



Final Conference of the FIGGEN project

Valorising the diversity of the fig tree, an ancient fruit crop for sustainable Mediterranean agriculture: the PRIMA project "FIGGEN"

March 22nd 2024, 09:00 – 13:00 (CET – Italian time)

Aula Magna of Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment (University of Pisa).
Via del Borghetto, 80 56124 Pisa (Italy)

Program

08.30 - 09.00 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairmen Prof. Tommaso Giordani

- 09.00 - 09.15 Prof. Marcello Mele (Director of Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment) Opening-Welcome
09.15 - 09.30 Prof. T. Giordani (University of Pisa) Presentation of the project "FIGGEN"
09.30 - 09.45 Prof. M. López-Corrales (Extremadura Scientific and Technological Research Center - CICYTEX) The Spanish Fig Germplasm Bank and sustainable production systems in fig trees
09.45 - 10.00 Dr G. Usai (University of Pisa) The haplotype phased genome of fig (*Ficus carica* L.): a crucial resource for fig breeding
10.00 - 10.15 Prof. A. Kuden (Çukurova University) Phenotyping analysis of potted fig plants exposed to drought and salt stress
10.15 - 10.30 Dr. M.G. Domínguez Yagüe (Extremadura Scientific and Technological Research Center - CICYTEX) Phenotyping analyses on adult plants in three germplasm banks of the fig tree in the Mediterranean basin
10.30 - 10.45 Dr. M. Castellacci (University of Pisa) Exploiting the genetic diversity of the fig tree to discover molecular markers associated to important traits
10.45 - 11.00 Francisco Balas Torres (Head of production and R&D FIKI Europe) FIGGEN relevance for companies: an experience from Extremadura.

11.00 - 11.30 **Coffee-break**

- 11.30 - 11.45 Prof. G. Baraket (Faculty of Sciences of Tunis - UTM) Overview on participatory assessment of the potential of fig genotypes in FIGGEN project.
11.45 - 12.00 Dr. M. J. Serradilla Sánchez (Extremadura Scientific and Technological Research Center - CICYTEX) Management of innovative preharvest strategies to obtain high-quality standard and hygienic-sanitary figs for fresh and dry consumption " (INNOFIG)"
12.00 - 12.15 Dr. S. Comlekcioglu (Çukurova University) Characterization of some fig genotypes selected from Mediterranean and Southeastern Anatolia
12.15 - 12.30 Dr. P. Farina (University of Pisa) Twenty years after the first report of *Aclees taiwanensis* in Europe: how to protect fig orchards from this invasive alien threat?
12.30 - 12.45 Dr. Fateh Aljane (Institute of Arid Regions - University of Gabès) Fig (*Ficus carica*) genetic resources in the oases of Kebili (South-West of Tunisia): richness and opportunity for valorization
12.45 - 13.00 Dr. Olfa Saddoud Debbabi (National Genebank of Tunisia) Management of fig genetic resources in Tunisia

13.00 - 13.30 Discussion and conclusions

13.30 - 14.30 **Lunch**

Photo Siro Petracchi



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The workshop will be organised as a hybrid event (both on-site and on-line). The participation is free, but the registration is mandatory.

The link to participate with Microsoft Teams platform is: urly.it/3-p5-

For more info: tommaso.giordani@unipi.it
www.figgen.eu

The FIGGEN project - Valorising the diversity of the fig tree, an ancient fruit crop for sustainable Mediterranean agriculture

FIGGEN is a three-year project promoted by *PRIMA* (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) programme supported by the European Union. The ambition is to make the fig tree one of the most suitable and profitable crop in the Mediterranean area in a climate change context.

Among tree crops, the fig tree shows a good adaptation to dry, calcareous and saline environments, typical of different regions in the Mediterranean basin and the Middle East, where it has been cultivated for millennia. This crop has great potential for expansion thanks to valuable nutritional and nutraceutical characteristics and is particularly suitable for the application of sustainable agriculture based on biodiversity, such as mixed farming systems like agro-forestry.

Despite its importance, the fig tree has undergone low genetic improvement and most cultivation in the Mediterranean area is based on local cultivars that are currently highly threatened by genetic erosion due to various pests and diseases, abiotic stresses, intensive urbanization, monovarietal crops, migration from rural to urban areas.

FIGGEN wants to contribute breeding efforts to address crop tolerance to multiple abiotic stresses, improving productivity, efficiency and sustainability of agricultural farming systems.

Breeding depends on the collection; conservation and sharing of appropriate crop genetic resources among plant breeders and farmers. In this sense the project will create a participatory context involving main actors of the value chain following a transdisciplinary approach where socio-economic knowledge and recent scientific advances in assessing biodiversity will be combined with traditional knowledge of local private and public stakeholders.

FIGGEN aims to enhance the biodiversity of the fig tree and to select genotypes better adapted to environmental conditions coming from climate changes that can promote fig breeding and more sustainable fig production of the future.

www.figgen.eu

Photo Siro Petracchi