

> X International Peach Symposium

Division Temperate Tree Fruits

#ishs_dftru



> Attending crowd of the X International Peach Symposium.

The X ISHS International Peach Symposium took place from 30 May to 3 June 2022, in the city of Naooussa, located in the Prefecture of Macedonia, Greece. Naooussa is a historical landmark because it is where the greatest philosopher, Aristotle, taught classical Greek thought and the ideals of Platonic philosophy to the son of the King of Macedonia Phillip II, Alexander, and the other nobles of the court. Notably, Naooussa is the place where peach production was first introduced in Greece, in 1938. In addition, Naooussa and the wider regions of Imathia and Pella are the epicenter of peach fruit production in Greece with leading cooperative units with international impact and a worldwide leading role in the canning industry. The symposium was the first held in an open-air environment with the employment of state-of-the-art audiovisual infrastructure. The venue was located within the Municipality Park of

Naooussa, a unique example in the history of landscape architecture in Greece that is nowadays officially an integrate part of the European Route of Historic Gardens.

The organization of this event was an initiative of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT), Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology & Food Science. It is worth noting that CUT is a newly established university in the Republic of Cyprus that welcomed its first students only in September 2007, and managed within a few years to develop into a modern, pioneering, and well recognized university, able to offer education and high-level research in leading fields of research.

The symposium was attended by more than 200 delegates and accompanying persons, mainly originating from Greece, Spain, Italy, and the United States. The symposium website (www.fruitsciences.eu/peach2021)

exceeded the 12,000 unique visits from nearly 150 countries.

Scientific part

The symposium brought together researchers from diverse fields of study who shared a common interest in peach fruit production covering the state of the art, spanning from breeding, development, and testing of new cultivars, to fruit physiology and advancements in training systems, to pest and disease management as well as to aspects related to fruit quality postharvest management and processing. All those disciplines were brought together in a coherent manner through a concrete scientific program, comprised of 16 plenary talks, 54 oral talks, and 67 poster contributions. The book of abstracts (<https://www.fruitsciences.eu/peach2021/files/book-of-abstracts.pdf>) has been disseminated to several thousands of recipients by



> Dr. George Manganaris, Convener (A), and Prof. Theodore DeJong, former Chair of ISHS Division Temperate Tree Fruits (B), during their welcome speeches.



› Technical visit of delegates at the premises of A.C. Naoussa and ASEPOP Naoussa.

electronic means through the symposium and ISHS dissemination and communication channels.

The symposium welcomed 16 excellent key-note speakers concerning peach research. Notably, a dedicated session with eight oral presentations on peach pest management was supported by the Fruit Flies-IPM (Horizon 2020 project), coordinated by Professor Nikos Papadopoulos, Head of Insect Biology Lab – University of Thessaly, Greece.

Social part of the symposium

The social program of the symposium included a welcome reception party, an official dinner, a cocktail event, and a gala dinner. All details about the symposium, including a descriptive set of photos from the scientific and social program of the symposium, can be retrieved from the following Google drive link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1l7S-d6tFDnvNr6A9n12UsMDADby1Jjk3i>

Short videos regarding the scientific and social activities are available through the following links:

- Scientific part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0scqrtoWsq>
- Social part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgIPdGAbmlg>

Technical and cultural visit

Peaches coming from the Agricultural Protected Region of Naoussa have been recognized as products P.D.O., unique in Greece and one of the few in Europe. During the technical visit (June 2) delegates visited the premises of A.C. Naoussa and ASEPOP Naoussa who are marketing their premium peach fruits under the brand names Naougusta and Vermina, respectively. Such products are the epitome of the farm to fork concept with no phytosanitary applications upon harvest. Additionally, the tour encompassed guided tours at Aristotle's School Cultural Center, Mieza Theater and at the Tombs of King Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, a UNESCO World Heritage.

ISHS Young Minds Awards

Mrs. Najla Ksouri (CSIC, Spain) won the competition just one mark ahead of Mr. David Sterle (Colorado State University, USA) for the best oral presentation. Her presentation was entitled "Motif discovery within upstream regions of variable length reveals regulatory signatures in peach". The award of the best poster presentation was given to Mrs. Andrea Kohler for her work entitled "Fruit quality and yield in planar training systems for peach."

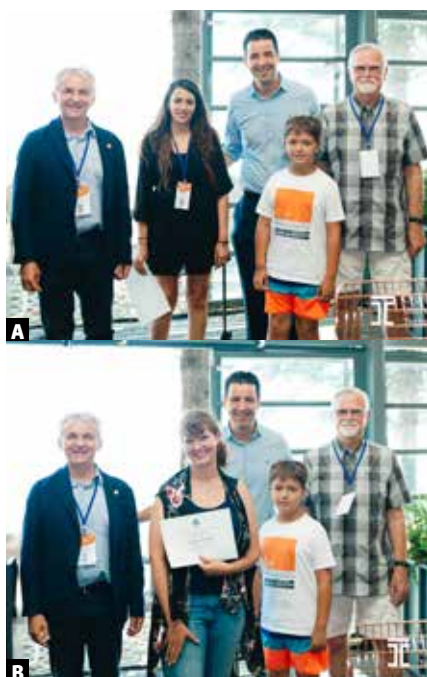
Societal impact

The symposium resulted in a surplus that was allocated to scholarships of excellence at Cyprus University of Technology and to non-profit units linked with kids with special needs or low income in Greece and Cyprus. Special thanks to the 33 financial supporters of the symposium: A.C. Naoussa, ASEPOP Naoussa, BASF, Syngenta, Yara International, Corteva Agriscience, Hellagrolip, Venus Growers, Neos Aliakmon, Vitro Hellas, Tsesmelis Fruit & Nut Nursery, Timac Agro | ΛΥΔΑ, Felix Instruments, Ecomatik, Papakonstantinou fruits, EuroChem, Bayer, Q-CERT Ltd., AgroFresh, Valent BioSciences, A.C. Episkopi, Agrology, Emphyton, Milis Nurseries, Vita-plant, Compo Expert, Agromillora Group, ASPIS, Agrohellas S.A., Fitotechniki, ASEPOP Velventos, Delcof, Anadiag. ●

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› Mrs. Najla Ksouri (A) and Mrs. Andrea Kohler (B) receiving their ISHS Young Minds Award.

ISHS Peach Webinar on current trends and future challenges of peach fruit production

The initially scheduled date of the symposium (1-4 June 2021) was devoted to a series of webinars with 16 selective talks followed by Q&A sessions. The ISHS sponsored webinar was attended by nearly 800 attendees and all relevant information is available at <https://www.ishs.org/news/peach-webinars-june-1-4-2021>