PROVISIONAL 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 - 18:00  Registration, Poster set-up and Exhibition set-up
18:00 - 20:00  Opening Evening Reception. Welcome address

Tuesday 17 November
09:00 - 09:30  Opening Speeches

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 Sleigher, DBS Sciences Inc. (USA)

11:40 Ascophyllum Extracts: gifts from Poseidon to Theor 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 Pozuetos, 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 Microalgal 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 BiozymeTM utilizing gene expression technology, by Paul A. Thomson, Arysta LifeScience, Paris (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. Valeria Contartese, Green Has Italia S.p.A (Italy)

16:30 "Next Generation Sequencing" to investigate molecular mechanisms behind dormancy in relation to the application of Erger®, by Dr. Frank Hoeberichs, Senior Scientist, Nsure BV, Wageningen (Netherlands)

16:50 Genome - wide expression profiling to study the molecular effects of biostimulants on tomato, by Dr. Nathalie Verhoef, Senior Researcher, Nsure BV, Wageningen (Netherlands)

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

16:50 - 17:30 Action of protein hydrolysates on maize root growth: a molecular insight, by Dr. Tiziana Pandoifi, Associate Professor of Plant Physiology, Department of Biotechnology, University of Verona (Italy)

17:30 - 19:00 Poster Session

Wednesday 18 November

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 CYT14 Influences Nutrient Uptake of Common Foliage 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, FBS Sciences, 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 Blaszczyk - R&D Director, Cytozyme Laboratories, Inc., Salt Lake City, (USA)

15:30  An Ascophyllum extract protecting Arabidopsis plants against drought stress, by Dr. Alberto Piaggesi, 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 Dr. Anne Vortkamp, 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

Thursday 19 November

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

09:00 - 09:30  Keynote Lecture: The European Legislation on Biostimulants, where do we stand?
Eric Liégeois, Team Leader Fertilisers, Pesticides/Biocides, European Commission, DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, Chemicals Industry Unit (12), 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 Brasil (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) & Delphine Tailliez - Lefebvre, Head of Department Agronomy and Technology, InVivo AgroSolutions (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

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