



Xylella fastidiosa

5th European conference

Mola di Bari | 23-25.06.2026

DRAFT PROGRAMME



Tuesday 23rd June 2026

09:00-10:00	REGISTRATION, WELCOME COFFEE & POSTER HANGING	
OPENING SESSION		
10:00-10:30	Welcome and introduction to the conference	Giuseppe Stancanelli, European Food Safety Authority (IT)
	Opening remarks by the Regional Councillor for Agriculture, Puglia Region	Francesco Paolicelli, Regional Councillor for Agriculture, Puglia Region
	Opening remarks by EFSA Executive Director	Nikolaus Kriz, Executive Director, European Food Safety Authority
SESSION 1 Olive resistance to <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> Chairs: Blanca Landa, IAS CSIC (ES) & Giuseppe Stancanelli, EFSA		
10:30-10:50 Keynote	1.1 A long-term study on olive cultivars responses to <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>pauca</i> ST53	Maria Saponari, IPSP CNR (IT)
10:50-11:00	1.2 Genomic and molecular insights into olive immunity to <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> : comparative analysis of Apulian cultivars Ogliarola salentina and Leccino	Silke Robatzek, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (DE)
11:00-11:10	1.3 Regeneration of olive crop after the unprecedented epidemic of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>pauca</i> in Apulia: key factors in the evolving epidemiology	Igor Weber*, University of Brescia (IT) *Young Researchers' initiative
11:10-11:20	1.4 Meta-analysis of a large transcriptomic dataset generated from olive cultivars infected by <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> under different experimental conditions	Annalisa Giampetruzzi, IPSP CNR (IT) & <u>Pasquale Saldarelli</u> , IPSP CNR (IT)
11:20-11:30	1.5 Differential transcriptomic response of three olive cultivars to <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> infection	Cinzia Montemurro, University of Bari (IT)
11:30-11:55 "Pitch talks"	1.6a Top-grafting ancient olive trees as preventive measure against olive quick decline syndrome: preliminary field evidence	Pier Federico La Notte, IPSP CNR (IT) & <u>Donato Boscia</u> , IPSP CNR (IT)
	1.6b The World Olive Germplasm Bank of cordoba: a source for research on <i>Xylella</i> control	Angjelina Belaj, Junta de Andalucia (ES)
	1.6c Genome editing in olive: from embryogenic callus induction to a protoplast-based platform	Giorgia Sportelli, IPSP CNR (IT)
	1.6d Plant cell wall dynamics in olive cultivars with contrasting responses to <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Daniele Coculo, Sapienza University of Rome (IT)



	1.6e Integrated metagenomics, metabarcoding and culturomics reveal beneficial bacteria in the xylem microbiome of the resistant olive cultivar Leccino	Domenico Di Cosmo , University of Bari (IT) & Rim Touati , ISPA CNR (IT)
11:55-12:30	Questions and answers	
12:30-14:00	LUNCH BREAK & POSTERS hanging	
SESSION 2 Advances on control of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> Chair: Pasquale Saldarelli, IPSP CNR (IT) and Anna Bonaterra, University of Girona (ES)		
14:00-14:20 Keynote	2.1 Modes of action and field trials achievements of biopesticides for the control of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> or its insect vector	Stephane Compant , AIT Austrian Institute of Technology (AT) & Pasquale Saldarelli , IPSP CNR (IT)
14:20-14:30	2.2 An integrated protocol to mitigate olive quick decline syndrome (OQDS) caused by <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>pauca</i> in southern Italy	Giuseppe Lima , University of Molise (IT)
14:30-14:40	2.3 Management of olive quick decline syndrome using synthetic bacterial communities	Luis Alejandro Moll Dos Santos* , IAS CSIC (ES) *Young Researchers' initiative
14:40-14:50	2.4 From detection to control: integrating aptamer-based diagnostics with phage and antimicrobial peptide strategies against <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Toufic Elbeaino , CIHEAM Bari (IT)
14:50-15:00	2.5 Targeting lipopolysaccharides with synthetic lipopeptides as a control strategy against <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Emilio Montesinos , University of Girona (ES)
15:00-15:10	2.6 Evaluation of thermotherapy protocols on nursery plant material for the management of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> risk	Michele Casetta , CRSFA (IT) & <u>Pasquale Venerito</u> , CRSFA (IT)
15:10-15:30 "Pitch talks"	2.7a Functional screening of bacterial isolates reveals candidates for the biological control of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. fastidiosa in grapevine	Luca Nerva , CREA (IT)
	2.7b Rational discovery of an FtsZ-targeting compound inhibiting in vitro growth across <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subspecies	Reinaldo Rodrigues de Souza Neto , IPSP CNR (IT)
	2.7c Microbial control of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> through a novel antagonistic protein from the plant phyllosphere	Filipe Vieira* , Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (DE) *Young Researchers' initiative
	2.7d Nanotrapping <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> : morphophysiological, molecular, and hyperspectral evaluations to uncover mechanistic efficacy and disease reduction potential of cellulose nanocrystal endotherapy.	Muhammad Amir Muawiya , University of Tuscia (IT)
15:30-16:00	Questions and answers	
16:00-16:30	Coffee/Tea break	
SESSION 3 Advances on biology and control of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>		



Chair: Stephane Compant, AIT (AT) & Leonardo De la Fuente, Auburn University (US)		
16:30-16:40	3.1 The xylem endophytome as a driver of disease outcomes in Salicaceae infected by <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> and <i>Brenneria salicis</i>	Lena Pesenti , UC Louvain (BE)
16:40-16:50	3.2 Potential for blueberry infection by European <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> strains: growth in xylem sap as a proxy for host specificity	Leonardo De la Fuente , Auburn University (US)
16:50-17:00	3.3 RpfF-mediated DSF production induces priming responses in transgenic <i>Citrus sinensis</i>	Victória Da Silva* , IAC & UNICAMP, Campinas SP (BR) *Young Researchers' initiative
17:00-17:10	3.4 Prophage diversity among French <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>multiplex</i> strains	Marie-Agnes Jacques , INRAE (FR)
17:10-17:20	3.5 Phage diversity across <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subspecies <i>fastidiosa</i> and <i>multiplex</i>	Carlos Selles Ribeiro , IVIA (ES)
17:20-17:30	3.6 Winter recovery of grapevines from <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> infection under mediterranean climate conditions	Speaker to be confirmed
17:30-18:00 "Pitch talks"	3.7a Tracing the origin of the new <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>fastidiosa</i> outbreak in Extremadura, Spain, through comparative genomic analysis and phage typing	Felix Mòran , IVIA (ES)
	3.7b Preliminary transcriptomic profiles of three almond cultivars in response to the infection of different <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subspecies	Giorgia Tranchina* , University of Palermo (IT) *Young Researchers' initiative
	3.7c Exploring the potential of Rep-WH1 prion-like proteins in the control of the phytopathogen <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Leticia Lucero* , CNB CSIC (ES) *Young Researchers' initiative
	3.7d Genetic diversity of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in the French region Occitania	Victor Nelaton* , ANSES (FR) *Young Researchers' initiative
	3.7e Hfq-dependent small RNAs mediating environmental sensing in <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> support lifestyle transitions and virulence	Elif Olkun* , Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (DE) *Young Researchers' initiative
18:00-18:30	Questions & answers	
18:30-20:30	Poster session	
20:00-21:30	Networking reception	



Wednesday 24th June 2026

08:45	Arrival at venue	
SESSION 4 Advances on vectors biology and control Chairs: Daniele Cornara, Università Aldo Moro, Bari (IT) & Ewelina Czwieneczek, EFSA (IT)		
09:00-09:10	4.1 BEXYL: Illustrating strategic approaches for entomopathogenic fungi-based <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> vector management	Enrique Quesada Moraga, University of Cordoba (ES)
09:10-09:20	4.2 Unravelling the interaction between <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> and its insect vectors	Daniele Cornara, University of Bari (IT)
09:20-09:30	4.3 RNA interference (RNAi) for the control of <i>Philaenus spumarius</i> , the spittlebug vector of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in Europe: lights and shadows	Cecilia Parise, CNR-IPSP (IT)
09:30-09:40	4.4 Integrated agronomic management targeting the juvenile stages of <i>Philaenus spumarius</i>	Crescenza Dongiovanni, CRSFA (IT)
09:40-09:50	4.5 Direct control of insect vectors of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> : a systematic review and meta-analysis	David Makowski, INRAE (FR)
09:50-10:00	4.6 Extreme polyphagy in the vector <i>Philaenus spumarius</i> – Overview and implications for <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> spread	Vinton Thomson, American Museum of Natural History (US)
10:00-10:10	4.7 Entomopathogenic Fungi as a Multi-Target Strategy for the Control of <i>Philaenus spumarius</i> , the European Vector of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Francesco Volpe*, University of Turin (IT) * Young Researchers' initiative
10:10-10:30 "Pitch talks"	4.8a <i>Draeculacephala robinsoni</i> , a potential vector of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in Europe: distribution and population dynamics across the Iberian Peninsula	Rocío López Gómez, ICA CSIC (ES)
	4.8b <i>Metarhizium brunneum</i> direct exposure reduces survival and disrupts feeding behaviour in <i>Philaenus spumarius</i>	Tamara Hernández-Lao, ICA CSIC (ES)
	4.8c Uncovering viral partners: how the virome shapes fitness in <i>Philaenus spumarius</i>	Pierre Royer, University of Turin (IT)
	4.8d Assessment of insect vector competence for the acquisition and transmission of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> to agricultural and forest plant species in Switzerland	Júlia Lopez-Mercadal, Agroscope (CH)
10:30-11:00	Questions and answers	
11:00-11:30	Coffee/tea break	
SESSION 5 Impact and social aspects of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> epidemics and management Chairs: Claudio Sopranzetti, Oxford University (UK) & Anna Maria D'Onghia, CIHEAM Bari (IT)		
11:30-11:50 Keynote	5.1 From production decline to structural crisis: olive mill dynamics in a <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> -affected area	Pier Paolo Miglietta, University of Salento, (IT)
11:50-12:00	5.2 Coexisting with <i>Xylella</i> : an anthropological perspective	Claudio Sopranzetti, Oxford University (UK)
12:00-12:10	5.3 Farmer preferences for Integrated Pest Management strategies against <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> : evidence from Apulia and Alicante	Viola Di Cori,



		European Commission Joint Research Centre (ES)
12:10- 12:20	5.4 Conservation dilemmas: <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> and the future(s) of olive farming	Fabio Gatti* , Wageningen University (NL) *Young Researchers' initiative
12:20- 12:30	5.5 Three years of the EU's 'Plant Health 4 Life' campaign	Filippo Positano , European Food Safety Authority
12:30- 12:40 "Pitch talks"	5.6a Mapping research gaps on <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> : toward a socio-ecological perspective for Apulia	Livia Maltese* , University of Mons (BE) *Young Researchers' initiative
	5.6b Social dimensions of managing <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> : insights from stakeholders	Harry Marshall , Forestry Commission Research Agency (UK)
12:40- 13:10	Questions & answers	
13:10- 14:10	Lunch break	
SESSION 6 Monitoring and modelling <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> epidemics 1 Chairs: Valerie Olivier, ANSES (FR) & Antonio Vicent, IVIA (ES)		
14:10- 14:20	6.1 Harmonisation of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> surveys in the European Union	Sybren Vos , European Food Safety Authority
14:20- 14:30	6.2 The database of 13 years of monitoring in Apulia – over 1,500,000 analysis – a powerful tool for the study of the epidemic of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Donato Boscia , IPSP CNR (IT)
14:30- 14:40	6.3 Delimiting and managing the <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> outbreak in Alicante (Spain): insights from surveillance and eradication data	Martina Cendoya , IVIA (ES)
14:40- 14:50	6.4 Detection of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in important Mediterranean plants during dormancy (Euphresco project XfDorm)	Anne Laure Boutigny , ANSES (FR)
14:50- 15:00	6.5 Large scale validation of qPCR assay for simultaneous identification of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subspecies in a wide range of plant species naturally infected	Giuliana Loconsole , IPSP CNR (IT)
15:00- 15:10	6.6 <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>: from eradication to containment, the Porto metropolitan area (Portugal) case study	Carla Luis Carvalho* , ICNF (PT) *Young Researcher Initiative
15:10- 15:20	6.7 Ten years of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in the Balearic islands: impacts on crops and lessons from a multi-subspecies epidemic	Diego Olmo , IRFAP (ES)
15:20- 15:30 "Pitch talks"	6.8a Rapid volatilomic screening for <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> : towards portable tools for phytosanitary surveillance	Elisabetta Poeta* , IBBR CNR (IT) * Young Researchers' initiative
	6.8b Horizon Scanning as an integrated approach for monitoring <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Florian Kuntze , European Food Safety Authority
15:30 16:00	Questions and answers	



16:00-16:30	Coffee/Tea break	
SESSION 7 Monitoring and modelling <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> epidemics 2 Chairs: Martina Cendoya, IVIA (ES), & Nik Cuniffe, University of Cambridge, (UK)		
16:30-16:50 Keynote	7.1 Modelling the effectiveness of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> monitoring and control across pathosystems and spatial scales	Rachel Russell University of Cambridge (UK)
16:50-17:00	7.2 Enhancing <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> spread modelling and surveillance optimisation through remote sensing	Rocio Calderon Madrid, IAS CSIC (ES)
17:00-17:10	7.3 Adapting surveillance design to outbreak characteristics: a dynamic framework	François d'Alayer*, INRAE, BioSP (FR) *Young Researcher Initiative
17:10-17:20	7.4 Twelve years of models of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> epidemics in Europe: lessons learnt	Anna Simonetto, University of Brescia (IT)
17:20-17:30	7.5 Evolution and consequences of nine years of application of phytosanitary measures to control <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>multiplex</i> outbreak in Alicante	Vicente Dalmau Sorli, Regional Government of Valencia (ES)
17:30-17:40	7.6 Integrated surveillance and phytosanitary measures against <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>fastidiosa</i> ST1, experience of the Apulia region	Gianvito Ragone, Regional Plant Health Service, Puglia Region (IT)
17:40-17:45 "Pitch talks"	7.7 A hyperspectral phenotyping platform for early detection of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> infection in woody hosts	Valle Egea Cabrero*, IAS CSIC (ES) * Young Researchers' initiative
17:45-18:15	Questions & Answers	

Thursday 25th June 2026

08:45	Arrival at venue	
SESSION 8 Pierce's disease of grapevines Chair: Boris Vinatzer, Virginia Tech (US) & Claude Bragard, UCLouvain (BE)		
09:00-09:20 Keynote	8.1 Pierce's disease of grapevines: climate, diversity, and novel risks	Rodrigo Almeida, UC Berkeley (US)
09:20-09:30	8.2 Impact of simulated climate change conditions on <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> –grapevine interactions	Miguel Román Écija*, IAS CSIC (ES) *Young Researcher Initiative
09:30-09:40	8.3 Pre-winter pathogen load and cold exposure impact overwinter recovery from Pierce's Disease of grapevine	Andrea Brown*, UC Berkeley (US) *Young Researcher Initiative
09:40-09:50	8.4 Insights and prospects from the Apulian outbreak of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>fastidiosa</i> in table grapes	Serafina Amoa, Serena IPSP CNR (IT)
09:50-10:00	8.5 Hidden reservoirs of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>multiplex</i> : prevalence in wild hosts surrounding grapevine regions in the eastern USA	Jingjing Yang*, UC Louvain (BE)



		*Young Researcher Initiative
10:00-10:10	8.6 Effective cover crop management in vineyards reduces the abundance of <i>Philaenus spumarius</i>, the main European vector of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i>	Clara Lago , IFISC-CSIC-UIB (ES)
10:10-10:20	8.7 Climate-driven risk assessment of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> diseases: mechanistic modelling across scales	Alex Giménez Romero , CEAB & IFISC CSIC (ES)
10:20-10:30	8.8a A novel and rapid in vitro method for assessment of <i>Vitis vinifera</i> susceptibility to <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> subsp. <i>fastidiosa</i>	Giuseppe Incampo , University of Bari (IT)
“Pitch talks”	8.8b Introducing the project XYL-o-VINE: Ecology, ethology and transmission biology of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> by insect vectors in table grape vineyards	Michela Chiumenti , IPSP CNR (IT)
10:30-11:00	Questions & answers	
11:00-11:30	Coffee/Tea break	
CLOSING SESSION		
Blanca Landa, IAS CSIC (ES) & Giuseppe Stancanelli, EFSA (IT)		
11:30-11:40	9.1 Regulatory status of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> in the EU	Karin Nienstedt , European Commission, Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety
11:40-11:50	9.2 Enhancing Global Plant Health Preparedness for <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> and Emerging Pests: IPPC Tools in Action	Sarah Brunel , FAO IPPC
11:50-12:00	9.3 Updating the pest risk assessment of <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> for the EU territory: achievements and next steps	Matteo Crotta , European Food Safety Authority
12:00-12:10	9.4 Feedback from stakeholders: European Nurserystock Association (ENA)	Josep M. Pagès , Secretary General, ENA - European Nurserystock Association (BE)
12:10-12:20	9.5 Feedback from stakeholders: European farmers and European Agri-Ecooperatives association Copa-Cogeca	Michele Librandi , Copa- Cogeca (BE)
12:20-12:30	9.6 Introduction to side events: - Round table of phytosanitary services at CIHEAM Bari, Valenzano, 25 June 2026 afternoon - Field visits in oliviculture and viticulture, 26 June 2026	Biagio Di Terlizzi , Director CIHEAM Bari, Salvatore Infantino , Head of Regional Plant Health Service, Puglia Region (IT) & Francesco Di Serio , IPSP CNR (IT)
12:30-13:00	9.7 Key takeaways from session Chairs	Chairs of sessions (one Chair reporting per each session)
13:00	Conference closing	
13:00-14:30	Buffet Lunch	



Acknowledgements

Scientific Committee:

Rodrigo Almeida, Claude Bragard, Stephane Compant, Daniele Cornara, Nik Cunniffe, Ewelina Czwieneczek, Leonardo De La Fuente, Toufic Elbeaino, Blanca Landa, David Makowski, Maria Saponari, Claudio Sopranzetti, Giuseppe Stancanelli, Antonio Vicent Civera

Organising Committee:

Blanca Landa & Ana Sanchez Montero (Horizon Europe BeXyl project); Michele Digiario, Biagio Di Terlizzi, Maria Chiara Martelli & Laura Scivetti (CIHEAM Bari); Donato Boscia & Maria Saponari (CNR IPSP); Max Blanck, Ewelina Czwieneczek, Matilde Garcia Gomez, Aurora Murru, Filippo Positano, Virginia Spurio Salvi & Giuseppe Stancanelli (EFSA); Baldissera Giovani (Euphresco III); Salvatore Infantino (Regional Plant Health Service, Puglia Region (IT))