

**Action FA1204 - Vegetable grafting to improve yield and fruit quality under biotic and abiotic stress conditions**

---

*1<sup>st</sup> training school on*  
**Vegetable grafting**

Catania, Italy, 23rd–26th September 2014

---

## CALL for Trainees to participate

### AIM

Due to limited availability of arable land and water resources, the widespread use of fertilizers, and the great market demand for vegetables, cucurbits and solanaceous crops are frequently cultivated under unfavourable soil and environmental conditions. One way to avoid or reduce loss in production caused by adverse conditions in vegetables would be to graft them onto rootstocks capable of alleviating the effects of external stresses on the shoot.

The FA1204 COST Action aims to stimulate cutting-edge multidisciplinary collaborations towards identifying and understanding how rootstock-mediated traits can improve vegetable crop yield and quality under adverse biotic and abiotic conditions. Shared knowledge and enhanced scientific and technical collaboration will surely fill knowledge gaps in the area of vegetable grafting. This Action can also stimulate a widespread commercial development and exploitation of this technique in Europe.

The duration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Training School is 4 working days. The general aim of the school is strengthening the education of young researchers in the Action issues, in order to foster collaboration and cooperation in Science and Technology. The specific aim of this school is to give an insight as well as to provide a practical experience on genetic resources, rootstock-scion interactions, resistance to stresses, effects on yield and quality. There is a maximum of 15 trainee grants available.

Besides the understanding of theoretical aspects, on completing the course, the students will carry out practical activity related to the evaluation of plant physiological status (e.g.: collect xylem and phloem saps from grafted plants, assay xylem sap for osmotic and ionic status; determine rootstock effects on leaf water relations) and of produce quality (e.g.: soluble solids and titratable acidity analysis, firmness evaluation, colour measurement, etc.)

## **PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

- 08.00 – 09.00: Arrival and registration
- 09.00 – 09.30: Introduction of the School
- 09.30 – 13.30: First session - Vegetable grafting to enhance the resistance to biotic and abiotic stress
- 13.30 – 14.30: Lunch
- 14.30 – 18.30: Second session - Genetic resource and biotechnological breeding strategies to generate new rootstocks

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**

- 09.00 – 13.00: Third session - Rootstock-scion interactions and graft compatibility
- 13.00 – 14.00: Lunch
- 14.00 – 18.00: Fourth session - The role of rootstock to improve fruit quality
- 18.00 – 19.00: Team work and discussion to share experience and clarify doubts

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

- 09.00 – 13.00: Fifth session - The Experience of a nursery
- 13.00 – 14.00: Lunch
- 14.00 – 18.00: Sixth session - The experience of a seed companies
- 18.00 – 19.00: Team work and discussion to share experience and clarify doubts

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – Field experience**

- 08.00 – 10.00: Transfer from Catania to Ragusa province
- 10.00 – 12.30: Practical activity within one of the most important company specialized in the production of solanaceae and cucurbitaceae, standard and grafted.
- 12.45 – 14.00: Lunch
- 14.00 – 18.00: Technical visits to vegetable farms specialized in the cultivation of grafted plants
- 18.00 – 20.00: Transfer from Ragusa to Catania

## **WHO CAN PARTICIPATE**

The course is open to all possible participants willing to strengthen their know-how on vegetable grafting. Early stage researchers (having the PhD title from less than 8 years<sup>1</sup>) have high priority for Training School. Besides, COST Action FA1204 will try to assure gender balance.

## **COST SUPPORT**

Are eligible for reimbursement selected participants coming

---

<sup>1</sup> Early Stage Researcher - is a term used to define a researcher whose career spans less than 8 years between the date of the PhD/doctorate (or similar experience) and the date of involvement in the COST Action. Periods of career leave have to be added to this time span.

- from COST's 35 Member Countries (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.- from approved NNC institutions (Near Neighbour Countries);

## LOCAL ORGANIZERS

Prof. Cherubino Leonardi

Dr. Francesco Giuffrida

Dr. Carla Cassaniti (secretary): [ccassani@unict.it](mailto:ccassani@unict.it)

## KEY DATES

Date of Launch of the Call for Trainees:	20/05/2014
Application submission deadline:	14/07/2014
Communication of acceptance to chosen applicants:	25/07/2014
Registration deadline and hotel booking:	08/08/2014.

## Basic Rules for Grant Application:

The Applicant is responsible for submitting his/her application via email to:

- Scientific Secretary ([ccassani@unict.it](mailto:ccassani@unict.it))
- Training School Coordinator ([cherubino.leonardi@unict.it](mailto:cherubino.leonardi@unict.it))
- Action Chair ([giucolla@unitus.it](mailto:giucolla@unitus.it)).

Please describe in your application Name, address including e-mail address, date of birth, education, present position and the reason why your participation to this training school. Please include also a short CV (3-4 pages) and a list of relevant publications.

Selection of the Grants: Selection responsibility is of the Action. The Action's Training School Coordinator, supported by the Ad-Hoc Committee (COST Chair, Co-Chair, Training School Co-ordinator) will assess the received applications and will approve the grants.

Approval: The granted Applicant will be informed by Grant Holder by email.

Prior the Training School, the trainees must register on e-COST: <https://e-services.cost.eu>

Before the respective Training School takes place, each trainee entitled to reimbursement must receive a Grant Letter, mentioning the dates and the place of the event and the fixed amount of the Grant.

After the Training School, the trainees selected will be reimbursed by a grant of COST via the e-cost system by COST Action FA1204 to a maximum of €640 for accommodation and meals (depending on the days spent) and of €300 for travel expenses within the rules of COST (see Vademecum part 1 page 37-39; [http://www.cost.eu/download/COST\\_Vademecum\\_Part\\_1](http://www.cost.eu/download/COST_Vademecum_Part_1)).

For further information please contact:

Dr Francesco Giuffrida - e-mail: [francesco.giuffrida@unict.it](mailto:francesco.giuffrida@unict.it)

Dr. Carla Cassaniti - e-mail: [ccassani@unict.it](mailto:ccassani@unict.it)

Department of Agricultural and Food Science (DISPA), University of Catania, Via Valdisavoia 5, I-95123 Catania, Italy

## VERY IMPORTANT

The official communications from COST Action management (Grant Holder and Action Chair) to the Applicants of the Training School will be done by the e-COST system (<https://e-services.cost.eu/>).

Please, check and control your email account for any communication. COST Action FA1204 is not responsible for wrong email accounts and mistakes. Please note that these automated mails may be labeled by mail systems as Spam.

Application Form filled in the whole must be returned signed in pdf by email to ALL listed people:

Scientific Secretary ([ccassani@unict.it](mailto:ccassani@unict.it))

Training School Coordinator ([cherubino.leonardi@unict.it](mailto:cherubino.leonardi@unict.it))

Action Chair ([giucolla@unitus.it](mailto:giucolla@unitus.it)).

## SCHOOL VENUE

Department of Agricultural and Food Science of Catania University

(<http://www.unict.it/>)

Via Valdisavoia 5, 95123, Catania

37°31'5.03"N; 15° 4'17.02"E

## HOW TO REACH THE SCHOOL

### By train:

- ✓ For train visit <http://www.ferroviedellostato.it/>

Once arrived to the Central Station of Catania, take the citybus 4-7. The bus stop is Piazza Spedini, in 100 m walk you arrived at destination.

### By airplane:

- ✓ Catania Airport "Fontanarossa (or Vincenzo Bellini) is an international airport, so you can find national and international flight and connections!

For further details please visit: <http://www.aeroporto.catania.it/>

## ACCOMODATION

The trainers must provide their own for room reservation. The scientific secretary will assist the granted applicants for booking the rooms, when required. On the contrary, the granted applicants must book their own airplane tickets and arrangements for travel.

### With the aegis of



### With the sponsor of

