valenzano, Italy 1997 *Plant Virology*
- D.S.P.G. CIHEAM/IAM-B, Valenzano, Italy 1996 *Protection of Mediterranean Fruit Tree Crops*
- B.Sc. University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan 1992 *Plant Protection*

Awards/Grants

1. An-Najah Research Excellence and Quality of Publication Reward [2011; 2016-2024]
2. An-Najah Award for Extracted Research from MSc. and PhD Thesis 2021
3. Erasmus⁺ Mobility Grant, 2016 & 2017. *University of Pavia (Italy). Pavia, Italy.*
4. MEDRC Water Research Fellowship Program, 2016.
5. Zamala Fellowship for Academic Development, 2014. *Bari University, Italy*
6. International Teaching Fellow Honor awards, 2011, *Searle Center for Teaching Excellence. Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA*
7. The Engineer Zuhair Hijjawi Award for Scientific Research in the natural Sciences and Biotechnology, 2009.
8. IDB Merit Scholarship Program 1427H/2007, *Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah Saudi Arabia. Scholarship Office (OSP).*
9. Testimonial Certificate for the Best Master Thesis 1997. *(IAMB/CIHEAM). Bari, Italy.*

Work Experiences

- *Dean*, Faculty of Science. An-Najah National University/Nablus, West-Bank, Palestine (2017-2018 & 2021-2023)
- *Professor*, Department of Biology and Biotechnology - Faculty of Science. An-Najah National University/Nablus, West-Bank, Palestine (2021)
- *Researcher*, Bari University– CNR, Italy, Rewarded by the Zamala fellowship (2014)
- *Associate Professor*, Department of Biology and Biotechnology - Faculty of Art and Science. The Arab American University – Jenin (AAUJ), Palestine (2007-2009)
- *Researcher*, UC-Davis (*Junior Specialist*), California, Rewarded by the IDB merit scholarship (2007-2008)
- *Head*, Biology and Biotechnology Department - Faculty of Art and Science. The Arab American University – Jenin (AAUJ), Palestine (2003-2007)
- *Postdoctoral Fellow*, Department of Plant Pathology, University of California at Davis, California, USA (2001-2003)
- *Professional Assignment*, The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (IAM-B), The International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM). Bari, Italy (2000–2001)
- *Teaching assistant*, UNESCO Biotechnology Educational and Training Center, Bethlehem University, Palestine. (1997)
- *Staff & Technical Supervisor*, Palestinian Agriculture Relief Committees (PARC), Jerusalem, Palestine (1993–1995)

Competencies

1. Biotechnology: *Serological and molecular diagnostics; Molecular identification of microbial biodiversity.*
2. Phytosanitary Management: *Implementation of actions and measures for the production of healthy propagating materials.*
3. Biocontrol: *Antimicrobial activity assays and evaluation of biological control agents.*
4. Biofertilizers: *Application of plant growth–promoting rhizobacteria (PGPRs) to enhance plant growth.*
5. Bioinformatics: *Genomic data analysis.*
6. Tissue Culture: *In vitro techniques for conservation of plant diversity.*
7. DNA Fingerprinting: *Biodiversity assessment and genetic characterization.*
8. Pedagogy: *Training of Trainers (TOT) in advancing teaching and learning; curriculum design.*
9. Languages: *Fluent in Arabic, English, and Italian.*

Committees and Memberships

- Chair and Founder of the ECOPAL-Forum
- Guest Editor Assistant for the MDPI Special Issue in the "Viruses" Journal
- Consultant at FAO on Phytosanitary
- Coordinate of the PhD program "Biotechnology and molecular genetics"

- Advisory Committee of the Office of Technology and Knowledge Transfer
- Academic Promotions Committees - An-Najah national University.
- Institutional Review Board-IRB - An-Najah national University
- Scientific Committee Chairman of the 5th International Conference “*Environmental challenges in the Arab region*” of the Arab Academics and Scientists Union
- Coordinator of BirdLife International/CEPF funded projects
- EQA consultant on drafting the guideline “Biological Control of Agricultural Pests in Palestine”
- Member of the national team for KBAs categorization in Palestine
- Founder Member of “Biotechnology Research and its Applications in Palestine” Conference
- Coordinator of FP7 Program
- Supervisor of Ecology Friends Association (EFA)
- Member (Elected) for the Council of the Faculty of Science – 2016, An-Najah National University
- Member of the Scientific Committee of Graduate Studies for Water and Environmental Sciences - Najah University
- Member of the Center of Excellence in Learning and Teaching “CELT”, An-Najah National University

Publications

1. Nasri, H., Kasmi, K., Slimani, D., Abdellaoui, S., Melhaoui, R., Hammouti, B., Jodeh, S., Chaabane, K., & Alkowni, R. (2026). “Studying of *Trachurus trachurus* (Linnaeus, 1758) Population Reproductive Dynamics in the Eastern Moroccan Mediterranean.” *Ecology and Evolution* 16, no. 6: e73792. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.73792>.
2. Qash, H., Alkowni, R. & Basha, W. Evaluating Toxoplasmosis Molecular Prevalence in Slaughtered Sheep using PCR Assay in Northern Palestine. *Acta Parasit.* 71, 128 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11686-026-01316-y>
3. Alkowni, R., Jaradat, N., Kmail, R., Elsaid, E., Alawneh, A., Ibrahim, I. A., Sheikh Ibrahim, A., Hajji, A., Mohammad, S., Gubran, L., Hourani, M., Mardawi, N., & Saleh, H. (2026). First isolation of *Fusarium foetens* from coriander in Palestine and preliminary evaluation of essential oils for its control. *Scientific Reports*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-026-44502-8>
4. Bsharat, O., Alkowni, R., Al-Hajj, N., Elsaid, E., Janem, A., & Al-Maharik, N. (2026). Chemical composition, antioxidant properties, antibacterial, and antifungal activities of essential oils from three basil cultivars in Jordan Valley. *Industrial Crops and Products*, 244, Article 123221.
5. Hamed, R., Assali, M., Sawalha, S., Jodeh, S., Alkowni, R., & Hussien, A. (2026). Eco-friendly chitosan-based ZnO/CNDs hybrid nanocomposites with enhanced photocatalytic antimicrobial activity. *BioNanoScience*, 16, 292 (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12668-026-02539-z>
6. Nazzal, S., Al-Assali, A., & Alkowni, R. (2026). The effect of integrating bioinformatics experiences into the genetics unit of the Palestinian 11th-grade biology textbook on students’ motivation to learn biology. *Humanities & Natural Sciences Journal*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.53796/hnsj71/61>
7. Nazzal, S. A., Assali, A. Y., & Alkowni, R. A. (2026). When genes meet screens: Testing the effect of bioinformatics-based activities on the achievement of eleventh-grade Palestinian biology students. *Journal of Science Education and Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10956-026-10308-6>
8. Alkowni, R., Alabdalla, O., Shalabi, N., Abo Eid, M., Jarrar, S., & Abou Kubaa, R. (2025). Assessment of the sanitary status of citrus in Palestine. *Proceedings of the 14th Arab Congress of Plant Protection (ACPP-2025), 3–7 November 2025, Algeria. Arab Journal of Plant Protection*, 43(Special Issue), E-40-41.
9. Alabdallah O., Ghzayal S., Lahlooh A., Radwan J., Jaradat S., Alkowni, R (2025). Survey of grapevine viruses in Palestine. *Journal of Plant Pathology*. 107(4), 2321-2327. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42161-025-01934-x>
10. Naser S.M., Alabdallah, O., Abualrob, A. Kubaa, R.A., Alkowni R. (2025). Molecular detection and identification of citrus bent leaf viroid (CBLVd) and hop stunt viroid (HSVd) in Palestine, *Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection*, 58(6), 356–364. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03235408.2025.2488424>
11. Razmag R., Alkowni R., and Basha W. (2024). Studying the antibacterial effect of different Palestinian oak species on MRSA. *International Conference of Medical laboratory and Health Sciences Research (ICMLH_2024) 20-22/11/2024; Zarqa University- Jordan*, P-18
12. Qash H., Alkowni R., and Basha W. (2024). Evaluating Toxoplasmosis Geno-prevalence in Slaughtered Sheep Using PCR Method in Northern Palestine. *International Conference of Medical laboratory and Health Sciences Research (ICMLH_2024) 20-22/11/2024; Zarqa University- Jordan*, O-17
13. Alabdallah, O., Alkowni R., Abbassi I. (2024). Detection and Identification Of Tomato Brown Rugose Fruit Virus In Commercial Tomato Varsities In Palestine, And Assess Their Tolerance Using Next Generation Sequencing Technology (NGS). *5th AAB PlantEd Congress: Agricultural Biotechnology in the Era of Genome Editing. 30 October 2024 – 1 November 2024. Ondokuz Mayıs University. Atatürk Congress Center. Samsun. Türkiye*
14. Alabdallah, O., Alkowni, R., Radwan, J., Ghzayal, S., Jaradat, S., Shubib, S. et al. (2024). The first surveillance report for *Xylella fastidiosa* in olive and stone fruit orchards in Palestine. *EPPO Bulletin*, 54, 236–242. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.13023> (IF 0.728)
15. Hamed, R., Jodeh, S. & Alkowni, R. (2024). Nano bio fertilizer capsules for sustainable agriculture. *Scientific Reports* 14, 13646- <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-62973-5>
16. Shqair, R; Zyoud, A; Helal, M ; Nassar, H; Alkowni, R; Assali, M; Zyoud, S; Qamhieh, N; Hajamohideen, A R; Sawalha, S; Zyoud, S; Hilal, H. 2024. TiO2 nano-powder and nano-film catalysts in disinfection and mineralization of *S. aureus* with solar simulated radiations. *Reaction Chemistry & Engineering*. 2024, 9, 1762-1775
17. Hamdaoui N, Azghar A, Benkirane C, Bouaamali H, Mohamed M, Ou-yahia D, El Guerrouj B, Assahraou A, Maleb A, Mustapha M, Alkowni R, Jodeh S. (2024). Probiotic properties, antioxidant potential, bile salts tolerance and antibiotic

- susceptibility assessment of *Streptococcus thermophilus* isolates. *Palestinian Medical and Pharmaceutical Journal* (PMPJ). 2024; 9(3): 347-360
18. Abualrob, A., Alabdallah, O., Kubaa, R.A., Naser S.M., Alkowni R. (2024). Molecular detection of Citrus exocortis viroid (CEVd), Citrus viroid-III (CVd-III), and Citrus viroid-IV (CVd-IV) in Palestine. *Sci Rep* 14, 423 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-50271-5>
 19. Alkowni R., Jaradat N., Fares S. (2023). Total phenol, flavonoids, and tannin contents, antimicrobial, antioxidant, vital digestion enzymes inhibitory and cytotoxic activities of *Verbascum fruticosum*. *European Journal of Integrative Medicine* 60 (2023) 102256. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eujim.2023.102256>
 20. Hamed R., Sawalha S., Assali M., Abu Shqair R., Al-Qadi A., Hussein A., Alkowni R., Jodeh S. (2023). Visible Light-Driven ZnO Nanoparticles/Carbon Nanodots Hybrid for Broad-Spectrum Antimicrobial Activity. *Surfaces and Interfaces* 38 (2023) 102760. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surfin.2023.102760>
 21. Jarrar E., Jarrar S., Almadi L., Alkowni R., Tucci M., Abu Safeyeh D., Micheli M., Famiani F.(2022). Evaluation of the effects of different biostimulants on olive: growth of young potted trees and in vitro explant proliferation. *The Fifth International Conference on olive in Palestine (ICOP 5th): November 21-22, 2022. The Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (PTUK), Tulkarm, Palestine.* P32.
 22. Alkowni R., Mohammad I; Mansour A.; Najami D.; Mousa D.; Awad R.; Attawnah R.; Aqqad S.; Abdulkareem T.; Alabdalla O.; Wild-Ali M.; Lahlouh A. (2022). Sanitary Status of Stone Fruits in Palestine. *13th Arab Congress of Plant Protection (ACPP-2022), 16-21 October, 2022, Hammamet-Tunisia.*V10
 23. Alomary A.; Alkowni R.; Jarrar S.; Alsheikh B.; Calabrese J. (2022). Agro-management Approaches for the Sustainability of the Biodiversity of Ancient Olive Orchards in Palestine. *Journal Jordan Journal of Natural History (JJNH)*, 9(1): 72 - 82.
 24. Abu Qauod H., Alkowni R, Shtaya M. J. Y. (2022). Meristems culture for virus irradiation in potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) cultivars in Palestine. *Research On Crops Journal*. 23 (2): 363-369
 25. Adawi A, Jarrar S, Almadi L, Alkowni R, Gallo M, D’Onghia AM, Buonauro R, Famiani F. (2022). Evaluation of fungicides and a self-defense inducer compound to control olive leaf spot (*Venturia oleaginea*) disease in olive. *Agriculture* 2022, 12(3), 326; <https://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture12030326>
 26. Algarrá M, Jodeh S, Aqel I, Hanbali G, Radi S, Tighadouini S, Alkowni R, Soto J, Samhan S, Kaya S, Katin K (2022). Experimental study for the removal of carbamazepine from aqueous solution using optimally synthesized Amine modified silica. A DFT Approach. *Chemosensors* 2022, 10, 76. <https://doi.org/10.3390/chemosensors10020076>
 27. Masri D. and Alkowni R. (2022). Tomato spotted wilt disease in Palestine. *An - Najah Univ. J. Res. (N. Sc.)* 36(1):39-50
 28. Ali H., Alkowni R., Jaradat N., Al-Masri M. (2021). Evaluation of phytochemical and pharmacological activities of *Taraxacum syriacum* and *Alchemilla arvensis*. *Jordan Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences* 14(4): 457-472
 29. Owda Y. and Alkowni R. (2020). Women’s Role in Environmental sustainability: Food Waste Management. *Proceeding of 5th The Fifth International Conference - of the Arab Academics and Scholars Union: Environmental challenges in the Arab region, held in 11/28/2020 at Al-Quds University - State of Palestine*, p10
 30. Zyoud, A.H., Dwikat, M., Anabtawi, S. et al. Zinc Oxide in Photocatalytic Removal of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* from Water with Ultraviolet and Visible Solar Radiations. *JOM* 73, 420–431 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11837-020-04488-8>
 31. Salameh N., Shraim N., Jaradat N., Al- Masri M., Adwan L., K’aibni S., Alkowni R., Radwan A. and Abualhasan M. (2020). Screening of antioxidant and antimicrobial activity of *Micromeria fruticosa serpyllifolia* volatile oils. A comparative study of plants collected from different regions of West Bank-Palestine. *BioMed Research International*. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2020/4851879>
 32. Alkowni R., Alabdallah O., Fadda Z. (2019). Molecular identification of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in tomato in Palestine. *Journal of Plant Pathology*; 101 (3): 719–723
 33. Alkowni R., Jodeh S., Hamed R. Samhan S., and Daraghme H. (2019). The impact of *Pseudomonas putida* UW3 and UW4-strains on photosynthetic activities of selected field crops under saline conditions. *International Journal of Phytoremediation*; 21(10): 944-952.
 34. Zyoud A., Alkowni R., Yousef O., Salman M., Hamdan S., Helal M., Jabera S., Hilal H. (2019). Solar light-driven complete mineralization of aqueous Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria with ZnO photocatalyst. *Solar Energy, Solar Energy* 180: 351–359
 35. Eid A M, Jaradat N. A., Elmarzugi A., Alkowni R, Hussein F., Abu Ayyash L., Sawafta M., Danaa H. (2019). Development of *Nigella Sativa* Oil Colloidal Emulgel Using Heat Inversion Technique and Evaluation of Its Anti-Bacterial Activity. *Letters in Drug Design & Discovery*. 16 (4): 408 – 416.
 36. Salman M.T., Abu-Obaid A., Alkowni R., (2018). Study the effect of Reed tissues on the adsorption of heavy metals and bacteria from sewage water. In: the first MEDRIC Palestinian Research Alumni Forum (MPWR): Water and sustainable development; December 11th, 2018. An-Najah National University, P59
 37. Abed Alqader S., Jodeh S., Alkowni R. (2018). Enhanced phytoremediation of olive Mill Wastewater “Zibar” Using Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) with barley and clover. In: the first MEDRIC Palestinian Research Alumni Forum (MPWR): Water and sustainable development; December 11th, 2018. An-Najah National University, P56
 38. Samara R., Alkowni R., Qubbaj T., AbuQauod H., Jarrar S. (2018). Plant diseases associated with olive bark midge in West-Bank, Palestine. *Research On Crops Journal*, 19 (4) : 712-719 (2018)
 39. Deghles A., Abu-Obaid A., Alkowni R., Salman M.T. (2018). Adsorption of Heavy Metals by Reed (*Phragmites australis*) as a Potential Clean Water Technology. *Journal of Environment and Earth Science*, 8(12):159-171
 40. Alkowni R, Jodeh S., Hussein F., Jaradat N. (2018). Phytochemical Screening and Antibacterial Activity of (*Cyclamen Persicum* Mill) Tuber Extracts. *Pak. J. Pharm. Sci.*,31(1):187-192

41. Shawarb N., Jaradat N., Abu-Qaoud H., Alkowni R. and Hussein F. (2017). Investigation of antibacterial & antioxidant activity for methanolic extract from different edible plant species in Palestine. *Moroccan Journal of Chemistry*. 5 (4):573-579
42. Salameh R., Alkowni R., Jodeh S., Samhan S. (2017). Detection of pathogenic waterborne bacteria in potable water of Tubas district-Palestine. *The Second Palestinian International Graduate Conference*, April 20th, ANU, p23
43. Alkowni R., Solyman E., and Abu Qaoud H. (2017). Introducing some of threatened *Thymus* species to in vitro tissue culturing as an approach for their conservation. *Pakistani Journal of Botany*, 49(1):259-264
44. Alkowni R., (2017). Phytoviruses in Palestine: Status and Future Perspectives. *An - Najah Univ. J. Res. (N. Sc.)* 31(1):11-34
45. Alkowni R.; AbuQaoud H.; Jarrar S.; Samara R. (2016). Reporting Olive bark midge *Resseliellaoleisuga*Targ. (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) infesting olive trees in North Palestine. *The Third International Conference on olive in Palestine (ICOP 3rd)*: December 7th- 8th, 2016. The Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (PTUK), Tulkarm, Palestine. p16
46. Khudiesh N. and Alkowni R. (2016). Potato Viruses Y incidences in West Bank. In: “*The 4th Conference on Biotechnology Research and Application in Palestine*”. March, 21st, 2016 AAUJ-Palestine. p44
47. Mahmoud M. and Alkowni R. (2016). Detection of Fig viruses in Northern part of west bank. In: “*The 4th Conference on Biotechnology Research and Application in Palestine*”. March, 21st, 2016 AAUJ-Palestine. p39
48. Alkowni R., (2016). The use of biotechnology in conservation of plant genetic resources. *Scientific conference on Palestinian plant genetic resources*, September 21st, 2016, p7
49. Alkowni R. (2016). Rhizobacteria for enhancement of plant growth. In: “*The 4th Conference on Biotechnology Research and Application in Palestine*”. March, 21st, 2016 AAUJ-Palestine. p5
50. Alaoui S M, Salghi R, Alkowni R; Abouatallah A, Ayoub M, Jodeh S (2016). Performance of four greenhouse tomato cultivars grown in soilless culture in Souss Massa region *Der PharmaChemica*, 8(18):336-344
51. Elbouchtaoui M. C. , Ben Hmamou D., Jodeh S., Salghi R. , Alkowni R. , Chebli B. , Kharoubi M. (2016). Chitin as a Corrosion Inhibitor of Carbon Steel in HCl Solution. *Der PharmaChemica*, 8(18):350-358
52. Jodeh S., Amarah J., Radi S., Hamed O., Warad I., Salghi R., Chetouni A., Samhan S., Alkowni R. (2016). Removal of methylene blue from industrial wastewater in Palestine using polysiloxane surface modified with bipyrazolotripodal receptor. *Mor. J. Chem.* 4 (1):140-156.
53. Alkowni R. and Abu-Qaoud H. (2016). Field survey and molecular detection of Potato viruses in Northern fields of Palestine. *An - Najah Univ. J. Res. (N. Sc.)*. 30:127-140
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55. Alkowni R., Chiumenti M, Minafra A. and Martelli GP (2015). A survey for fig-infecting viruses in Palestine. *Journal of Plant Pathology*. 97 (2), 383-386
56. Alkowni R., Hamed R.; Jodeh S. (2014). Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) for increase Plant salt tolerances. In: “*Food Security Prospective and Challenges Conference*”. Oct. 30th, 2014. An-Najah National University. Nablus, Palestine. p28
57. Alkowni R, (2014). The first molecular detection of Fig mosaic virus in Palestine. In: “*Food Security Prospective and Challenges Conference*”. October 30th, 2014. An-Najah National University. Nablus, Palestine. p24
58. Solyman E. and Alkowni R. (2014). RAPD for Assessment of Thymes Genetic Diversity in Palestine. *Palestine Technical University Research Journal*, 2(2), 01-08
59. Amro S., Alkowni R. and Hamdan A. (2014). Using Molecular and Biological Tools for Assessment of TYLCV Resistant Tomato Cultivars Commercially Grown in Southern Palestine. *An-Najah University Journal for Research (N. Sc.)*. 28: 85-108
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61. Solyman I. and Alkowni R. (2012). Molecular Genetic Assessment of Selected Palestinian Thyme Species Using RAPD. “*The 3rd Conf. on Biotech. Research and Appl. in Palestine*”. October 20th, 2012. Al-Quds University. Palestine. p36
62. Alkowni R. and Sawalha K. (2012). Biotechnology for Conservation of Palestinian Medicinal Plants. *Journal of Agricultural Technology*. 8(4): 1285-1299
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64. Mahmoud S. and Alkowni R. (2011). The Spread of Mistletoe in Olive Trees. In: *First International Conference of olive in Palestine (ICOP): “Status and Challenges”* February 8th -10th, 2011. The Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (PTUK), Tulkarm, Palestine. p52
65. Alkowni R. (2011). Advanced Molecular Techniques For Detection And Identification Of Olive-Infecting Viruses. In: *First International Conference of olive in Palestine (ICOP): “Status and Challenges”* February 8th -10th, 2011. The Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie (PTUK), Tulkarm, Palestine. p27
66. Alkowni R. and Sawalha K. (2010). Conservation of Palestinian Biodiversity by In vitro culture. In: “*The Second Conference on Biotechnology Research and Application in Palestine*”. September 26th -27th, 2010. An-Najah National University. Nablus, Palestine. p77
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