

**PERSONAL INFORMATION** Santa Olga Cacciola



Sex ..... | Date of birth ..... | Nationality .....

Enterprise	University	EPR
<input type="checkbox"/> Management Level	<input checked="" 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 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**

(from March 2023 - to present) **Full Professor of Plant Pathology – SSD AGR 12 (07/D1 - Patologia Vegetale e Entomologia)**  
 January 2014- to present : Department of Agricultural, Food and Environment (Di3A), University of Catania  
<https://www.di3a.unict.it/>

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

from 1998 - to 2023 Associate professor, Di3A

from 1980 – to 1988

Abilitazione Nazionale – ASN: 2012 and 2013 as Full professor

1998: associate professor in Plant Pathology

1990: researcher and PhD in Plant Pathology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Catania.

1984-1985 (18 months): NIH (National Institute of Health) fellow at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA), studying the adhesion factor in cell-cell interactions.

1982-1983: “Roche Foundation” fellowship carried out a research project on red cell transport at the Institut fur Biochemie (University of Bern, Switzerland).

1980: degree in Biological Science at the University of Catania (110 cum laude)

- Cell biochemistry skills (enzymes assays, spectrophotometric measurements, HPLC skills), Molecular biology, Microbiology techniques, Plant Pathology techniques; Morphological and molecular identification of plant pathogens (fungi and oomycetes), Plant disease diagnosis, Metabarcoding, transcriptomics, rhizosphere and fruit microbiome skills, Bioremediation techniques using beneficial fungi, Disease management strategies, Selection and application of biocontrol agents.

**WORK ACTIVITIES**

**Awards** 2020-oggi. Valutazione positiva in merito alla partecipazione delle commissioni locali, ai sensi dell’art. 6, commi 7 e 8, della legge 240/2010”, emanato con D.R. 276 del 30.1.2020.  
 - Finanziamento premiale ricevuto dal MIUR per ricercatori efficienti.

**Editorial activity** Senior Editor of Plant Disease Journal, Plant Disease Journal (APS), Plants (MDPI), Journal of Fungi (MDPI), JPPY (Springer), Editor of a Research Topic in Frontiers in Plant Science (Frontiers Media), Editor of a Research Topic in Frontiers in Agronomy (Frontiers Media).

**Invited presentations** - **13th Arab Congress of Plant Protection** Hammamet, Tunisia, 16-21 October 2022 about “Tomato plants - *Trichoderma-Phytophthora nicotianae*, a complex interaction system for understanding plant defence mechanisms. - **Joint Session SIPaV-APS** Ancona, 5-7 September, 2018 about “Emerging and re-emerging plant pathogens” - **Satellite Meeting of the International Congress of Plant Pathology**: 6th International

Oomycetes Workshop: *Phytophthora*, *Pythium*, Downy Mildews and related genera.

**Grants** (2023-2027) MC of Cost Action “Sustainable Network for agrofood loss and waste prevention, management, quantification and valorisation (FoodWaStop)” - CA22134”; (2023-2025) “Mediterranean Forest Health in a Global Climate Change Scenario – **FORCLIMED**” Erasmus Mundus Design Measures – EMDM; (2019-2021) Project **Erasmus +- International credit mobility KA107**; 2021-2024. **‘BiOrangePack’**, PRIMA Section 2 - 2019 (Coordinator); 2021-2023 **‘PROMETEO’**, Italie-Tunisie, Strategic Project (Coordinator); 2021-2023 **‘WEF-CAP’**, ENI CBC MED (Research Unit Responsible - Partner); **‘BioLemonCare’**, Progetto PSR sottomisura 16.1 - Fase 2 del PSR Sicilia (Partner); 2017-18 **U.S.Fulbright** Scholars (partner host)

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Italian

Other language(s) English (proficiency Level: C2); French (basic Level: B1)

Job-related skills 1. Phylogeny and molecular diagnosis of *Phytophthora* and fungal pathogens; 2. *Phytophthora* and fungal diseases of citrus, ornamentals and Mediterranean forest trees; 3. Metagenomic of plant pathogens; 4. Colletotrichum anthracnose of olive and other crops; 5. Genetic variability of *Phytophthora* populations with different tools and strategies; 6. Bioremediation strategies using filamentous beneficial fungi; 7. Differential expression of genes of these fungi in presence of heavy metals; 8. Biological control and land management to control plant diseases; 9. Understanding the interaction plant-pathogen-antagonist at molecular level; Molecular Diagnostic kits.

Digital skills Office Package

Other skills Diagnostics tools and metabarcoding

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Publications** **Scopus Author ID: 6603225299; Scopus: N. 164 articles; N. 3,254 citations; h-index = 32 (02/12/2023)**

**Scopus:**<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=6603225299>;  
<https://www.di3a.unict.it/docenti/santa.olga.cacciola>

**Projects** (2023-2027) MC of Cost Action “Sustainable Network for agrofood loss and waste prevention, management, quantification and valorisation (**FoodWaStop**)” - CA22134”; (2023-2025) “Mediterranean Forest Health in a Global Climate Change Scenario – **FORCLIMED**” Erasmus Mundus Design Measures – EMDM;

2017-18 **U.S.Fulbright Scholars** (partner host); 2014-2020. **‘BioLemonCare’**, **Progetto PSR** sottomisura 16.1 - Fase 2 del PSR Sicilia (Partner); 2021-2023. **‘BiOrangePack’**, **PRIMA Section 2** - 2019 (Coordinator); 2021-2023. **‘PROMETEO’**, **Italie-Tunisie, Strategic Project** (Coordinator); 2021-2023. **‘WEF-CAP’**, **ENI CBC MED** (Partner); Project funded by MUR (**PON** “Ricerca e Innovazione” 2014-2020, Asse I “Investimenti in capitale umano - Azione I.1 “Dottorati Innovativi con caratterizzazione industriale” - XXXVI ciclo.

## Other Relevant Information

Pertinent experience: in the BiOrangePack project a diagnostic kit based on a new technology is been developed. This will create the knowledge for implementing a molecular multi-parameter kit for the detection of microorganism and transfer the information to a sensing platform.

Catania, 15/12/2023