

Education & Training

Education:

1978-84 – University of Modena (Italy): Biological studies (Facoltà di Scienze Matematiche, Fisiche e Naturali, Laurea in Scienze Naturali) with Honours in Biochemistry, Botany and Plant Physiology. Graduation Thesis in Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology at the Institute of Botany.

1984-1991: Universität Göttingen (Germany): Junior Scientist at the Institut für Pflanzenpathologie und Pflanzenschutz, Faculty of Agriculture. Master Studies in Phytomedicine (Aufbaustudium Phytomedizin) and Doctoral Studies in Plant Pathology.

1991-2005: University of Bologna (Italy): Senior Scientific Officer and Reader at the Department of Agri-environmental Science and Technologies, Faculty of Agriculture.

From Sept. 2005: University of Modena & Reggio Emilia: Appointed as Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at the Faculty of Agriculture.

Training:

1. Statens Planteavlfsforsoeg, Lyngby (DK), April 1991. DNA hybridisation techniques.
2. Plantenziektenkundige Dienst, Wageningen (NL), November 1992. PCR for the diagnosis and identification of quarantinable pathogens.
3. Università di Bologna (I), Institute of Microbiology, June-July 1993. Development of monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies towards viral and bacterial pathogens
4. State Laboratory, Dublin (IRL), May 1994. Development and application of DNA probes for the diagnosis of bacterial plant pathogens.
5. Institut voor Plantenziekten Onderzoek, Wageningen (NL), February 2000. Fluorescent in situ hybridisation (FISH) and nucleic acid sequence-based amplification (NASBA) for the diagnosis of plant pathogens.
6. Central Science Laboratory, York (UK), May-June 2001. Techniques of m-RNA extraction from procaryotes and Multiplex PCR for the certification of plant material with latent infection.
7. Central Science Laboratory, York (UK), February 2002. Development and use of Microarrays to study gene expression in phytopathogenic bacteria and its regulation in the host-pathogen relationship.

Research Experience

Main research grants:

1. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture. Contract CT90-399008. Setting up of a method for the detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in symptomless grapevine propagation material.
2. Commission des Communautés Europeennes, Direction Général Agriculture. Contract 91/0210. Impact économique de la bacteriose du soja dans le conditions de cultures europeennes. Diagnostic et epidemiologie. (Economic impact of the bacterial blight of soybean under European cultural conditions)
3. Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Roma. Progetto RAISA (Ricerche Avanzate per Innovazioni del Sistema Agricolo): Il riconoscimento cellulare nel parassitismo. (Cellular recognition in parasitism)
4. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture. Contract 8001-CT91-0202. The development and application of nucleic acid probe technology for rapid and reliable detection and identification of quarantine bacteria.
5. Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Bilateral Programme Italy/USA: Crown gall of grapevine: significance of *Agrobacterium vitis* from native vines and studies on biological control mechanisms.
6. MiPA: Piano Nazionale per le Biotecnologie Vegetali: Tecniche innovative per la diagnosi rapida di batteri fitopatogeni. (Innovative techniques for the rapid diagnosis of phytopathogenic bacteria)
7. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture. Contract SMT4-CT97-2179. Community method for the detection and diagnosis of potato brown rot (*Pseudomonas solanacearum*).
8. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture. Contract QLRT-1999-01583. Induction of pathogen resistance in fruit trees by transiently altering the flavonoid metabolism with specific enzyme inhibitors.
9. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture. EU-COST Action 873: Bacterial diseases of Stone Fruits and Nuts. (www.cost873.ch).
10. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture. 7th Framework Programme, Contract: QBOL: Development of a new diagnostic tool using DNA barcoding to identify quarantine organisms in support of plant health. (www.qbol.nl).
11. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture. 7th Framework Programme, Contract:TESTA-Seed Health: Development of seed

testing methods, evidence for seed transmission and assessment of seed health. (www.seedtesta.eu).

12. Commission of the European Communities, Directorate General Agriculture, EU-COST Action FA1103: Endophytes in Agriculture and Biotechnology. (www.endophytes.eu)

Altro

International activity, Acknowledgements and Awards

Since 1991 Italian Delegate at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO), Paris.

1991-1994 World Trade Organisation (WTO). Italian Advisor for the GATT – Regulatory issues for the trade of plants and plant products under quarantine legislation.

Since 1994 Italian National Expert at the EU Phytosanitary Standing Committee, Brussels.

Since 2004 European Commission, Brussels. Short term expert for the Technical Assistance Information and Exchange (TAIEX) in the Balkans and in Turkey.

2004-2008 European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR). Short term expert for programmes related to the development and implementation of the National Phytosanitary Services of the Republic of Serbia and Kosovo.

Since 2007 Co-founder and Italian Member of the European Association of Phytobacteriologists.

Since 2007 European Food Safety Agency (EFSA), Parma, Italy. Ad-hoc Expert at the Plant Health Panel.

Since 2008 University of Modena & Reggio Emilia, Deputy Director of the University Centre for International Cooperation and Development (CUSCOS).

Prof. Stefani is Member of the Editorial Board of "Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection", Rostock, Germany and of "Petria", Journal of the Italian Association of Plant Pathologists, Rome, Italy. Referee for the following international journals: Plant Pathology, Journal of Plant Pathology, Phytopathologia Mediterranea, European Journal of Plant Pathology.