

HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE *Food Production*

8th Joint Meeting of Agriculture-oriented PhD Programs



Catania - Vizzini - Ragusa (Italy)
08 - 12 June 2026



8th Joint Meeting of Agriculture-oriented PhD Programs 08-12 June 2026

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**8th Joint Meeting of Agriculture-oriented PhD Programs
08-12 June 2026**

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

BIP Program - ONLINE SESSION Thursday 04.06.26		
15:00-15:15	Antonio Biondi	<i>Welcoming by Coordinator of the PhD program in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Science</i>
15:15-15:30	Lucia Zappalà	<i>Introduction to the University of Catania</i>
15:30-15:50	Morena Carlentini - Salvatore Chiarenza	<i>Introduction to the 8th Joint Meeting event by PhD Students local organizers</i>
15:50-16:00	Break	
16:30-17.00	Luciano M. Santoro - Alessandro Grasso	Between Stone and Story: A Territorial Introduction to the South-East Sicily
17:00-17:30	Q&A	
Monday 08.06.26		
11:00-15:00	Great Hall	WELCOMING - Registration opening at Di3A, Via Santa Sofia 100, Catania
15:00-15:30		Institutional Welcome Enrico Foti, Rector of University of Catania, Mario D'Amico Head of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Vittoria Catara International and Erasmus Coordinator of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Antonio Biondi Coordinator of the PhD program in Agricultural, Food and Environmental Science Stefania Mazzone, Deputy Rector of the University of Catania for Master and PhD studies, Mattia Frasca, Deputy Rector of the Erasmus Programs
15:30-16:00		1st Keynote: Salvatore Arpaia, ENEA, TERIN-BBC <i>Insects: Earth's Oldest Matriarchy</i>
16:00-16.30		2nd Keynote: Paweł Solarczyk, Jakub Urban, Maciej Kamaszewski, Warsaw University of Life Sciences <i>Strategies for Sustainable Animal Production and Environmental Protection</i>
16:30-17:15		presentation #1 - 3
17:30-19:30		Welcome cocktail dinner
19:30-21:00		Bus transfer to the accomodations in Vizzini and Grammichele



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Tuesday 09.06.26		
10:00-10:30		Institutional Welcome at <i>Borgo Cunziria</i> - Vizzini
10:30-11:00	plenary session	3rd Keynote: Amaya Zalacain, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha <i>Guayule crop (Parthenium argentatum A. Gray) and its exploitation, a new alternative for semiarid regions</i>
parallel sessions 11:00-12:30	room 1	Crop Protection: presentation #4 - 9
	room 2	Animal Science & One Health: presentation #10 - 15
12:30-13:30		Lunch
14:00-14:30	plenary session	4th Keynote: Giuseppe Longo Minnolo, University of Catania <i>Understanding the Soil–Plant–Atmosphere Continuum through Multi-Scale Approaches in Mediterranean Citrus Orchards</i>
parallel sessions 14:30-15:30	room 1	Food Technology - Processing & Innovation: presentation #16 - 19
	room 2	Consumer & Market studies: presentation #20 - 23
15:30-16:00		Coffee Break
<i>Thesis Flash</i> 16:00-17:00	plenary session	1st year Students 3-minute speech #1 - 12
17:00-19:00		Discover Vizzini Downtown
19:30		Social dinner at <i>Ristorante La Ruota</i> - Vizzini
Wednesday 10.06.26		
9:30-10:00	plenary session	5th Keynote: Tihomir Kovač, University of Osijek <i>Circular Bioeconomy in Lion's Mane Mushroom Production and Sustainable Viticulture</i>
parallel sessions 10:00-11:00	room 1	Plant & Crop science: presentation #24 - 26
	room 2	Sustainability, Circular Bioeconomy & Emissions: presentation #27 - 30
11:00-11:30		Coffee Break
parallel sessions 11:30-12:30	room 1	Plant & Crop science: presentation #31 – 34
	room 2	Sustainability, Circular Bioeconomy & Emissions: presentation #35 - 38
12:30-13:30		Lunch



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14:00-14:45	plenary session	6th Keynote Building an International Research Career through MSCA Fellowships Fabrizio Lisi, Riccardo Raimondo, University of Catania, Italy
parallel sessions 14:45-15:30	room 1	Plant & Crop science: presentation #39 - 41
	room 2	Food Technology - Processing & Innovation: #42 - 44
15:30-16:00		Coffee Break
16:00-16:30	plenary session	7th Keynote: Francisco C. Herrador, Czech University of Life Sciences <i>Why to farm a deer? Deer-based solutions for food and health</i>
<i>Thesis Flash</i> 16:30-17:30	plenary session	1st year Students 3-minute speech #13 - 24
17:30-18:00	plenary session	8th Keynote: Krzysztof Klimaszewski, Warsaw University of Life Sciences <i>Integrating Wildlife Management into Agricultural Education: a Key Step Towards Sustainable Agroecosystems</i>
18:00		Visit and dinner at <i>Lo Zafferaneto Masseria</i> - Buccheri
Thursday 11.06.26		
9:30-10:00	plenary session	9th Keynote: Pablo Urbaneja, Universitat Jaume I <i>Guttation: an emerging resource with effects on insect-plant interactions</i>
parallel sessions 10:00-10:30	room 1	Crop protection: presentation #45 – 46
	room 2	Consumer & Market studies: presentation #47 - 48
10:30-11:00		Coffee Break
parallel sessions 11:00-12:00	room 1	Crop protection: presentation #49 - 52
	room 2	Animal Science & One Health: presentation #53 - 56
12:00-13:30		Lunch
13:30-14:00	plenary session	10th Keynote: Maria Pappas, Democritus University of Thrace Plant-Mediated Effects of Beneficial Soil Microorganisms on <i>Herbivorous Pests: Mechanisms and Applications in Biological Control</i>
parallel sessions 14:00-14:30	room 1	Crop protection: : presentation #57 - 58
	room 2	Animal Science & One Health: presentation #59
14:30-15:00	room 1	Crop protection: presentation #60 - 61



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15:00-15:30		Coffee Break
15:30-16:00	plenary session	11th Keynote: Antonio Fernandes de Carvalho, University of Viçosa <i>How Biodiversity Knowledge Can Improve Cheese Safety</i>
16:00-16:30	plenary session	12th Keynote: Daniele Nicotra, University of Catania <i>Translating Research into Real-World Opportunities</i>
16:30-18:00	plenary session	13th Keynote: Frauke Huber, Uwe H. Martin <i>LandRush – Ventures into Global Agriculture</i>
19:30		Dinner & after-party at <i>Agriturismo A'Cunziria</i>
Friday 12.06.26		
9:00	Bus transfer to Ragusa Ibla	
10:00-12:30	Ragusa Ibla - UNICT Campus - Former Convent of St. Teresa -CLOSING CEREMONY	Discover Agricultural Research for Undegraduate students By UNICT PHD STUDENTS
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30-16:00	Discover Ragusa Ibla	
13.30 -16:00	Bus transfer to Catania Airport (Bus 1)	
16:00 - 18:30	Bus transfer to Catania Downtown (Bus 2)	



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WORKSHOP SCHEDULE



**8th Joint Meeting of Agriculture-oriented PhD Programs
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THURSDAY, JUNE 4

BIP PROGRAM – ONLINE SESSION

15:00 - 15:15

**Welcoming by Coordinator of the PhD program in Agricultural, Food
and Environmental Science**

Antonio Biondi, University of Catania, Italy

15:15 - 15:30

Introduction to the University of Catania

Lucia Zappalà, University of Catania, Italy

15:30 - 15:50

**Introduction to the 8th Joint Meeting event by PhD Students local
organizers**

Morena Carlentini and Salvatore Chiarenza, University of Catania, Italy

15:50 - 16:00 Break

16:30 - 17:00

**Between Stone and Story: A Territorial Introduction to the South-East
Sicily**

Luciano M. Santoro and Alessandro Grasso, University of Catania, Italy

17:00 - 17:30 Q&A



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MONDAY, JUNE 8

11:00 - 15:00 Registration opening

Di3A, Via Santa Sofia 100, Catania, Italy

15:00 - 15:30 Institutional Welcome

Enrico Foti, Rector of University of Catania

Mario D'Amico Head of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Vittoria Catara International and Erasmus Coordinator of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment,

Antonio Biondi Coordinator of the PhD program in Agricultural Food and Environmental Science

Stefania Mazzone, Deputy Rector of the University of Catania for Master and PhD studies

Mattia Frasca, Deputy Rector of the Erasmus Programs

15:30 - 16:00 1st Keynote:

Insects: Earth's Oldest Matriarchy

Salvatore Arpaia, ENEA, TERIN-BBC, Italy

16:00 - 16:30 2nd Keynote:

Strategies for Sustainable Animal Production and Environmental Protection

Paweł Solarczyk, Jakub Urban, Maciej Kamaszewski, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairpersons: Andrea A. Passarelli, Eliana Barrasso, Morena Carlentini

16:30 - 16:45 Presentation#1

Influence of blockchain technology as traceability system for extra virgin olive oil on Italian consumers prejudice of origin: an analysis of willingness to pay and sensory evaluation

Matilde Reitano, UniCT, Italy



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16:45 - 17:00 Presentation#2

Characterization of Off-Odour Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) in In Package Cold Plasma (IPCP) Treated Polymeric Films for the Fresh-Cut Industry

Giuseppe Rosiello, UniFG, Italy

17:00 – 17:15 Presentation#3

Environmental drivers of Dobrava-Belgrade orthohantavirus occurrence in Trentino, Italy

Daniele Fabbri, UniUD, Italy

17:30 - 19:30 Welcome cocktail dinner

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

10:00 - 10:30 Institutional Welcome at *Borgo Cunziria* – Vizzini

10:30 - 11:00 3rd Keynote

Guayule crop (*Parthenium argentatum* A. Gray) and its exploitation, a new alternative for semiarid regions

Amaya Zalacain, Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, Spain

MORNING SESSION

Room 1: Crop Protection

Chairpersons: Eleftheria M. Bali, Andrea Amilcare Passarelli

11:00 - 11:15 Presentation#4

Exploring volatile compounds for the early detection of *Neopetalotiopsis clavispora*: emerging grape trunk disease

Filippo Maria Sanna, UniUD, Italy



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11:15 - 11:30 Presentation#5

***Bacillus subtilis* influences *Tuta absoluta* population dynamics through bottom-up effects in tomato under semi-field conditions**

Mariangela Milordo, UniCT, Italy

11:30 - 11:45 Presentation#6

Contamination of bee pollen with mycotoxins - detection and control

Nela Drača, PTFOS, Croatia

11:45 - 12:00 Presentation#7

The hidden impact of insecticides on *Nesidiocoris tenuis*: integrating survival, fecundity, and detoxification gene networks

Eya Ben Hmad, UniCT

12:00 - 12:15 Presentation#8

Temperature experienced prior to adult emergence modulates adult cold tolerance of the invasive species *Bactrocera dorsalis* and *Bactrocera zonata*

Vasilis G. Rodovitis, UTH, Greece

12:10 - 12:30 Presentation#9

Multidimensional Management of Multiple Pests in open field tomato in Mediterranean environment (Sicily, Italy)

Ya Liu, Yunnan University, China

Room 2: Animal Science & One Health

Chairpersons: Cristina Stango, Lorenzo Frangini

11:00 - 11:15 Presentation#10

Characterization of heterozygosity-rich regions in Sicilian horse breeds

Morena Carlentini, UniCT, Italy

11:15 - 11:30 Presentation#11

Validation of commercially available mammalian structural antibodies in teleosts: a systematic review of current research practices

Tofael Ahmed Sumon, UniUD, Italy



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11:30 - 11:45 Presentation#12

The use of aqueous hybrid supramolecular complexes in poultry production

Wiktoria Kościów, SGGW, Poland

11:45 - 12:00 Presentation#13

Gastrointestinal Parasite Fauna in Purebred Guinea Pigs (*Cavia porcellus* (L.)) and Assessment of Skin and Reproductive Tract Microbiota with Consideration of Zoonotic Factors

Daniel Banasiak, SGGW, Poland

12:00 - 12:15 Presentation#14

Perturbations in dairy cows: impact of heat stress, lameness, and mastitis on milk yield and feeding behaviour

Anita Cabbia, UniUD, Italy

12:10 - 12:30 Presentation#15

Agriculture, biodiversity, and culture nexus: Conflicting views on conserving and controlling threatened ungulates in a Philippine heritage landscape

Jhonnell Villegas, CZU, Czech Republic

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch break

14:00 - 14:30 4th Keynote

Understanding the Soil–Plant–Atmosphere Continuum through Multi-Scale Approaches in Mediterranean Citrus Orchards

Giuseppe Longo Minnolo, University of Catania, Italy



AFTERNOON SESSION

Room 1: Food Technology - Processing & Innovation

Chairpersons: Giuseppe Rosiello

14:30 - 14:45 *Presentation#16*

Development of a synbiotic formulation based on germinated brown rice and probiotics suitable to support women's well-being

Georgiana Bosco, UniCT, Italy

14:45 - 15:00 *Presentation#17*

An Intelligent Computational Framework for Estimating Chaotic Overall Distribution Ratio in Scaled Liquid Food Mixing Systems

Santhoshkumar Paramasivam, UniFG, Italy

15:00 - 15:15 *Presentation#18*

Oleogels as Nutritive Improvers of Chocolate and Sweet Spreads

Dario Šarić, PTFOS, Croatia

15:15 - 15:30 *Presentation#19*

Preliminary Assessment of Chemical Parameters Associated with Off-Flavour Occurrence and Shelf Life Reduction in Pistachio

Chiara Alessandra Carmen Rutigliano, UniCT, Italy

Room 2: Consumer & Market studies

Chairpersons: Nour Ouzari, Roberto Carbone

14:30 - 14:45 *Presentation#20*

Narrating the Volcano: Semiotic Clusters and Symbolic Identity in Etna DOC Wine Labels

Alessandro Grasso, UniCT, Italy

14:45 - 15:00 *Presentation#21*

Examining the Adoption of Agricultural Drones Among Pakistani Farmers: A Modified Technology Acceptance Model (MTAM)

Muhammad Ahmed, CZU, Czech Republic



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15:00 - 15:15 *Presentation#22*

Extension, innovation, and welfare: Evidence from cultivated forage crops adoption among buffalo farmers in Nepal

Namdev Upadhyay, CZU, Czech Republic

15:15 - 15:30 *Presentation#23*

Understanding Farmers' Intentions to Adopt Sustainability Certification: A Multi-Dimensional Behavioral Analysis in the Sicilian Citrus Chain

Mariaconchetta Ganci, UniCT, Italy

15:30 - 16:00 **Coffee break**

1st YEAR THESIS FLASH

Chairperson: Antonio Biondi

16:00 - 17:00

Poster#1

First taxonomic update of *Salicornia* sp. pl. in the Gargano territory (Puglia, Italy)

Giuseppe Longo, UniFG, Italy

Poster#2

Valorization of Artichoke By-Products for Sustainable Ruminant Nutrition and Evaluation of Animal Product Quality

Ali Aljeratly, UniCT, Italy

Poster#3

Top-down and bottom-up processes in a crowded world: disentangling predator-prey interactions in human-dominated landscapes

Lorenzo Frangini, UniUD, Italy



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Poster#4

Legacy and Vanguard: Valorization of Purebred Spanish mare's milk as an indigenous resource for sustainable rural development

Mario Santiago Lara, UCLM, Spain

Poster#5

Algae-based polymers for sustainable agricultural practice

Domenico Soldo, UniFG, Italy

Poster#6

Study of bio-based phase change materials

Fabrizio Rossi, UniFG, Italy

Poster#7

A first approach to combine AI and Predictive Microbiology

Mario Terlizzi, UniFG, Italy

Poster#8

Sustainable Food Packaging: Evaluating Bio-Based Alternatives to Expanded Polystyrene

Mamtha Shafika Ismail, UniFG, Italy

Poster#9

Analysis of Consumer willingness to pay for milk derived from cows fed on agricultural by-products

Nour Ouzari, UniCT, Italy

Poster#10

The role of certification in smallholder-based agricultural value chains in Cambodia

Simona Tomanová, CZU, Czech Republic



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Poster#11

Bio-insecticides and environment safe strategies for Integrated Management of Invasive Sap-sucking Insects in European Agroecosystems

Marco Di Domenico, UniCT, Italy

Poster#12

Host-mimicking media unlock VOCs-driven biocontrol in *Aureobasidium pullulans*

Gabriele Dionis, UniUD, Italy

17:00-19:00 Discover Vizzini Downtown

19:30 Social dinner at *Ristorante La Ruota* - Vizzini

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

9:30 - 10:00 5th Keynote

Circular Bioeconomy in Lion's Mane Mushroom Production and Sustainable Viticulture

Tihomir Kovač, University of Osijek, Croatia

MORNING SESSION

Room 1: Plant & Crop science

Chairpersons: Alba M. Carrión Escudero, Antonietta Barrasso

10:00 - 10:15 Presentation#24

Enhancing red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) breeding with molecular tools: integrating SNP maps with preliminary fruit color phenotyping

Andrea Amilcare Passarelli, UniUD, Italy

10:15 - 10:30 Presentation#25

Foliar Spray Application of an Extract from *Klebsormidium* sp. K39 Retrieved by Phycoremediation Process: Biochemical Response to Drought Stress on Tomato Plants



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Rossella Saccone, UniCT, Italy

10:30 - 10:45 Presentation#26

Guayule crop as a reservoir for argentatins bioactive compounds

Adrián Casas, UCLM, Spain

Room 2: Sustainability, Circular Bioeconomy & Emissions

Chairpersons: Grazia Cinardi, Luciano M. Santoro

10:00 - 10:15 Presentation#27

Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Soil and Strategies for Their Mitigation in the agroecosystems in Mediterranean environment

Simona Giannoccaro, UniCT, Italy

10:15 - 10:30 Presentation#28

Advancing Methane Recovery from Indian Jujube Waste: Comparative Assessment of Thermal and Alkaline Pretreatment in Anaerobic Digestion

Manvendra Kumar, CZU, Czech Republic

10:30 - 10:45 Presentation#29

Unlocking the phytochemical potential of Sicilian pomegranate peels: Enzyme-Assisted Extraction for the recovery of high-value bioactives

Maria Veronica Faulisi, UniCT, Italy

10:45 - 11:00 Presentation#30

Greywater Treatment and Reuse in the Mediterranean: Vertical Green Walls as a Nature-Based Solution for Urban Water Management

Vincenzo Scavera, UniCT, Italy

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

Room 1: Plant & Crop science

Chairpersons: Simona Giannoccaro, Ciavarella Francesco



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11:30 - 11:45 Presentation#31

Sustainable *Cynara cardunculus* management by biostimulant application

Claudia Formenti, UniCT, Italy

11:45 - 12:00 Presentation#32

Influence of Different LED Light Spectra and Biostimulants on Broccoli Microgreens

Agnese Carchiolo, UniCT, Italy

12:00 - 12:15 Presentation#33

Breeding *Gossypium* spp. via arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi interaction for enhanced performance under stress conditions

Georgios Papavasileiou, DUTH, Greece

12:15 - 12:30 Presentation#34

Assessing Climate Change Adaptation through Regenerative Agriculture in Mediterranean Cereal Systems using Earth Observation Data

Francesco Ciavarella, UniFG, Italy

Room 2: Sustainability, Circular Bioeconomy & Emissions

Chairpersons: Kumar Manvendra

11:30 - 11:45 Presentation#35

Predictive Modeling of Ammonia Emissions from Dairy Farms Using ANN-Based Methods

Luciano Manuel Santoro, UniCT, Italy

11:45 - 12:00 Presentation#36

Recovery of dietary fiber from Sicilian lemon wastes

Salvatore Chiarenza, UniCT, Italy

12:00 - 12:15 Presentation#37

Turning Waste into a Solution: Biochar from Grape Pomace for *Meloidogyne* Control

Alba María Carrión Escudero, UCLM, Spain



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12:15 - 12:30 Presentation#38

Integrating Rooftop Grid-connected Photovoltaic and Battery Systems to Reduce environmental impacts in Agro-industrial activities with a focus on Extra Virgin Olive Oil Production

Grazia Cinardi, UniCT, Italy

12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break

14:00 - 14:45 6th Keynote

Building an International Research Career through MSCA Fellowships

Fabrizio Lisi, Riccardo Raimondo, University of Catania, Italy

AFTERNOON SESSION

Room 1: Plant & Crop science

Chairpersons: Claudia Formenti

14:45 - 15:00 Presentation#39

Impact of Water Deficit on *Neofusicoccum parvum* Infection in Grapevines: Integrating Proximal Sensing Monitoring and Chitosan-Based Biological Control

Di Pietro Chiara, UniCT, Italy

15:00 - 15:15 Presentation#40

Dissection of genetic bases of plant salt response through the study of halophyte plants as model species and application to durum wheat

Gaetana Ricatti, UniGF, Italy

15:15 - 15:30 Presentation#41

Citrus response to five-stress combination including macronutrient deficiency, water and heat stress

Lledó Rodríguez Azorín, UJI, Spain

Room 2: Food Technology - Processing & Innovation

Chairpersons: Paramasivam Santhoshkumar



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14:45 - 15:00 Presentation#42

Effects of Extreme Low-Oxygen Conditions on Volatile Compound Production in 'Pink Lady' Apples

Antonietta Eliana Barrasso, UniFG, Italy

15:00 - 15:15 Presentation#43

Sicilian PDO cheeses: an integrated microbial tracking approach identifies a core of lactobacilli in wooden biofilms

Silvia Ruta, UniCT, Italy

15:15 - 15:30 Presentation#44

Comparative Effects of Fullerenol Nanoparticles on the Growth of Yeasts, Filamentous Fungi and Macrofungi

Sunčana Včelik, PTFOS, Croatia

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 - 16:30 7th Keynote

Why to farm a deer? Deer-based solutions for food and health

Francisco Ceacero Herrador, Czech University of Life Science

1st YEAR THESIS FLASH

Chairperson: Antonio Biondi

16:30 - 17:30

Poster#13

Spatial insights into nutrient interactions: the interplay between iron and nitrogen form in grapevine

Francesco Flagiello, UniUD, Italy

Poster#14

Environmental toxicity of tramadol and paracetamol mixture in aquatic model organisms

Bogumił Losiewicz, SGGW, Poland



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Poster#15

Effects of thermal stress and nutrition on the health of *Apis mellifera* under laboratory conditions

Thea Murkovic, UniUD, Italy

Poster#16

From waste to resource: integrated production of antimicrobials and biomaterials from Apulian Kombucha fermentation

Martina Totaro, UniFG, Italy

Poster#17

Impact of NDF and lipid dietary contents on enteric methane emissions of dairy cows measured in a multi-herd study

Giada Merlini, UniUD, Italy

Poster#18

Effects of *Hericium erinaceus* Supplementation on Neurocognitive Functions in the Context of Healthy Aging

Marina Barišić, PTFOS, Croatia

Poster#19

Introduction of non-thermal technology into the nuts supply chain: use of pulsed light to improve the stability of almonds and pistachios

Sebastiano Maria Caldarella, UniCT, Italy

Poster#20

The Role of Land Consolidation Associations in Enhancing Mountain Attractiveness

Rossella Dosso, UniUD, Italy

Poster#21

Effects of insect mass-rearing by-products on tomato herbivorous pests

Anastasia Pantelidou, DUTH, Greece



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Poster#22

Biology and ecology of *Culex pipiens* biotypes in Greece

Kaltsou Stefania, UTH, Greece

Poster#23

**Exploring the grapevine microbial endosphere to identify potential
biocontrol agents against *Flavescence dorée***

Iride Malnis, UniUD, Italy

Poster#24

**Proposed Research Framework for the Integration of Flow Cytometry
and Bioinformatics**

Klara Opačak, PTFOS, Croatia

17:30 - 18:00 8th Keynote

**Integrating Wildlife Management into Agricultural Education: a Key
Step Towards Sustainable Agroecosystems**

Krzysztof Klimaszewski, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Poland

18:00 Visit and dinner at *Lo Zafferaneto Masseria* – Buccheri



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THURSDAY, JUNE 11

9:30 - 10:00 9th Keynote

Guttation: an emerging resource with effects on insect–plant interactions

Pablo Urbaneja, Universitat Jaume I, Spain

MORNING SESSION

Room 1: Crop protection

Chairpersons: Eya Ben Hmad, Mariangela Milordo

10:00 - 10:15 Presentation#45

Tobacco rootstock-mediated grafting enhances tomato resistance to the key pest *Tuta absoluta* through coordinated behavioral and chemical defenses

Shenglan Gao, Yunnan University, China

10:15 - 10:30 Presentation#46

Genome editing strategies to counteract grapevine leaf and vascular pathogens

Andrea Rossetto, UniUD, Italy

Room 2: Consumer & Market studies

Chairpersons: Alessandro Grasso

10:00 - 10:15 Presentation#47

Sustainability Certifications and Consumer Choice in the Agri-Food Sector

Lorenzo Nicotra, UniCT, Italy

10:15 - 10:30 Presentation#48

From Home Remedy to Self-Care Ritual: Herbal Tea Consumption in Italy

Roberto Carbone, UniCT, Italy

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break



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Room 1: Crop protection

Chairpersons: Vasilis G. Rodovitis, Andrea Amilcare Passarelli

11:00 - 11:15 *Presentation#49*

Plant–insect interactions in cultivated guayule in Castilla-La Mancha: ecological insights and potential applications

Eduardo Jarillo, UCLM, Spain

11:15 - 11:30 *Presentation#50*

Effects of Alternative Food Sources and Different Substrates on the Mass Rearing of *Amblyseius andersoni*

Angelos Bechtsoudis, DUTH, Greece

11:30 - 11:45 *Presentation#51*

Multi-Block Data Integration of Spectral, Metabolomic, and Transcriptomic Profiles for Biomarker Discovery and Prediction of Flavescence Dorée Susceptibility/Resistance in Grapevine

Elias Shewabehz Yassin, UniUD, Italy

11:45 - 12:00 *Presentation#52*

Dispersal of the Mediterranean fruit fly and a changing climate

Eleftheria Maria D. Bali, UTH, Greece

Room 2: Animal Science & One Health

Room 2: Animal Science & One Health

Chairpersons: Morena Carlentini, Daniele Fabbri

11:00 - 11:15 *Presentation#53*

Analysis of toxicity induced by phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors in aquatic organism models and selected cell lines

Kacper Kawalski, SGGW, Poland

11:15 - 11:30 *Presentation#54*

Agri-Food By-Products for Climate-Resilient Small Ruminants Farming: Nutritional Strategies to Enhance Welfare in Sheep

Cristina Stango, UniFG, Italy



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11:30 - 11:45 Presentation#55

Effect of temperature on in vitro protein hydrolysis of insect based diets by the digestive enzymes of rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Roselida Opere, UniUD, Italy

11:45 - 12:00 Presentation#56

The effect of aqueous supra-molecular hybrid complexes of plant extracts administered in ovo on the oxidative and antioxidant potential on development of the domestic chicken embryo

Emilia Lisiecka, SGGW, Poland

12:00 - 13:30 Lunch break

13:30 - 14:00 9th Keynote

Plant-Mediated Effects of Beneficial Soil Microorganisms on Herbivorous Pests: Mechanisms and Applications in Biological Control

Maria Pappas, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece

AFTERNOON SESSION

Room 1: Crop protection

Chairpersons: Eya Ben Hmad, Mariangela Milordo

14:00 - 14:15 Presentation#57

Re-evaluating SIT components through advanced omic approaches

Dimitris Rallis, UTH, Greece

14:15 - 14:30 Presentation#58

Phytophthora monitoring and epiphytic bacteria as biocontrol resources in Mediterranean olive and citrus systems

Cristian Bua, UniCT, Italy

14:30 - 14:45 Presentation#60

Assessing binormal model adequacy in applications of the overlap coefficient (OVL) to the European cherry fruit fly *Rhagoletis cerasi*

Eleftheria Maria Alexandri, UTH, Greece



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14:45 - 15:00 *Presentation#61*

Development of insecticide resistance and fitness cost evaluation in two phytoseiid predatory mites

Ioannis Bakirtzis, DUTH, Greece

Room 2: Animal Science & One Health

Chairpersons: Morena Carlentini, Daniele Fabbri

14:00 - 14:15 *Presentation#59*

Agro-livestock systems and wildlife in shared landscapes

Lucia Cattani, UniUD, Italy

15:00 - 15:30 **Coffee break**

15:30 - 16:00 **11th Keynote**

How Biodiversity Knowledge Can Improve Cheese Safety

Antonio Fernandes de Carvahlo, University of Viçosa, Brazil

16:00 - 16:30 **12th Keynote**

Translating Research into Real-World Opportunities

Daniele Nicotra, University of Catania, Italy

16:30 - 18:00 **13th Keynote**

LandRush – Ventures into Global Agriculture Frauke Huber and Uwe H. Martin

Frauke Huber, Uwe H. Martin

19:30 **Dinner & after-party at Agriturismo A'Cunziria**



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FRIDAY, JUNE 12

09:00 Bus transfer to Ragusa Ibla

10:00 – 12:30

Discover Agricultural Research for Undergraduate students By UniCT PhD Students & Closing Ceremony

At Ragusa Ibla - UNICT Campus - Former Convent of St. Teresa

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 – 16:00 Bus transfer to Catania Airport (Bus 1)

13:30 – 16:00 Discover Ragusa Ibla

16:00 – 18 :30 Bus transfer to Catania Downtown (Bus 2)



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PROGRAM & ABSTRACTS