

**PERSONAL INFORMATION** **Francesco Mercati**



 Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources  
National Research Council (CNR)  
Address:



Enterprise	University	EPR
<input type="checkbox"/> Management Level	<input type="checkbox"/> Full professor	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Director and 1st level Technologist / First Researcher and 2nd level Technologist / Principal Investigator
<input type="checkbox"/> Mid-Management Level	<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Professor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level III Researcher and Technologist
<input type="checkbox"/> Employee / worker level	<input type="checkbox"/> Researcher and Technologist of IV, V, VI and VII level / Technical collaborator	<input type="checkbox"/> Researcher and Technologist of IV, V, VI and VII level / Technical collaborator

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

2013 - current position

**Level III Researcher**

National Research Council, Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources (IBBR), UOS Palermo (Italy)

- Biodiversity investigation and valorization, marker assisted selection studies, investigation of genes associated to trait of interest mainly related to the response to abiotic and biotic stress and to adaptation. Next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies and their implications for plant genetics. Business or sector: Biotechnology and biodiversity.

2012 - 2013

**Post-doc fellowship**

University *Mediterranea* of Reggio Calabria (Italy)

- Genetic characterization through SSR and SNP markers of a large collection of Italian grapevine, and population genetic analysis of a wide collection of *Vitis vinifera* varieties in the AGER Project (grant n 2010-2104). Business or sector: Biotechnology and biodiversity.

2006 - 2007

**Fellowship**

University of Palermo (Italy)

- Expression analysis in soil bacteria (*Streptomyces*) of genes producing secondary metabolites of interest, such as antibiotic and PGP (Plant Growth Promoting). Business or sector: Biotechnology, microbiology and pharmacy.

2004 - 2005

**Fellowship**

MIUR - BAT (British American Tobacco) Italy

- Genotoxicity and cytotoxicity evaluation of standard Cigarette Smoke Condensate (CSC) developed by BAT Italy in the MIUR high-level training project titled "Applications of new technologies - nanomaterials and biotechnologies - to tobacco products " (protocol n. 345, 03/06/2004). Business or sector: Biotechnology and nanomaterials.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

2017

**Licensed as Associate Professor in Plant Genetics**

ASN - MIUR (Italy)

- Sector 07/E1 agricultural chemistry, agricultural genetics and pedology - SSD AGR/07

2008-2012

**PhD in Biology Applied to Agri-Food and Forest systems**

University *Mediterranea* of Reggio Calabria (Italy)

- Marker assisted selection, QTLs, molecular biology skills

2003

**Licensed as a Biologist profession**

University of Pisa (Italy)

- Cytogenetics and molecular biology skills

1995-2002

**Master's Degree (110/110)**

University of Pisa (Italy)

- Cytogenetics and molecular biology skills

**WORK ACTIVITIES**

**Editorial activity** Editor for the journals listed below:  
 - Frontiers Plant Science, ISSN 1664462X, Q1 -Plant Science (SJR)  
 - Genes, ISSN 20734425, Q2 - Genetics (SJR);  
 - BMC Plant Biology, ISSN 14712229, Q1 - Plant Science (SJR).  
 Reviewer:  
 for several journal: <https://publons.com/researcher/860031/francesco-mercati>;  
 for "Croatian Science Foundation" and Czech Science Foundation.

**PERSONAL SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s) Italian  
 Other language(s) English - listening and speaking: very good command; reading and writing: fluent.  
 Job-related skills Strong background in plant genetics and molecular biology and related laboratory skills. In particular he has a high experience on plant biodiversity characterization using the main molecular markers, and Next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies (such as RNAseq, WGS, GBS, etc).  
 Digital skills Excellent knowledge of the different operative systems, browsers, databases and genome browser available. Strong experience for the commonly programs used in biodiversity and association studies for population genetics and QTLs analysis, respectively, and for specific pipeline utilized in the data processing and bioinformatics analysis, such as plink, R/bioconductor, galaxy, etc.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Publications** total number of publications in peer-review journals: 55  
 total number of citations: 825  
 H index: 18  
<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=36086442100>

**Projects**

- 1) ECOBOOST - Boosting functional biodiversity to maximize ecosystem services for Mediterranean crop production (<https://prima-med.org/results-of-prima-call-section-2-2021-multi-topic/>), funded by PRIMA - SECTION 2 2021 – MULTI-TOPIC. Total amount of financing: € 1.900.000,00; in progress.
- 2) BIAS -Innovative biofertilizers for sustainable agriculture to protect human health and the environment (project number 082015000275), funded by Sicily Region through the European Regional Development Fund (PO-FESR Sicilia 2014-2020). Total amount of financing: € 1.713.818,20; in progress.
- 3) MIGLIORE - Use of improved varieties of horticultural species for sustainable agriculture with a low environmental impact (project number 94250045690), funded by Sicily Region through the European Regional Development Fund (PSR Sicilia 16.1). Total amount of financing: € 500.000,00; in progress.
- 4) SOLNUE - Tomato and eggplant nitrogen utilization efficiency in Mediterranean environments (project number ID#47), funded by ERA-NET Cofund on Sustainable Crop Production (SusCrop - <https://www.suscrop.eu/call-information/1st-call>). Total amount of financing € 500.000,00; in progress.
- 5) Limseed asparagus - Isolation of genes involved in the sex determination of *A. officinalis*, using new generation tools (RNA sequencing), funded by Limseed (<https://www.limgroup.eu/asparagus>). Total amount of financing € 100.000,00; 2013-2015, closed.

23/03/2022

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