

> IHC2022: a lively Congress to reconnect with communities of horticulture and beyond

Experience the French “art de vivre” during IHC2022!

You all know about the next International Horticultural Congress to be held in Angers, France, on 14-20 August 2022 (www.ihc2022.org). However, you probably do not know yet how much horticulture in France is highly developed, diversified, and competitive. France is the third largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the European Union, behind Italy and Spain. All kinds of horticultural crops are present in France, from apple to banana, from artichoke to chayote, from lily of the valley to bird of paradise, and from lavender to vanilla, thanks to its temperate and tropical territories. This very diverse sector is dynamic, and can rely on numerous official signs and quality procedures, in food as well as in ornamentals or landscaping production. It is a great source of inspiration for French artists, whether chefs, dress makers, or painters: it is a cultural way of life, continuously studied and reinvented by scientists and professionals.

The host destination of IHC2022 is Angers, a human size city compared with the former hosts of IHC: Istanbul, Brisbane, Lisbon or Seoul. Located in the Loire Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, Angers is incontestably the French capital of horticulture, remarkable for its richness and diversity, from tradition to innovation and, from urban to nature. It is France’s greenest city and top for quality of life, combining a dynamic economy, and a preserved environment. The region has everything it takes to be a world attraction: nature, history, wines and fine gastronomy (Figure 1).

The diversity and the link research-education-industry will be at the core of the congress as well as at the heart of the city: the venue is organized around the botanical garden “Jardin des Plantes”, with the renovated Congress Center and the University of Angers, both served by the tramway. Moreover, the entire city will sound and vibrate under the topics of horticulture, with the support and technical touch of the Angers City Council.

A scientific programme with cross cutting topics

The organizers realize that IHC2022 will combine the tourist appeal of Angers and the region with the high quality of the presentations, scientific, professional, educational or emotional. In particular, a number of international invitees with various backgrounds will open each day of the congress with their views on the major issues of our time: climate change, the defense of biodiversity, the agro-ecological transition and the sustainability of food systems. The programme of the congress will proceed during the course of five days (Figure 2). Symposia and workshops occur each day in a preferentially on-site status, to stimulate exchanges and interactions, all that was missing during the pandemic, despite all kinds of virtual events. Half a day of a wide array of technical local tours are scheduled. Attendees will relax and benefit from the exceptional number of magnificent sites, well worth the visit.

The main scientific part of the congress is comprised of 25 symposia (Table 1), whose topics have been relevantly discussed and formulated thanks to the IHC2022 Scientific Committee, the ISHS Executive Committee (Division and Commission Chairs), and the respective conveners and scientific committees of each symposium. Each symposium is organized in sessions with keynotes, oral and e-poster presentations, and welcomes academic and applied communications. The topics will stimulate cross cutting exchanges between disciplines, crops and actors. In particular, issues such as climate change, and exchange of experience between South and North, shall be integrated into each symposium. The call for abstracts is open, you are already invited to submit your contributions (<https://www.ihc2022.org/submission-registration/abstract-submission/>)! A series of workshops will be offered to encourage dynamic exchanges between participants around stimulating questions (see examples at <https://www.ihc2022.org/scientific-program/workshops/>).



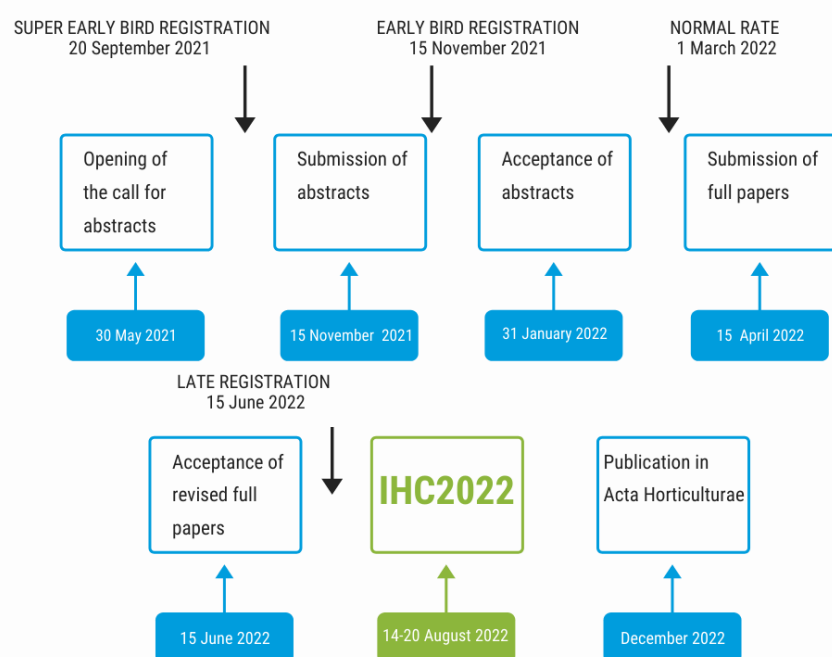
■ Figure 1. Corniche Angevine (©Sébastien Gaudard).

■ Table 1. IHC2022 symposia (see details at www.ihc2022.org/scientific-program/symposia).

Topics	Conveners
S1 - Breeding and Effective Use of Biotechnology and Molecular Tools in Horticultural Crops	Vincent Bus (New Zealand) Mathilde Causse (France)
S2 - Conservation and Sustainable Use of Horticultural Genetic Resources	Tiziana Ulian (UK) Raphaël Morillon (France)
S3 - Quality Seeds and Transplants for Horticultural Crops and Restorative Species	Daniel Leskovar (USA) Olivier Leprince (France)
S4 - In Vitro Technology and Micropropagated Plants	Sandra Correia (Portugal) Stefaan Werbrouck (Belgium)
S5 - Innovations in Ornamentals: from Breeding to Market	Johan Van Huylbroeck (Belgium) Fabrice Foucher (France)
S6 - Innovative Technologies and Production Strategies for Sustainable Controlled Environment Horticulture	Youssef Roupheal (Italy) Jean-Charles Michel (France)
S7 - II International Symposium on Greener Cities: Improving Ecosystem Services in a Climate-Changing World (GreenCities2022)	Vivian Loges (Brazil) Philippe Faucon (France)
S8 - Advances in Vertical Farming	Eri Hayashi (Japan) Leo Marcelis (The Netherlands)
S9 - Urban Horticulture for Sustainable Food Security (UrbanFood2022)	Kathrin Specht (Germany) Kevin Morel (France)
S10 - Value Adding and Innovation Management in the Horticultural Sector	David Neven (Italy) Syndhia Mathé (Cameroon)
S11 - Adaptation of Horticultural Plants to Abiotic Stresses	Fulai Liu (Denmark) Bénédicte Wenden (France)
S12 - Water: a Worldwide Challenge for Horticulture!	Brunella Morandi (Italy) Marcel Kuper (France)
S13 - Plant Nutrition, Fertilization, Soil Management	Lee Kalcsits (USA) Patrice Cannavo (France)
S14 - Sustainable Control of Pests and Diseases	Lucia Zappalà (Italy) Michel Peterschmitt (France)
S15 - Agroecology and System Approach for Sustainable and Resilient Horticultural Production	Maria Claudia Dussi (Argentina) Sylvaine Simon (France)
S16 - Innovative Perennial Crops Management	Sara Serra (USA) Pierre-Eric Lauri (France)
S17 - Integrative Approaches to Product Quality in Fruits and Vegetables	Alyson Mitchell (USA) Nadia Bertin (France)
S18 - III International Symposium on Mechanization, Precision Horticulture, and Robotics: Precision and Digital Horticulture in Field Environments	Sindhuja Sankaran (USA) David Rousseau (France)
S19 - Advances in Berry Crops	Susan McCallum (UK) Béatrice Denoyes (France)
S20 - The Vitivinicultural Sector: Which Tools to Face Current Challenges?	Ahmet Altindisli (Turkey) Benjamin Bois (France)
S21 - XII International Symposium on Banana: Celebrating Banana Organic Production	Walter Ocimati (Uganda) Thierry Lescot (France)
S22 - Natural Colorants from Plants	Riikka Räisänen (Finland) Anne de la Sayette (France)
S23 - Postharvest Technologies to Reduce Food Losses	Gustavo Teixeira (Brazil) Florence Charles (France)
S24 - IX International Symposium on Human Health Effects of Fruits and Vegetables (FAVHEALTH2022)	Kaleab Baye (Ethiopia) Marie-Jo Amiot-Carlin (France)
S25 - Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Domestication, Breeding, Cultivation and New Perspectives	Christoph Carlen (Switzerland) Guillaume Frémondère (France)



■ Figure 4. People behind the IHC2022 organization, with two key contacts for science and for sponsoring.



■ Figure 5. Key dates for the scientific production and registration to IHC2022.

Secondly, the congress will benefit from professionals who share their issues to the global scientific community. A challenge for scientists will be open in the fall. Professionals could share their problems on the website. A committee will guide the answers via a symposium, a dedicated workshop, a meeting, or a face-to-face meeting.

An attractive event for youth

With the aim of promoting stronger interaction between research, training and innovation before, during and after the IHC2022, several activities are proposed to i) involve students and young researchers in horticulture and enhance their scientific and professional skills within IHC2022, ii) promote training and pedagogical innovation in horticulture, and iii) enhance and promote IHC in training and educational institutions.

- The ISHS young minds programme will run in each symposium involving also those who have won national competitions with the exhibition of their achievements before and during IHC2022.
- The first international competition for recently graduated PhD students is inspired by the academic “Three-minute thesis” and will involve an international pre-selection of candidates from their national competition or selection.
- An original workshop on innovation in learning methods will specially focus on e-learning.
- Summer schools or research schools/workshops before or during the congress on the main themes of IHC2022 will be promoted.
- Networking between PhD and young scientists’ associations across the world

will be stimulated through BtoB meetings between students and scientists or professionals.

The main argument for attracting young people and encouraging the mixing of generations remains a proactive policy of accessible prices and accommodation: this is a priority set by the organizing committee, that invites all ISHS members to encourage students and young scientists and professionals to register and get their first international experience at IHC2022.

A high quality congress for science... and more

As the congress will be hosted and embedded in the heart of Angers, history, art, and gastronomy will always accompany the participants (Figure 3). Angers will look and sound like horticulture for a full week! The evening social programme will be plentiful and at walking distance, the excursion programme in the region will be attractive and diverse, and opportunities to combine science with tourism will be numerous, from the half-day technical tours to the pre- and post-congress tours in the Loire Valley, in Brittany, or even in Occitanie (south of France). The congress will be a relaxing interlude, reason for attending the place to taste wines, discover art exhibitions, develop friendships during cocktails at botanical sites and at a memorable gala dinner.

A dedicated team for you

The organising committee is made up of men and women of science and experience of public events. The members of the steering committee are each responsible for a specific committee gathering eminent experts in each field. Getting in touch with them is made easy through the generic email addresses (Figure 4).

One of the main challenges of the organizing team is to ensure a high participation level together with a smooth scientific submission process. A simplified road map with few key dates is set up, that offers opportunities of unbeatable registration fees (Figure 5). For a world in transition, let us show that horticulture is central, addressing most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Horticultural science is essential to adapt to and mitigate climate change, contribute to nutrition security and human health, and develop attractive and decent jobs in a sustainable and gender equitable environment. We look forward to meeting again and to welcoming all of you next year in Angers for a safe and unforgettable event! ●