

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURAL SCIENCE

Brief description and scope of the Society

The International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) is a Society of individuals, public institutions, private organizations and governmental agencies devoted to horticultural research education and industry (www.ishs.org). With its over 7000 individual members from 150 countries, over 150 Institutional Members and 60 Country Members, the ISHS is the biggest and most important Society in the world building and maintaining human knowledge, skills and biological resources in support of worldwide horticulture.

The Society has the following organisational structure: (i) the General Assembly, comprising all members and held every 4 years, in concomitance of the International Horticultural Congress (IHC). The General Assembly confirms the election of the President and Members of the Board, (ii) the Council, consisting of representatives of the country/state members and meeting every two years, in concomitance of the Executive Committee, (iii) the Board, consisting of not less than five, nor more than nine members who are elected by the Council and confirmed by the General Assembly, (iv) the Executive Committee, consisting of the Chairpersons of Sections and Commissions (see below) plus the members of the Board; the Executive Committee is responsible for the scientific and technical work of the Society.

The scientific organization is based on 9 crop-related Sections and 14 discipline-related Commissions; within the structure of Sections/Commissions, more than 130 Working Groups are currently active. The scientific programme is composed of more than 50 meetings a year (mainly Symposia), promptly announced in the Society webpage: www.ishs.org/calendar. All Symposia are published in **Acta Horticulturae**, and the over 1,100 Acta volumes (containing a total of over 60,000 full text articles) are posted at www.actahort.org, producing about 20,000 page views per day. Other publications are **Chronica Horticulturae**, a quarterly ISHS membership magazine linked to the world of horticulture, **Scripta Horticulturae**, an ISHS publication series for special topics, and **eJHS** (European Journal of Horticultural Science), an international ISI peer-reviewed journal publishing original research articles and reviews on significant plant science discoveries, and new or modified technologies with a broad international and cross-disciplinary interest in the scope of global horticulture (www.ishs.org/ejhs).

Report 2015

Italian participation to the Board, Council and Executive Committee

In the 2015 organisational structure of the Society, Italy expresses:

- the Vice-President (Prof. Silvana Nicola, University of Turin), elected in the 2014 and in office until the 2018;
- three Council members, representative of the country (Dr. Maurizio Lambardi, CNR-IVALSA of Florence; Prof. Stefania De Pascale, University of Napoli and President of the 'SOI/Società di Ortoflorofrutticoltura Italiana; Prof. Paolo Inglese, University of Palermo);
- five members of the Executive Committee, as Chairpersons of Sections/Commissions: Prof Tiziano Caruso, University of Palermo (Section Nuts and Mediterranean Climate Fruits), Dr. Maurizio Lambardi, CNR-IVALSA of Florence (Commission Molecular Biology and In Vitro Culture), Prof. Stefania De Pascale, University of Napoli (Commission Protected Cultivation), Prof. Giorgio

Prosdocimi Gianquinto, University of Bologna (Commission Landscape and Urban Horticulture), Dr. Damiano Avanzato, International Horticulturist Consultant (Commission Plant Genetic Resources). Moreover, three Italian Vice-Chairpersons complete the Italian representation in the Executive Committee.

Symposium organization

In the 2015, five Symposia have been held under the Italian organization, i.e.,

- “VI International Symposium on Production and Establishment of Micropropagated Plants” (Sanremo, 19-24 April 2015). The CNR was represented in the Scientific Committee of the Symposium with two members (<http://www.regflor.it/ISHS2015/committees/scientific-committee>);
- “III International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology” (Bari, 7-11 June 2015);
- “II International Symposium on Bacterial Canker of Kiwifruit (Psa)” (Bologna, 10-13 June 2015);
- “XIV Eucarpia Symposium on Fruit Breeding and Genetics” (Bologna, 14-18 June 2015). The CNR was represented in the Scientific Committee of the Symposium with one member (http://www.eucarpiafruit2015.org/?page_id=12);
- “V International Symposium on Fig” (Napoli, 31 August-3 September 2015).

2015 Executive Committee meeting

The ISHS Executive Committee meeting took place on August 13-14, 2015, in Istanbul (Turkey). All the five Italian members of the Executive Committee (see above) attended the meeting. Among the many issues on the desk, one generated a long and profitable debate, i.e., how to increase the participation and involvement of young scientists in the initiatives of the Society. Some questions raised: is the ISHS fulfilling the requirements of young people? Are they motivated to join a professional society like ISHS? It was pointed out that ISHS needs to interact with young people to find out what they want. The Executive Committee was invited to make an effort in better understanding the motivations, expectations and barriers of young people to pursue a horticultural career and to become ISHS members. In this sense, it was very appreciated an Italian initiative, i.e., the organization of the “First European Conference of Post Graduate Horticulture Scientists” that will be held in Palermo on May 12-13, 2016 (Convenor, Prof. Paolo Inglese), and where young scientists will meet and share their ideas.

Acta Horticulturae

Eight volumes of *Acta Horticulturae* have been produced in the 2015 with the contribution of Italian editors:

- 1107, Proceedings “International Symposium on Innovation and New Technologies in Protected Cropping” (co-Editor Stefania De Pascale, University of Naples);
- 1100, Proceedings “III International Symposium on Molecular Markers in Horticulture” (Editor Riccardo Velasco, Mach Foundation);
- 1092, Proceedings “IV International Symposium on Loquat” (co-Editor F. Lo Bianco, University of Palermo);
- 1084. Proceedings “VIII International Peach Symposium” (co-Editors C. Xiloyannis, P. Inglese, G. Montanaro, University of Basilicata and University of Palermo);

- 1081, Proceedings “XIII International Symposium on Processing Tomato” (co-Editor A. Battilani, CER);
- 1080, Proceedings “I International Symposium on Cashew Nut” (co-Editor D. Avanzato, Rome);
- 1071, Proceedings “XI International Controlled and Modified Atmosphere Research Conference” (co-Editors G. Colelli, M.L. Amodio, University of Foggia);
- 1067, Proceedings “VIII International Congress on Cactus Pear and Cochineal” (co-Editors P. Inglese, G. Liguori, University of Palermo).

Editorial Board of eJHS

The European Journal of Horticultural Science (eJHS) has become an integral part of the International Society for Horticultural Science publication portfolio on January 1, 2015. It is a fully peer-reviewed journal with an Impact Factor of 0.3. Four Italians have been appointed Associated Editors of the journal: Prof. Stefania De Pascale (University of Napoli), Prof. P. Inglese (University of Palermo), Dr. Maurizio Lambardi (CNR-IVALSA of Florence), and Prof. G. Prosdocimi Gianquinto (University of Bologna).

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