



University of Pisa
PhD Programme in Agriculture,
Food and Environment

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Science, policy and global challenges



**When climate rewrites the rules, growing and feeding becomes a global challenge.
Young researchers are ready to meet it!**

16 PhD stud. speeches
3 international Key-notes

3 *thematic sessions*



Farming Systems & Resilience

"How can we move from pressure to resilience by redesigning farming systems to safeguard essential resources?"



Crop Protection & Sustainability

"How do we protect and feed crops without destroying the environment?"



Food Systems & Interdisciplinarity

"How can a food systems approach create connections across disciplines to address complex food challenges?"

1 *final round table*

Agri-Food Systems in a Changing Geopolitical Context



"How can scientific research and public policies help agri-food systems adapt to global complexity and geopolitical trade shifts?"

SAVE THE DATE

27th October

2026

8:30_{am}-5:00_{pm}



INFO

**Department of Agriculture,
Food and Environment**
Main auditorium
Via del Borghetto 80, Pisa



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FREE REGISTRATION
LIMITED SEATS



detailed program soon



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Program

8.30 - 9.00 am Conference registration

9.00 - 9.15 am Institutional greetings

Opening conference and welcome

- **Prof. Cristina Nali**, Director of the Department of Agriculture Food and Environment
- **Prof. Daniele Antichi**, PhD Program Coordinator



1

Farming Systems & Resilience

9.15 - 9.45 am Key-note Speech - **Dr. Lenora Ditzler, Wageningen University**

"Embracing Complexity for the Design of Resilient Farming Systems"

9.45 - 10.35 am

Giacomo Bianchini

"Combined Use of Biochar, Bonechar and Wood Distillate to Enhance Their Positive Effects on the Soils Through the Correct Combination"

Emanuele Dichio

"Water Scarcity in a Changing Climate: Management Strategies for Resilient Agriculture"

Edoardo Monacci and Gabriele Sileoni

"Diversifying Cropping Systems to Support Agroecosystem Functioning and Resilience"

Fabrizio Cella

"Redesign Livestock Production Model Through Mixed Farming and Agroforestry System: Implementing Systemic and Digital Solutions"

Umberto Granata

"Micro- and Nanoplastics as Emerging Stressors in Agroecosystems: Implications for Plant Health and Agricultural Resilience"

10.35 - 11.00 am Coffee Break



2

Crop Protection & Sustainability

11.00 - 11.30 am Key-note Speech - **Prof. Stephane Maury, Université d'Orléans**

"Can Environmental Memory Help Build More Resilient Crops? Lessons from Epigenetic Research in Poplar"

11.30 - 12.30 am

Gemma Bianchi

"Bio-Based Defence: Wood Distillate as a Potential Weapon for Grapevine"

Michela Montone

*"Establishment of an In Vitro Regeneration Protocol on Sweet Basil (*O. basilicum* L.) for Genome Editing Applications"*



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2

Crop Protection & Sustainability

Eugenia Ronga

"Ozone as a Zero-Residue Technology for Mycotoxin Reduction in Chestnuts"

Chiara Ranaldi

"Reconstructing a Single-Introduction Event of Xylella fastidiosa subsp. multiplex at Monte Argentario: Genomic Insights to Inform Prevention"

Filippo Giuseppe Marino e Valentina Colombo

"The Genetic Variability Behind Resilient Crop Breeding"

Carmine Mattia Verosimile

"Precious Crop, Heavy Footprint: Biostimulants and Elicitors to Support Grapevine Under Climate Change"

12.30 am - 2.00 pm Lunch Break



3

Food Systems & Interdisciplinarity

2.00 - 2.30 pm Key-note Speech - Prof. Jessica Fanzo, Johns Hopkins University

"Mapping the Way: Food Systems Thinking Across Disciplines"

2.30 - 3.10 pm

Benedetta Bernardini

"Building a Participatory Food Education Programme Within a Local Food Policy Network: The Case of Capannori (Italy)"

Sofia Panzani

"Sensory Science for a Better Understanding of Food Quality: Towards Food Waste Reduction"

Andrea Lippi

"Beyond the Farm Gate: Value Chain Governance and Sustainability Transitions in the Flemish Dairy Sector"

Niccolò Chiasso

"Sustainable Livestock Systems: The Responses of Local Institutions to the Decline of Local Livestock Activities in the Garfagnana Area"

3.10 - 3.30 pm Coffee Break

Agri-Food Systems in a Changing Geopolitical Context

3.30 pm Final Round Table and Discussion

Speakers: Stephane Maury, Dalia Mattioni, Gaio Cesare Pacini

Moderator: Prof. Gianluca Brunori

