



Delegates visiting the nursery "Ricca" in Carignano, Italy.



Delegates visiting facilities of Agroinnova, University of Torino, in Grugliasco, Italy.

In the evening a dinner was held at La Cascata Restaurant, Verduno.

A roundtable discussion that was open to Italian extension services, was organized as part of the symposium programme on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. This activity provided an opportunity to establish closer links between scientific research and technical innovation in horticultural production. During the closing session, delegates discussed the need for close cooperation among the international research community, extension services, growers, legislators and consumers regarding the important topic of soilborne pest and disease management. The cooperation between ISHS and ISPP was very much appre-

ciated, since it helped to bring more people to the symposium. Representatives from US (California), Greece and Turkey offered to host the 9<sup>th</sup> SD symposium in 2018, however, the final decision is still pending.

At the conclusion the Conveners expressed their thanks to all members of the Organising Committee and to all delegates for coming to the symposium and participating in its demanding program.

More information can be found on the website [www.sd2014.org](http://www.sd2014.org).

Paola Colla and Maria Lodovica Gullino

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# Commission Quality and Postharvest Horticulture

## Fifth Int'l Conference Postharvest Unlimited



The Fifth International Conference Postharvest Unlimited was held in Cyprus during the period 10-13 June 2014 and was considered by Dr. Peter Toivonen, ISHS representative, as the most successful conference carried out in this series. This is the first ISHS meeting to be held in Cyprus. Organization of this event was a joint initiative of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), Department of Agricultural

Sciences, Biotechnology & Food Science and the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Greece. It is worth noting that CUT is a newly established university in the Republic of Cyprus that welcomed its first students in September 2007 and has managed within a few short years to develop itself into a modern, pioneering and well recognized university, able to offer education and high level investigation in leading fields of research.

The conference was attended by 246 delegates and accompanying persons from 43 different countries. Delegates came from Italy (37), Greece (23), Spain (17), United Kingdom (15), United States (15), Israel (14), The Netherlands (9), Czech Republic (9), Germany (8), France (7)

and Brazil (6). The conference website ([www.cut.ac.cy/postharvest](http://www.cut.ac.cy/postharvest)) received ca. 10,000 unique visits from over 160 countries.

Developing new links and collaborations among participants, the conference managed to bring together researchers from diverse fields of study who share a common interest in postharvest science. The conference provided the opportunity for scientists, professionals and students to present their latest findings and discuss their current work related to basic and applied aspects of postharvest issues.

The main conference topics were system biology approaches and new insights in postharvest physiology and ripening of fruits and vegetables, innovations in postharvest technology,





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 ● Conference delegates at Curium Theater.  
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fresh produce quality and supply chain management and effects of ripening and storage on nutritional and functional components in horticultural commodities. Exceptionally, this event was supported by two COST Actions: FA1104 'Sustainable production of high-quality cherries for the European market' and FA1106 'An integrated systems approach to determine the developmental mechanisms controlling fleshy fruit quality in tomato and grapevine'.

The conference scientific programme comprised 16 plenary talks, 68 oral presentations and 140 posters. The keynote speakers of the conference were: (1) John Labavitch, University of Davis, USA; (2) Bart Nicolai, University of

Leuven, Belgium; (3) Ian Ferguson, Plant & Food Research, New Zealand; (4) Mondher Bouzayen, University of Toulouse, France; (5) Pietro Tonutti, Sant' Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy; (6) Susan Lurie, Volcani Center, Israel; (7) Maria Isabel Gil, Food Science & Technology Department at CEBAS-CSIC, Spain; (8) Carlos Crisosto, University of Davis, USA; (9) Leon Terry, Cranfield University, United Kingdom; (10) Beth Mitcham, University of Davis, USA; (11) Peter Toivonen, Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre, Summerland, Canada; (12) Daniel Valero, University Miguel Hernández, Spain; (13) Ariel Vicente, University of La Plata, Argentina; (14) Serge Delrot, Institut des Sciences de la Vigne

et du Vin, Villenave d'Ornon, France; (15) Mario Pezzoti, University of Verona, Italy; and (16) Arnaud Boyv, University of Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Research highlights were:

- Emerging and novel postharvest technologies (e.g. dynamic controlled atmosphere, advanced control of respiration, energy saving storage systems),
- Advances in non-destructive determination of fruit quality and opportunities for application at commercial scale both preharvest (prediction of optimal harvest date) and postharvest (sorting lines),

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 ● George Manganaris (left) and Panos Kalaitzis (right), Conference Conveners, during their welcome speeches.  
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 ● The ISHS business meeting was moderated by Peter Toivonen (left). Prof. Valero (right) and Dr. Gil (center) were nominated to organize the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference Postharvest Unlimited in Madrid, Spain.  
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From left to right: Prof. Labavitch, Prof. Nicolai, Prof. Bouzayen and Dr. Ferguson during their keynote speeches.

- Water transport modelling in fruits and vegetables with the application of X-ray tomography offering new insights to improve postharvest storage,
- Major postharvest problems in minor undocumented crops, and their contribution to the overall understanding of postharvest problems,
- Strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in supply chain management of horticultural commodities,
- System biology approaches to unravel the molecular basis of ripening in model fruit crops,
- Strategies to enhance bioactive constituents in fruits and vegetables,
- Breeding programs meeting postharvest science,
- Aroma as a key factor determining fruit quality and the necessity for implementation of sensory analysis studies in postharvest research.

The social program of the conference included a welcome reception party, a gala dinner in the premises of the venue hotel, an excursion tour in Pafos and Lemesos, and a post-symposium tour to Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. All details about the conference, including a descriptive set of photos from the scientific and social program of the conference, can be retrieved from the link [www.cut.ac.cy/postharvest](http://www.cut.ac.cy/postharvest)

The Conveners would like to thank Mondher Bouzayen (Chair of COST FA1106), Jose Quero (Chair of COST FA1104), James Mattheis, Peter Toivonen and the Cyprus Tourist Organization for their efforts in support of this event.

George Manganaris and Panayiotis Kalaitzis

Attending crowd in the main conference hall.



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