

A busy summer for INTENSE

Prof. Elena Maestri, University of Parma, Italy and Dr. Michel Mench, INRA, Bordeaux, France.

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The INTENSE partners have all established their field or greenhouse trials, and everybody is now waiting for the harvest. The drought and heatwaves in Southern Europe have not helped in the project work, but these extreme climate events are a reminder of the relevance of our research. Sustainability in agriculture must face the climate change and adapt, or be resilient. In the next weeks, the data from the different studies will start coming and partners will get even busier. The next project meeting is scheduled for October, in Parma, Italy.

The wait for data has not been idle, though. July was a month for conferences and the INTENSE project has been represented in two important occasions.

The 3rd “PARMA” NANO-DAY (<http://www2.bioscienze.unipr.it/nano-day/>) was held in Parma, Italy, on 12-14th July, in the facilities of the University of Parma. Our partners, Profs Nelson Marmiroli and Elena Maestri, have organized an international conference dedicated to nanotechnologies and nanosciences in all their possible applications, specifically focused on young scientists and researchers. Among the activities during the conference, on the afternoon of July 12, was a special Session dedicated to the illustration of research projects, addressing an audience of postdocs, PhD students and Master students. Our partner, Prof. Elena Maestri, delivered a presentation on the INTENSE project (check <http://tinyurl.com/y98vj2ec> for pictures of the event), describing how the project activities are in line with sustainable intensification of agriculture. Advantage of the most innovative technologies was important in the presentations, including precision agriculture, nanotechnologies and nanosensors. The discussion was lively and it served as an introduction to the half-day Session on “AgriFood” applications of nanotechnologies, which was held on July 14th. Stakeholders of the INTENSE project were present and were informed about the project activities.

The following week, from 16th to 20th July, INTENSE partners moved to Zurich, Switzerland, for the International Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements ICOBTE2017 (<http://icobte2017.ch/>). In that occasion the audience was made by scientists and researchers from the whole world, with many parallel sessions addressing the behavior, fate and management of trace elements, including their radioactive isotopes in the environment and examining issues such as: mobility and turnover, bioavailability, bioaccumulation, toxicity, crop quality, food safety, risk assessment and management, contaminated site remediation, and regulatory protocols. This offered plenty of possible interactions for the INTENSE partners, which were represented by Dr. Michel Mench, Dr. Lilian Marchand and Dr. Nadège Oustrière, INRA, Bordeaux, France, and Prof. Elena Maestri, University of Parma, Italy. The INTENSE project was also presented in a large and active Symposium on Phytomanagement (<http://icobte2017.ch/images/docs/ContamSoils.pdf>). The organizers represented different EU projects, like GREENLAND and PhytoSUDOE, to provide the audience with a clear view on the perspectives of agriculture on marginal soils and contaminated environments.

The next important event will be in Montreal, Canada: the INTENSE project will participate to the 14th International Phytotechnology Conference “New Sustainable Solutions for Environmental Challenges” (<http://www.ipc2017.org/>) from 25th to 29th September. You are all invited!

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Mench M, Oustrière N, Marchand L, Dellise M, Castagneyrol Jouveau S, Sæbø A, Persson T, Hanslin HM, Høglind M, Edvardsen ML, Sørrie H, Schröder P, Obermeier M, Szulc W, Rutkowska B, Vangronsveld J, Witters N, Beckers B, Rineau F, Daniels S, Millán R, Schmid T, Sierra MJ, Poschenrieder Ch, Marmiroli N, Maestri E, Reggiani R, López Gonzalez JA, Douay F 2017 Intensify production, transform biomass to energy and novel goods and protect soils in Europe (INTENSE). The **14th International Phytotechnologies Conference**, September 25-29, Montréal, Canada.