

# **International Society Horticultural Science (ISHS)**

## **Activities' Report - Year 2023**

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### **1. Introduction**

The year 2023 saw the continuation of activities in the field of horticultural science after ISHS held the International Horticultural Congress IHC 2022 Horticulture for a world in transition in Anger (France) in the previous year, in keeping with the four-yearly organisation of IHCs, whose inception dates back to 1959. Each congress was, and is, dedicated to a key topic in the Horticultural Sciences (fruit, vegetable, ornamental, medicinal etc.), emphasising the role of research, industry and policy in making changes in these production sectors meaningful and sustainable.

### **2. Main activities carried on by ISHS during 2023 relevant for Italy and for CNR**

Over the course of the year, there were numerous participations in various meetings, conventions, and meetings, also in view of the great commitment that our nation will be supporting in the 2026th IHC26 (International Horticultural Congress), scheduled to take place in Tokyo, with the theme 'Exploring the Diversity of Horticulture'. Biodiversity is in fact the 'jewel in the crown' of our country, which from the North to the South offers an enormous quantity of productive aptitudes, a unique basket of agricultural products whose denomination of origin and uniqueness are abundantly recognized. The sustainability of the production chain in the strategic sectors of agriculture, support for competitiveness and the development of advanced research, in addition to the increased opportunities for collaboration, are the most significant activities that were pursued by the national representation and the CNR. Numerous activities that took place during the year within the working groups must be considered relevant. Horticulture plays a fundamental role in providing people with food, health support and a contribution to climate change mitigation, the pitfalls of which it can also address through varietal choices and microclimatic protection. Reducing production losses and waste (now quantifiable at around 30%) and changes in eating habits can also contribute to reducing negative climate impacts.

### **3. Activities carried on by Italian Delegates within the Union during 2023 and impact on the Italian scientific community**

Delegates participated to the activities of Ambassadors of IHC, and attended online to several meetings, keeping in mind the opportunities to support Italian scientific communities in deeper getting into ISHS activities and find collaboration and cooperation.

### **4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost**

The evaluation of the ratio costs/benefits is very positive, also considering the focus of ISHS in supporting research, outreach and dissemination on topics directly related to food provision, well-being of citizen, boosting agro-food industry and related value chains.

### **5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement**

Extremely positive is the direct involvement of the CNR and, in general, the entire national community with which it has worked in constant agreement. ISHS has more than 100 Italian Members, including Chairs of Divisions, of Workgroups, Honorary members and Council Representatives. Interest and involvement is already very high, with close interactions in several areas.

### **6. Conclusions**

The scientific, networking, visibility and continuous modernization activities carried out by the ISHS deserve the full participation and attention of the Italian community and, specifically, of the CNR.

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