Valentina Picchi
valentina.picchi@crea.gov.it

Education

2002 – Five-year Degree (MSc equivalent) in Agricultural Sciences and Technologies, University of Pisa, Italy – 110/110 cum laude
2006 – PhD in Eco-compatible Crop Production Sciences, University of Pisa, Faculty of Agriculture, Italy

Professional Experience

2012–present – Researcher (Level III), CREA-IT, Milan, Italy
2009–2012 – Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CREA-IT (formerly CRA-IAA), Milan, Italy
2007–2009 – Postdoctoral Research Fellow, National Research Council (CNR-IVV and CNR-IBBA), Italy

Scientific Activity

Since 2002, she has conducted research in plant physiology and biochemistry. Her research activity began at the University of Pisa, Department of Crop Production and Woody Species Protection "G. Scaramuzzi" (Plant Pathology Section), focusing on plant responses to biotic and abiotic stresses.
She subsequently continued her research at the National Research Council (CNR-IVV and CNR-IBBA), investigating the physiological, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms underlying stress responses in crop species, with particular emphasis on wheat and tomato.
Since 2009, she has been working at CREA-IT (formerly CRA-IAA) in Milan. Her research focuses on the metabolic and sensory profiling of fresh and processed agro-food products along the supply chain. Activities include the determination of nutritionally relevant compounds using advanced analytical techniques (HPLC, spectrophotometric methods, Electron Paramagnetic Resonance) as well as the application of non-destructive methodologies (chlorophyll fluorescence, NIR spectroscopy).
Metabolic characterization activities have often been integrated with varietal screening programs, contributing to the identification of genotypes suitable for innovative and more sustainable cropping systems.
In recent years, her research has also focused on the physiological and biochemical mechanisms involved in plant responses to specific environmental stresses (ozone stress, water stress, heavy metals), with the aim of improving the understanding of plant adaptive processes and identifying stress-tolerant genotypes.
She is author/co-author of publications in national and international peer-reviewed journals and has participated in national and international scientific conferences. Her activities also include technical report writing, supervision of MSc theses, and mentoring of students, trainees, and postdoctoral fellows. She is involved in the preparation of national and international research proposals and serves as scientific coordinator/unit leader in research projects and agreements. She has delivered seminars at universities.

Main Responsibilities in Research Projects

2023 – Unit Leader (for CREA) in the European project *"FEED: From edible sprouts to healthy food"*, PRIMA Programme, Call Section 2 – Multi-topic 2022, Topic 2.3.1 (RIA) *Enabling the transition to healthy and sustainable dietary behaviour*, funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR).
2016 – Unit Leader (CREA) in the project *"NA-NOTOX – Chitosan nanoparticles for delivering antioxidants in wheat to prevent biotic and abiotic stress damage and improve grain yield and quality"*, funded by the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF).
2014 – Project Leader, *"Seasonal Leaf Chemistry and Water Content Analysis" (SeLeCh)*, funded by the European Commission, Competitive Procedure – Invitation to Tender No. JRC/IPR/2014/H.7/0014/NC.

Scientific Publications

Author/co-author of 46 international peer-reviewed publications and more than 60 conference proceedings.
Scopus ID: 23991211600
h-index (Scopus): 22
ORCID: 0000-0002-6803-9978