



ISPP Seed Pathology Committee

16 March 2021, 17:00-18:30 GMT+2

(zoom meeting)

Organizer: Gianfranco Romanazzi, ISPP Seed Pathology Committee Interim Chair

Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy

Agenda

1. Welcome to the participants
2. Remember of Terry Aveling
3. Composition of ISPP Seed Pathology Committee
4. Activities of ISPP Seed Pathology Committee
5. Communication of ISPP Seed Pathology Committee
6. Eventual other subjects

MINUTE OF THE MEETING

1. Welcome to the participants

The Chair thanks all participant for joining the meeting and welcome opens the work of the ISPP Seed Pathology Committee



Present:


- Quenton Kritzing
- Jose da Cruz Machado
- Lindsey du Toit
- Marie-Agnes Jacques
- Gary Munkvold
- Dorota Szopińska
- Shuxian Li
- Gerbert Hiddink
- Marwa Moumni

Excused:

Interim Chair Prof. Gianfranco Romanazzi, Marche Polytechnic University, Ancona, Italy

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- Guro Brodal
- Ron Walcott
- Casiana Vera Cruz
- Carlos Bolanos-Carriel

2. Remember of Terry Aveling

The Chair asks for a minute of silence to mark the profound sadness of the passing of our dear colleague, Prof. Theresa “Terry” Ann Shiela Aveling, Past Chair of ISPP Seed Pathology Committee. Also, each participant had a moment to express this tragic loss.

3. Composition of ISPP Seed Pathology Committee

The Chair show the list of members appearing on the ISPP Seed Pathology Committee website, and ask for changes to the list (inclusion of Ron Walcott, changes in details of all members and uniform the format). Moreover, he ask if the Committee think that other people can take contribution to the work joining it, and Marie-Agnes Jacques refer that a colleague, Valerie Valerie Grimault, may be interested to join the Committee, then she takes the duty to contact her and let know an eventual acceptance. Moreover, the Chair propose to have a Vice Chair and a Secretary. All members agreed on this opportunity, so Lindsey du Toit is elected Vice Chair and Marwa Moumni is elected Secretary.

4. Activities of ISPP Seed Pathology Committee

Each participant has the chance to present: i) Past activities on seedborne pathogens; ii) Current activities on seedborne pathogens; and iii) Recent papers on seedborne pathogens.



1. Gianfranco Romanazzi, Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, Marche Polytechnic University (UNIVPM), Ancona, Italy.

- **Past activities on seedborne pathogens:** some activities for onion crops in the project on strategies to monitor and manage infections of Onion downy mildew (*Peronospora destructor*). Cooperation with seed companies to test treatment for integrated pest management and organic agriculture.
- **Current activities on seedborne pathogens:** project on strategies for management of diseases of seed-bearing vegetable crops for integrated pest management and organic agriculture (CleanSeed): Field activities to test list of treatments for integrated pest management and organic agriculture. and to see their effect on seedborne fungi and seedborne bacteria on onion and cabbage.

2. Quenton Kritzinger, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

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He started presentation with the memories with Prof Theresa “Terry”: *“She introduced me in the field of fungi and seed pathology.... she was part of my life for 24 years...”*

He works with mycotoxin and biopesticide Research Group, and he works specifically on African indigenous crops, orphan crops.

- **Past activities on seedborne pathogens:** project on mycoflora and mycotoxins associated with cowpea seed. Also, he was involved in a project of dry bean, looking specifically in seed quality. Select indigenous plants as biocontrol agents against aflatoxin producing *Aspergillus* species.
- **Current activities on seedborne pathogens:** currently, he works in three projects: project of seed quality: Influence of environmental conditions and storage practices; project of InnoFoodAfrica–Improving farming practices and food diversity; and Project of fungal diversity of *Tylosema esculentum* and *Tylosema fassoglense* seed.

3. Jose da Cruz Machado, Department of Plant Pathology at Federal University of Lavras-UFLA, Brazil.

He started the presentation with the plan of the seed pathology unit. The laboratory is divided into teaching part, routine seed analysis, and molecular seed pathology lab. The main responsibilities of the seed pathology lab were: **i)** Teaching (focus on seed pathology); **ii)** Research lines on seed pathology (studies on interactions between tropical seed and fungi, development and improvement of seed health testing to detect potential candidates, and seed treatment); and **iii)** Extension services (running routine seed health testing, and collaboration with private companies to develop experimental projects on seed health and treatment).

4. Lindsey du Toit, Department of Plant Pathology at Washington State University, USA.



- **Activities on seedborne pathogens:** She is responsible for seed production in Washington state, exactly she worked in Northwest and the center of the state, as these are the important regions for vegetables seed production. She works on seedborne pathogen and crop diseases in onion, carrots, spinach, beets, and coriander. She works with seed growers and seed companies to produce seeds with high quality.

5. Gary Munkvold, Department of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, USA.

- **Activities on seedborne pathogens:** He works in seed science center and all of programs are available on the website: <https://www.seeds.iastate.edu/>. The National Seed Health System (NSHS) is a program authorized by USDA-APHIS and administered by the Iowa State University Seed Science Center <https://seedhealth.org/>. Also, he is Seed Technology and Business chair <https://www.seedgrad.iastate.edu/master-science-seed-technology-and->

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[business/](#). Finally, he invited the members to join us live free webinar April 05, 2021 for Seed Business Management <https://www.seedgrad.iastate.edu/webinar-series-sbm-apr21/>

6. Marie-Agnes Jacques, the French National Institute for Agronomical Research (INRA), France.

- **Activities on seedborne pathogens:** She is working in emergence, systematics, and ecology of plant-associated bacteria. She works in the project on identification of the driving forces leading to the emergence of plant diseases. Recently, she is working on *Clavibacter michiganensis* with colleagues in Uruguay and Iran, and also she works on *Pseudomonas syringae* seedborne disease of zucchini. The aims activities are on transmission of pathogenic bacteria by seeds and dynamics and role of the seed microbiome.

7. Dorota Szopińska, Department of Seed Science and Technology of the Poznań University of Life Sciences, Poland.

- **Activities on seedborne pathogens:** the activities focus on: seed quality of selected plants; the development of effective methods of seed quality enhancement; the establishment of optimal methods of seed health testing of selected species; aerobiological studies; and toxigenic properties of fungi from genus *Alternaria*. She works on seedborne pathogen of carrot; Brassicaceae; onion; zinnia; hemp; pea; bean; and sunflower.

8. Shuxian Li, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA, ARS), Crop Genetics Research Unit in Stoneville, Mississippi, USA.

- **Activities on seedborne pathogens:** the work focus on Soybean Phomopsis Seed Decay (PSD) caused by *Phomopsis longicolla*. She collaborates with team from University of Arkansas, University of Missouri, USDA, ARS, and Mississippi State University. They have identified 23 new sources of resistance to PSD and breeding for resistance.



9. Gerbert Hiddink, Enza Zaden Seed Operations BV, a Vegetable Breeding company, Netherlands.

- **Activities on seedborne pathogens:** He worked in the seed production for many different crops. For each crop he developed detection methods for seedborne pathogens, treatments, and investigated disease epidemiology. The activities focus on: seed sanitation; seed disinfection; field epidemiology; technical phytosanitary assistance. The research focus on Faster diagnostics: implement quick diagnostic tools in seed production and at breeding stations.

10. Marwa Moumni, Department Plant Protection, National Institute of Agronomy of Tunisia (INAT), Tunisia.

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- **Past activities on seedborne pathogens:** She worked on detection of seedborne fungi of muskmelon (*Cucumis melo*) and watermelon (*Citrullis lanatus*). Also, detection of mycotoxin produced by *Aspergillus* spp. in seeds of Caraway and Cumin.
- **Current activities on seedborne pathogens:** With the collaboration between Marche Polytechnic University, Italy and National Institute of Agronomical Research in Tunisia, she works on Detection and quantification of *Stagonosporopsis cucurbitacearum* in seeds of *Cucurbita maxima* using molecular tools and evaluation of different seed treatment against the main pathogens of cucurbits.

5. Communication of ISPP Seed Pathology Committee

Following the inputs coming from the discussion of members, the Chair propose a next meeting in which highlights the aims of the Committee and the activities that can be run in the near future. A discussion follows with the ideas from participants, then it is proposed to:



- organise next meeting on June 15, 2021 at 3 pm CEST+2 to open a discussion on the scope and the actions of the Committee
- organise webinar on innovations in seed health
- evaluate opportunities of cooperation with ISTA
- activate social media account (twitter, Instagram, Facebook)

6. Eventual other subjects

The Chair reminds that it is open a call for an Euphresco Project, Topic details: Infrastructure for sharing infested seed lots for test development and validation, and ask to the Committee member if can be of their own interest to join this call.

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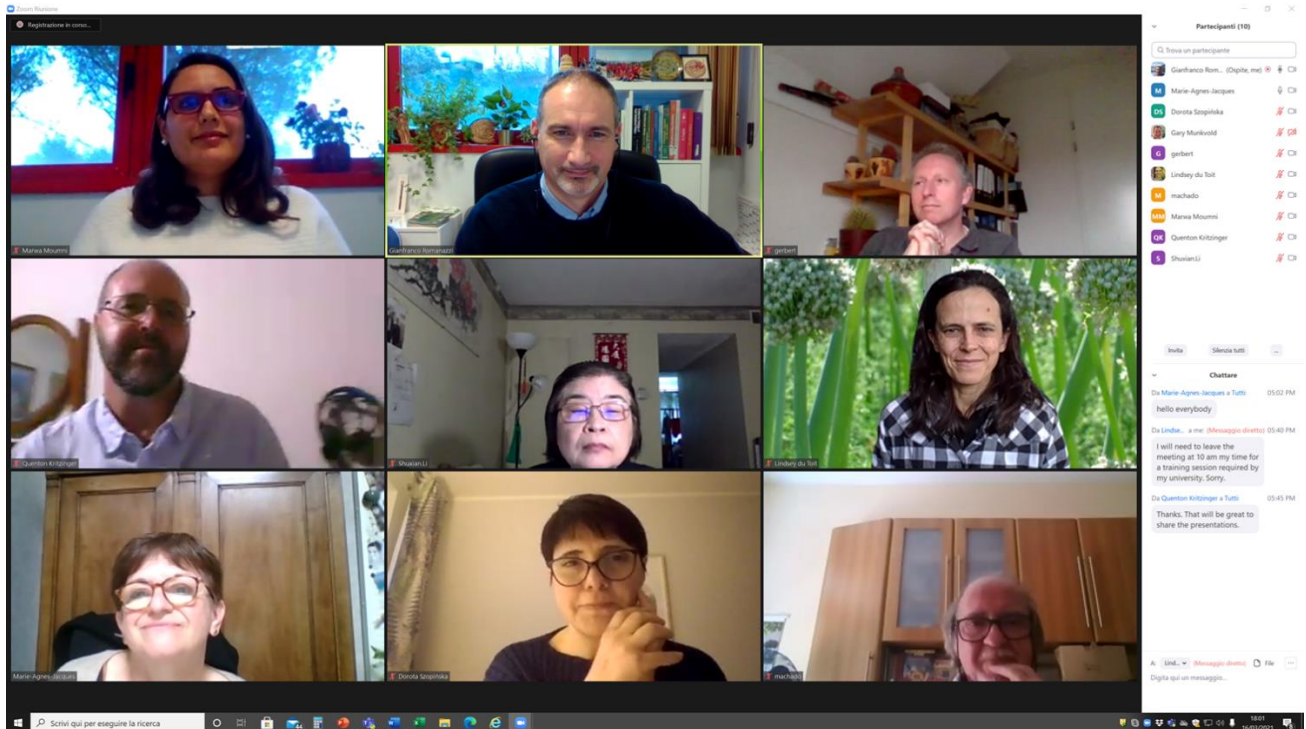
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Meeting is closed at 18.30 GMT+2

The Secretary
Marwa Moumni

The Interim Chair
Gianfranco Romanazzi

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