



26th EUCARPIA MAIZE AND SORGHUM CONFERENCE

Breeding in the era of genome
editing and artificial intelligence

BOLOGNA

JUNE 30 - JULY 2, 2025

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM



Bologna - Facoltà di Agraria

June 30 - July 2, 2025

CHAIRS

Silvio Salvi (University of Bologna)

Elisabetta Frascaroli (University of Bologna)

PRESENTATION

Plant breeding has been evolving dramatically in recent years, especially with the advent of genome editing tools and the integration of artificial intelligence, which are increasing selection precision, speed, and efficiency.

Progress is also being made in biodiversity analysis and use by reintroducing lost genetic traits and enhancing adaptability to changing and harsher environments.

This conference will bring together top experts from both academia and the private sector to address the major challenges of maize and sorghum breeding.





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MONDAY, JUNE 30

13:00 - 14:00 Registration of participants

14:00 - 14:30 Opening session and welcome addresses

Chairs: Silvio Salvi, Elisabetta Frascaroli

14:30 - 18:00 Genome editing for next generation breeding

14:30 **How to use CRISPR if you're a maize quantitative geneticist**
Rex Bernardo - University of Minnesota,
Saint Paul, USA

15:20 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***

16:00 *Coffee break*

16:30 **Genome editing: from potential to applications**
Hilde Nelissen - University of Ghent, Belgium

17:20 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***

18:00 Session close





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TUESDAY, JULY 1

09:00 - 13:00 Genetic and genomic approaches to address biotic and abiotic stresses

09:00 **Maize resistance to stem borers and to kernel contamination with fumonisins**
Ana Butrón - Consejo Superior de investigaciones Científicas, Spain

09:50 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***

10:50 *Coffee break*

11:20 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***

12:20 Discussion

13:00 *Lunch*

14:00 - 18:00 Phenomics for breeding: old and novel challenges

14:00 **The biology emerging from root phenotyping: Advances in Maize, Sorghum and Co.**
Alexander Bucksch University of Arizona, Tucson, USA



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- 14:50 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***
- 16:10 *Coffee break*
- 16:30 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***
- 20:00 Social Dinner

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

09:00 - 13:00 **Harnessing genetic diversity for maize and sorghum breeding - FIRST PART**

- 09:00 **Harnessing global diversity and predictive biology to accelerate sorghum breeding**
David Pot - CIRAD Agricultural Research for Development, Montpellier, France
- 09:50 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***
- 10:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:00 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***
- 13:00 *Lunch*

14:00 - 17:00 **Harnessing genetic diversity for maize and sorghum breeding - SECOND PART**

14:00 **Characterization of maize landraces to identify sources of diversity**
Stéphane Nicolas - INRAE, Gif sur Yvette, France

14:50 **Oral Communications - *to be selected***

16:00 General Discussion

17:00 Meeting close





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GENERAL INFORMATION

THE VENUE

Aula Magna – Facoltà di Agraria
Viale Giuseppe Fanin, 44-46
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