

International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS)

Activities' Report - Year 2021

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1. Introduction

The national and international relevance of “Made in Italy” products, the tradition and cultural value of agriculture in Italy are aspects of extreme value. Fruit, wine, oil, vegetables make our nation among the first in the world for production, consumption and exports. The requests of the Green Deal, the Farm-to-Fork and Biodiversity strategies, and the pressures related to climate change push the strengthening of increasingly advanced studies and research to support mitigation, adaptation, as well as the social, economic and management sustainability of resources. In this sense, the ISHS is the world's largest horticultural organization, with over 7,000 members and 60 member Countries, with an Italian participation of researchers, academics and operators in the sector, fourth in number among all Countries.

Its multi-actor structure, containing representatives of research-industry-education, is organized in Divisions, coordinated by Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen elected by the members every four years, which facilitate the study-transmission of knowledge, socio-economic impacts in the short-, medium- and long-term, through effective dissemination tools, such as over 60 International Symposia organized annually (in the pre-Covid19 era), 'peer-reviewed' journals (Acta Horticulturae, Fruits, eJHS), books and thematic monographs. The Italian participation in the Executive Committee with Division Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen has always been important, qualified and appreciated by the ISHS community, with a large Symposium activity conducted with Italian organization. Over time, Italy has also expressed high-profile ISHS Presidents, such as Proff. Franco Scaramuzzi and Silviero Sansavini

2. Main activities carried on by ISHS during 2021 relevant for Italy and for CNR

Due to the persistence of the health emergency for the Covid19 pandemic, the Symposium activity was not completed or transformed into online Symposia. The non completed events were either canceled or, with few exceptions, postponed starting from 2023. The year 2022, in fact, is entirely dedicated to the organization of the XXXI International Horticultural Congress (IHC2022) in Angers, France.

Italy organized in the 2021 only one online Conference, the VIII International Conference on Landscape and Urban Horticulture, 15-17 December 2021, Convenors Daniela Romano and Stefania Toscano of the University of Catania, and Francesca Bretzel of CNR-IRET, Pisa.

> VIII International Conference on Landscape and Urban Horticulture

Division Landscape and Urban Horticulture #ishs_durb
Division Protected Cultivation and Soilless Culture #ishs_dpro

Italy had the opportunity to host the VIII International Conference on Landscape and Urban Horticulture. The conference, entitled "The role of science in reconciling ecology and technology in landscape and urban horticulture," started by the consideration that scientific efforts are needed in order to improve the comfort and livability of urban areas. Ecology and technology must synergistically interact to overcome issues associated with the coexistence in limited spaces of biological organisms and man-made artefacts. In the conference, the most recent advances in urban green infrastructure and horticulture toward more sustainable and livable cities were analysed and discussed. This happened in Catania, Sicily, Italy, in a virtual event held on 15-17 December 2021, via GoToWebinar, due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions. This conference was organized by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment (DiSA) of the University of Catania and National Research Council (Centro Nazionale delle Ricerche, CNR) of Pisa, under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS).

Despite the virtual format, the participants had the opportunity to listen to and see 29 oral and 45 poster presentations from 26 different countries. During the opening session, the convenors, Prof. Daniela Romano, Dr. Francesca Bretzel and Dr. Stefania Toscano, welcomed all participants. Immediately afterwards, the directors of the two departments, Dr. Carlo Callapetra for CNR and Prof. Agatino Russo for DiSA, sent their welcome greetings. Prof. Silvana Nicola, ISHS Board Member, introduced the role of the International Society for Horticultural Science.

This event allowed to make a contemporary concept with six thematic areas on: (a) Urban horticulture benefits for people, (b) Historical landscape in urban areas, (c) Urban ecosystem and environmental engineering, (d) Planning, design and policies in cities, (e) Impact of the anthropic activities: interaction and synergies, and (f) Plant functionality and stress in the urban ecosystem. The conference included two plenary lectures and seven invited speakers that addressed specific research topics. The first two days of the conference started with the two plenary lectures held by Prof. Angeli-

Table 1. Number of oral presentations and posters per topic

Topics	Oral	Poster
Urban horticulture benefits for people	2	7
Historical landscape in urban areas	9	4
Urban ecosystem and environmental engineering	7	7
Planning, design and policies in cities	5	6
Impact of the anthropic activities: interaction and synergies	2	5
Plant functionality and stress in urban ecosystem	4	15

Another event, previously scheduled for the 2021, the XIV International Symposium on Plant Bioregulators in Fruit Production, will be held in Riva del Garda (Trento) in the 2022.

The 2021 publishing activity of *Acta Horticulturae* volumes that saw the contribution of Italian scientists as co-Editors is shown below.

Acta Horticulturae

Nel 2021, 7 volums of *Acta Horticulturae* (about ¼ of the total of the year) have been published with the contribution of Italian Editors:

- 1305, III International Symposium on Growing Media, Composting and Substrate Analysis. Editors: F. Giuffrida, P. Zaccheo, C. Cattivello.
- 1309, IX International Strawberry Symposium. Editors: B. Mezzetti, M. Battino, G. Baruzzi.
- 1311, VI International Symposium on Applications of Modelling as an Innovative Technology in the Horticultural Supply Chain Model-IT 2019. Editors: M.L. Amodio, G. Colelli.
- 1314, International Symposium on Precision Management of Orchards and Vineyards. Editors: R. Lo Bianco, A. Pisciotta, L. Manfrini.
- 1320, VIII South-Eastern Europe Symposium on Vegetables and Potatoes. Co-Editor: S. De Pascale.
- 1321, III International Symposium on Soilless Culture and Hydroponics: Innovation and Advanced Technology for Circular Horticulture. Co-Editor: S. Nicola.
- 1331, IV International Symposium on Woody Ornamentals of the Temperate Zone. Editors: G.L. Beccaro, V. Scariot.

Editorial Board of eJHS

Four Italians collaborated in the 2021 with 'The European Journal of Horticultural Science' (eJHS, IF=0.72) as Associate Editors: Prof. Stefania De Pascale (University of Napoli), Prof. Tiziano Caruso (University of Palermo), Dr.ssa Margherita Beruto (Istituto Regionale per la Floricoltura, Sanremo), Prof. F. Orsini (University of Bologna).

As for the Journal 'Fruits' (IF=0.80), 5 Italians are in the board of Associate Editors: Prof. Tiziano Caruso (University of Palermo), Dr.ssa Margherita Beruto (Istituto Regionale per la Floricoltura, Sanremo), Prof. F. Orsini (University of Bologna), Prof. G. Costa (University of Bologna), Prof. Francesco Paolo Marra (University of Palermo).

3. Activities carried on by Federica Rossi/Maurizio Lambardi (CNR Delegate, and Vice-Delegate) and other Italian scientists within the ISHS during 2021 and impact on the Italian scientific community

2021 Executive Committee meeting

In 2021, due to the persistent pandemic, the general ISHS Executive Committee (EC) was not held. However, the EC Chairpersons had the opportunity to meet on the Zoom platform on two different dates, in order to encourage the participation of non-European Chairs, some of whom were disadvantaged due to time zones. The two remote meeting dates were as follows: September 28 and October 4. As Italian participation, 4 Division Chairpersons attended as EC representatives: Prof Tiziano Caruso, University of Palermo (Division Nuts and Mediterranean Climate Fruits), Dr. Margherita Beruto, IRF of Sanremo (Division Ornamental Plants), Prof. Stefania De Pascale, University of Naples (Division Protected Cultivation and soilless Culture), Prof. Francesco Orsini, University of Bologna (Division Landscape and Urban Horticulture). Each Chairperson illustrated the reports of the activity carried out within its own Division in the 2021 and the newly proposed Symposia.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

Taking into consideration that the ISHS is the world most important Society dealing with horticulture, it is

strategically important that Italy continues to play a major role in the Society life. Members of the ISHS have many benefits for their annual subscription, such as to be constantly informed on the major events in the world in horticulture, discounts for attending Symposia, access to a large database of publications in the plant sector. Moreover, young scientists and students have the possibility to attend to International High Formation Schools at reduced fares.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

Italy is the fourth country in the world, in terms of members of the Society. Furthermore, the participation of Italians in Symposia and Workshops that are held in the world is always high and scientifically qualified, frequently assuming the function of Session Chairs. Moreover, Italy is always very active in assuming the responsibility to organize International Symposia in its Institutions. For 2021, 6 International Symposia were scheduled. However, the recent Covid-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of most of the events scheduled for 2021, or the postponement starting from year 2023, as the year 2022 is dedicated to the holding of the XXXI International Horticultural Congress (IHC2022) in Angers, France.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the ISHS or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

The Italians in senior roles in the Society are:

- one member in the Board, as Secretary (Prof. Silvana Nicola of the University of Turin);
- three Council members, Representative for Italy (Dr. Maurizio Lambardi, CNR-IBE of Firenze, as CNR Delegate; Prof. Massimo Tagliavini of the University of Bozen, as President of the SOI/Società di Ortoflorofruitticoltura Italiana; Prof. Stefania De Pascale, University of Naples, as former President SOI);
- 4 members of the Executive Committee, as Chairpersons of the above-mentioned Divisions. Moreover, 3 Vice-Chairpersons complete the Italian representation in the Executive Committee (Dr. Maurizio Lambardi, CNR-IBE of Firenze, Division Plant Genetic Resources and Biotechnology; Prof. Luca Corelli-Grappaldelli, University of Bologna, Division Temperate Tree Fruits; Prof. Guglielmo Costa, University of Bologna, Division Vine and Berry Fruits).

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2021 CNR Commission activities

There is not a CNR Commission in the ISHS.

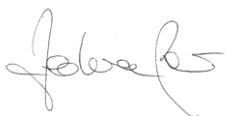
8. Notes

At IHC2022, Italy will present an official candidacy to host IHC2030 in Milan, thanks to the support of the SOI/Italian Society of Horticulture. During 2021, the foundations for this candidacy were laid, through the online holding of numerous meetings between the President of the SOI, Prof. Massimo Tagliavini, a first promoting Committee and the PCO that will work on the preparation of the candidacy document and the video that will be presented in Angers, during IHC2022.

9. Conclusioni

The cost-benefit ratios of the Italian participation in the ISHS are extremely positive, since, compared to a very low Country participation fee, in the face of a very small share of participation, the CNR, and DISBA in particular, expand their network, their knowledge and contribute to the holding of various Symposia dedicated to the scientific updating of the major themes of horticultural and horticultural research.

Federica Rossi



Maurizio Lambardi



Firenze, July 10th, 2022