

International Society for Horticultural Science

Activity Report - Year 2022

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1. Introduction

The 2022 was a particularly important year for the ISHS (International Society of Horticultural Science). In fact, the “XXXI International Horticultural Congress - IHC 2022. Horticulture for a world in transition” was held in Angers, France, 14-20 August. The IHCs are held every 4 years from 1959 and are dedicated to a fundamental topic in the sector of the horticultural science (fruit trees, horticultural crops, flower crops), emphasizing the role of research, industry and policy in making significant changes in this production sector. Over 2,500 delegates from all the world attended to the Congress.

2. Main activities carried on by ISHS during 2022 relevant for Italy and for CNR

Several activities carried out during the Congress and in the frame of the Working Groups should be considered relevant. Horticulture plays a special role in offering people food, support to human health and to the challenge of climate change, thanks to the diversity of its cultivated species, which offers a choice to the producers and consumers, and the possibility of modifying the climate under shelters, greenhouses or growing chambers, nets or protective mulch. Reducing losses and wastage in horticulture (estimated at 30% of production) and changes in eating habits can also help in limiting the negative impacts on the climate. Sustainability of the value chain, competitiveness and research skills development, in addition to increased collaboration opportunities, are the most relevant issues for Italy and CNR.

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

The CNR Delegates participated to the activities of Ambassadors of IHC, and attended online to several meetings, keeping in mind the opportunities to support Italian scientific communities in deeper getting into ISHS activities and find collaboration and cooperation.

Furthermore, before the start of IHC2022, the ISHS "Joint Executive Committee and Council Meeting" was held on 12 August, which was attended by, among other Italians, the three Representatives for Italy in the Society, Prof. Massimo Tagliavini, Prof. Antonio Ferrante, Dr. Maurizio Lambardi. On that occasion, Italy's candidacy to host the "XXXIII International Horticultural Congress - IHC 2030. Horticulture for Growing a Greener Future" in Milan, at the MiCo congress building, was officially presented. Prof. Massimo Tagliavini, as Chair of the Committee for IHC2030, in which Dr. Maurizio Lambardi also participates, illustrated the importance of horticulture in Italy, the potential of research, the adequate structures to accommodate over 3,500 delegates expected in Milan. The ISHS Council unanimously accepted the candidacy and officially assigned the organization of the IHC2030 to Italy.

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

The evaluation of the ratio costs/benefits is very positive, also considering the focus of ISHS in supporting research, outreach and dissemination on topics directly related to food provision, well-being of citizen, boosting agro-food industry and related value chains.

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

Of the 6,000 ISHS members, around 300 are Italian, making it the 4th Country for the highest number of Members, after the USA, China and Japan. Furthermore, since the official registration of the ISHS (April 27, 1959), the Society has seen the Presidency of two famous Italian Academicians, Prof. Franco Scaramuzzi (1986-1990) and Prof. Silviero Sansavini (1994-1998). The assignment of the IHC2030 organization to Italy is a clear recognition of the large and important participation of our Country in the ISHS initiatives. The interest and involvement of Italy have always been very high, with close interactions in various sectors. The direct involvement of the CNR is extremely positive.

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

Starting from IHC2018 in Istanbul, Italy has been represented in top roles in the ISHS organization as follows:

- Secretary of the Board, Prof. Silvana Nicola
- 3 Council Members, representing Italy (Dr. Maurizio Lambardi, Prof. Massimo Tagliavini, Prof. Stefania De Pascale)
- 4 Division Chairpersons and members of the Executive Committee: Prof. Tiziano Caruso (Division Temperate Tree Nuts); Dr. Margherita Beruto (Division Ornamental Plants); Prof. Stefania De Pascale (Division Protected Cultivation and Soilless Culture); Prof. Francesco Orsini (Division Landscape and Urban Horticulture)
- 3 Division Vice-Chairpersons: Dr. Maurizio Lambardi (Division Plant Genetic Resources and Biotechnology); Prof. Luca Corelli-Grappaldelli (Temperate Tree Fruits Division); Prof. Guglielmo Costa (Division Vine and Berry Fruits)

The newly elected Chairs and Vice-Chairs, following a vote carried out in April 2022, took office after IHC2022 and will be accounted for in the 2023 activity report.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2022 CNR Commission activities

There is not a CNR Commission in the ISHS.

8. Notes (if any)

None.

9. Conclusions

The cost-benefit ratios of the Italian participation in the ISHS are extremely positive, since, in the face of a very small participation rate, the CNR, and the DISBA in particular, expand their network, their knowledge and contribute to the creation of various Symposia dedicated to the scientific updating of the major research topics in horticulture. Furthermore, the CNR will collaborate in the realization of the most important event in the world dedicated to horticulture, the ISHS International Horticultural Congress - IHC2030, in Milan, for which a CNR delegate is already part of the Organizing Committee.

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