

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

The 2nd World Congress on the use of Biostimulants in Agriculture

Monday 16th - Thursday 19th November, 2015
Florence Convention Centre, Italy



Monday 16 November

14:00 - 17:00

Registration for Exhibitors & Posters Authors, Registration Hall, Palazzo dei Congressi

14:00 - 18:00

Posters set-up & Exhibition set-up, Exhibition Hall, Villa Vittoria, Palazzo dei Congressi

17:00 - 20:00

Delegate Registration, Cavaniglia Pavilion, Fortezza da Basso (Entrance: Porta Faenza)

18:00 - 20:00

Opening Evening Reception & Welcome Address, Mrs Federica Fratoni,
Tuscany Region Assessor for Environment and Soil



Tuesday 17 November

08:00

Delegate Registration, Registration Hall, Palazzo dei Congressi

09:00 - 09:30

Opening Speeches, Congress Auditorium, Villa Vittoria, Palazzo dei Congressi

Jean Pierre Leymonie, Managing Director, New Ag International SARL, Convener of the Congress

Maria Chiara Carrozza, Member of the Italian Parliament,

Former Minister of Education, Universities and Research

Giuseppe Natale, President of the European Biostimulants Industry Council (EBIC)

Silvana Nicola, Vice President of the International Society of Horticultural Sciences (ISHS)

Pierdomenico Perata, Chairman of the Congress Scientific Committee

SESSION 1: Biostimulants in agriculture: what do we know from the lab to the field.

Chair: Dr. Michel Ponchet, INRA Sophia Antipolis (France)

09:30 - 10:10

Keynote Lecture: *Agricultural uses of plant biostimulants: a review of current scientific knowledge*

Joseph W. Kloepper, Professor Auburn University, Alabama (USA)

10:10 - 10:40

Keynote Lecture: *Biostimulants and other sustainable practices seen from a grower perspective*

Eng Bassem Farhat, Head of Fertilization, Plant Protection and Irrigation Divisions, PICO Farms (Egypt)

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10:40 - 11:20 Coffee/Tea Break in Exhibition Area

- 11:20** *Molecular level characterization of humic substances and correlation with plant growth stimulation*, by Dr. Rachel Sleighter, FBSciences Inc. (USA)
- 11:40** *Ascophyllum Extracts: gifts from Poseidon to Theoi Georgikoi*, by Dr. Jeffrey Norrie, Acadian Seaplants Ltd. (Canada)
- 12:00** *Volatile compounds emitted by a wide range of rhizosphere and non-rhizosphere microorganisms promote growth through cytokinin regulated processes*, by Dr. Javier Pozueta-Romero, Institute of Agrobiotechnology, Spanish Research Council, CSIC (Spain)
- 12:20** *Investigation of the effects induced by MC Cream® and MC Extra® biostimulants on Soybean at metabolome level*, by Dr. Luigi Lucini, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, (Italy)
- 12:40** *Microalgae polysaccharides, a promising plant growth biostimulant*, by Dr. Hicham El Arroussi, Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation & Research & Laboratory of Physiology and Plant Biotechnology, Faculty of Sciences, University Mohammed V. Rabat, (Morocco)
- 13:00** *Enhancement of Crop Performances through the Application of a Plant - Derived Protein Hydrolysate*, by Dr. Giuseppe Colla, Department of Agriculture, Forestry, Nature and Energy, University of Tuscia, (Italy)

13:20 - 14:30 Lunch in Exhibition Area and Poster Session

SESSION 2: Towards a better understanding of the mode of action of biostimulants. Chair: Prof. Pierdomenico Perata, Scuola Superiore Santa Anna, Pisa (Italy)

- 14:30 - 15:10** **Keynote Lecture:** *Discovery of novel molecules that regulate plant growth to better understand plant development*
Dr. Stephanie Robert, Associate Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå Plant Science Center (Sweden)

- 15:10** *Elucidation of Biological pathways stimulated by application of Biozyme™ utilizing gene expression technology*, by Dr Anne Guiboileau, Research Manager, Arysta LifeScience, Research Center, Saint Malo (France)

15:30 - 16:10 Coffee/Tea Break in Exhibition Area

- 16:10** *Effects of a new biostimulant on gene expression and metabolic responses of tomato plants (Solanum lycopersicum cv. Micro - Tom)*, by Dr. Cinzia Margherita Berteà, Associate Professor, University of Torino (Italy)
- 16:30** *"Next Generation Sequencing" to investigate molecular mechanisms behind dormancy in relation to the application of Erger®*, by Dr. Frank Hoeberichts, Senior Scientist, Nsure BV, Wageningen (Netherlands)
- 16:50** *Genome - wide expression profiling to study the molecular effects of biostimulants on tomato*, by Anne Kortstee, Nsure BV, Wageningen (Netherlands)

- 17:10** *Action of protein hydrolysates on maize root growth: a molecular insight*, by Dr. Tiziana Pandolfini, Associate Professor of Plant Physiology, Department of Biotechnology, University of Verona (Italy)

17:30 - 19:00 Poster Session



Wednesday 18 November

SESSION 3: Optimization of crop nutrition and quality with Biostimulants. Chair: Prof. Patrick Brown, University of California, Davis (USA)

- 08:30** Delegate Registration, Registration Hall, Palazzo dei Congressi

- 09:00 - 09:40** **Keynote Lecture:** *The aerial root mucilage associated with an indigenous landrace of maize supports a diazotrophic microbiota*
Alan B. Bennett, Professor of Plant Sciences, University of California, Davis (USA)

- 09:40** *Effects of fertilizers enriched with plant based extracts on plant growth and epiphytic bacterial population of lettuce*, by Dr. Maurizio Ruzzi, Department for Innovation in Biological, Agrofood and Forest systems (DIBAF), Department of Agriculture, Forestry, Nature and Energy, University of Tuscia, (Italy)

- 10:00** *The Importance of Phytohormones and Microbes in Biostimulants: Mass spectrometric evidence and their positive effects on plant growth*, by Dr. J. W. H. Yong, Singapore University of Technology and Design, (Singapore)

10:20 - 10:50 Coffee/Tea Break in Exhibition Area

- 10:50 - 11:30** **Keynote Lecture:** *How Plants respond to a combination of signals: are biostimulant effects triggered by a cocktail of molecules?*
Dr. Gabriel Krouk, Researcher, Department of Biochemistry and Plant Molecular Physiology, CNRS - IBIP- Montpellier, (France)

- 11:30** *What is the role of phosphites in plant development?*, by Dr. Ranjan Swarup, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham, (UK)

- 11:50** *How the Novel Biostimulant CYT 14 Influences Nutrient Uptake of Common Foliar Nutritional Supplements as Evidenced by Genomics and ICP Analysis*, by Dr. Richard Smith (B.S) - Research Scientist, Cytozyme Laboratories, Inc. Salt Lake City, (USA)

- 12:10** *A hydroponic study of molecular level uptake of organic compounds from dissolved humics*, by Dr. Paolo Caricasole, FBSciences, Inc., Norfolk, (USA)

- 12:30** *Use of natural biostimulants to improve the quality of grapevine production*, by Dr. Giovan Battista Mattii, DiSPAA, University of Florence (Italy)

12:50 - 14:30 Lunch in Exhibition Area and Poster Session

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SESSION 4: Biostimulants and abiotic stresses

Chair: Dr. Ricardo Aroca Alvarez, Tenured Scientist at CSIC, Estación Experimental del Zaidín (Spain)

14:30 - 15:10 **Keynote Lecture:** *Plant growth beyond limits: from genes to biostimulants*

Prof. Dirk Inzé, Scientific Director, VIB
Department of Plant Systems Biology,
University of Gent (Belgium)

15:10 *Molecular Mechanism of Action for the Novel Biostimulant CYT31 in Plants Exposed to Drought Stress*, by Dr. Adam Blaszczak - R&D Director, Cytozyme Laboratories, Inc., Salt Lake City, (USA)

15:30 *An Ascophyllum extract protecting Arabidopsis plants against drought stress*, by Dr. Alberto Piaggese, Director of Global R&D, Valagro spa., Atessa (Italy)

15:50 - 16:30 **Coffee/Tea Break in Exhibition Area**

16:30 *Optimizing transpiration by rhizosphere management*, by Prof. Andrea Carminati, Division of Soil Hydrology, Georg - August University of Göttingen, (Germany)

16:50 *Influence of chitosans on stomatal closure in Arabidopsis thaliana*, by Anne Vorkamp, Institute of Plant Biology and Biotechnology, University of Münster, (Germany)

17:10 *The molecular and photosynthetic response of wheat treated with a biostimulant derived from a South African legume*, by Dr. Riana Viljoen, Department of Plant Sciences, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein (South Africa)

17:30 *Understanding the effect of an amino acids based Biostimulant by an enantiomeric analysis of their active principles and a proteomic profiling approach*, by Dr. Nuria Sierras, Bioibérica, S.A., Barcelona, (Spain)

17:50 - 19:00 **Poster Session**

09:30 - 10:00 *European Regulation of Biostimulants: what we know, what we don't know and what's ahead?*, by Benoît Genot, Chair of EBIC's Public Affairs Steering Group, Brussels (Belgium)

10:00 - 10:40 **Coffee/Tea Break in Exhibition Area**

10:40 *Biostimulants: Identification of Regulatory Challenges and Proposals to make this Agri - input Viable in Brazil*, by João Guilherme Vanzella Moraes, Agrinos do Brazil (Brazil)

11:00 *Selection for rare biostimulant microbes - finding the proverbial needles in the rhizosphere haystack*, by Dr. Susan Turner, Senior Vice President R&D, BioConsortia, Inc., Davis (USA)

11:20 *Formulating Liquid Humic Acid in an Acidic Medium*, by Dr. Brian Haschemeyer, Chemist, Brandt Consolidated, Inc., Springfield, (USA)

11:40 *Testing the bio activity of kelp extracts developed via chemical and physical separation techniques using bio assays*, by Dr. Stefano Urbani, CEO, West Coast Marine Bio Processing corp, Vancouver, (Canada)

12:00 *Challenges in Developing a Stable Biostimulant Formulation*, by Dr. John Groome, Manager Formulation Development, AgriBusiness Group, Battelle Group, Columbus, (USA)

12:20 - 12:45 **Concluding paper:**
Making sense of biostimulants: a multistakeholder approach to developing a user's manual paper
Kristen Sukalac, EBIC secretariat (Belgium)
& **Jérôme Thibierge**, Agrinovex-In Vivo Group, (France)

12:45 - 13:15 **Closing Session**

POSTER PRIZE remittance to the best student's poster, by **JP Leymonie**, Managing Director of **New Ag International**

Closing remarks by **Prof. Patrick Brown**,
Co - Chair of the Scientific Committee



Thursday 19 November

SESSION 5: Trends in the Biostimulants market, legislation and technologies. Chair: Jean Pierre Leymonie, Managing Director, New Ag International SARL (France)

08:30 Delegate Registration, Registration Hall, Palazzo dei Congressi

09:00 - 09:30 **Keynote Lecture:** *Trends in the world markets for biostimulants*
Dr. Prem Warrior, Chief Operating Officer & Global Sales Manager, Valagro Spa (Italy)



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