



**The International Horticultural Congress (IHC2022),
a scientific congress designed for professionals.**

The IHC congress is the premium global event for R&D in plants. It will take place in Angers, in the heart of this leading French green city, from 14 to 20 August 2022. The International Horticultural Congress introduced its programme and offers to companies during the Fruit Logistica exhibition, **Hall 22 Booth F04.**

"In five months, the 31st edition of the International Horticultural Congress (IHC) will take place in Angers, after Lisbon, Brisbane and Istanbul," said Francois Laurens, an INRAE researcher and President of the IHC Congress, adding, "The objective of the IHC Congress is to facilitate cooperation and knowledge transfer in the specialised plant sectors. Four major issues guide the spirit of the congress: competitiveness and competence, food, health and citizen's well-being, sustainability of production systems and adaptation to climate change and mitigation of its impacts. Other important topics will be addressed such as plant breeding, biodiversity, connected agriculture and urban agriculture". The programme has been built from the 2,300 proposals received after the call for papers for the 25 symposia that will take place throughout the week. Nearly 2,500 participants from around 100 countries are expected. Teachers-researchers, engineers, students and companies will meet to discuss the major issues of interest to scientists and companies. The participants will discuss and draw inspiration from the latest technologies in order to develop precision agriculture and compare the more sustainable and agro-ecological production systems. Thanks to the latest knowledge in plant breeding and protection, they will be able to adapt their research programmes considering the impacts of climate change, the environmental issues and the conservation of biodiversity. They will study the optimisation of product promotion and quality to offer consumers a higher level of food safety and well-being in our green and sustainable cities.

To facilitate access to French and French-speaking professionals, some of the Wednesday and Thursday morning sessions will be translated into French. Three offer packages are proposed to professionals: the 6-day congress pass and 1-day passes. The committee also offers "Learning Expeditions", three-day themed study trips, including not only a selection of sessions but also visits and customised meetings with researchers and elected representatives. Two strategic topics pertaining to highly developed issues in the region are currently proposed: "Agriculture and plants in the city" . "With 25 symposia and 2,500 participants, it is necessary to get prepared for this type of congress," adds François Laurens. This is why the organising committee will help professionals to identify the sessions and researchers most in line with their needs or problems thanks to the "Challenges to scientists" online questionnaire.

The unique opportunity of this congress has been widely understood by the many professional associations, technical institutes and training centres which support and contribute to the event, both to encourage the participation of professionals and to promote French knowledge through oral presentations and technical visits. Many companies have also shown their interest by sponsoring or exhibiting at the congress, such as the leading company IN VIVO RETAIL, a Platinum Sponsor.

About IHC and ISHS:

The International Horticultural Congress (IHC) is organised under the aegis of the International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS), a worldwide network of 7,000 members. The purpose of this learned society is to promote and foster research and education in the field of specialised plant sciences and to facilitate cooperation and knowledge transfer on a global scale through events and publications. This 2022 edition, awarded to Angers during the Brisbane congress in 2014, is organised by Destination Angers, VEGEPOLYS VALLEY as well as INRAE, Institut Agro Angers-Rennes, Agrocampus Ouest, the University of Angers and CIRAD. The congress is financially supported by the city of Angers, Angers Loire Métropole and the Pays de La Loire Region.

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