

## Feature Issue: Tools for *Fusarium* mycotoxin reduction in food and feed chains

The fungal genus *Fusarium* includes many phytopathogenic species, which are capable of producing a wide range of mycotoxins. These are secondary metabolites with varied toxicity to mammals and plants. Several research groups devote their efforts to selecting tools for reduction of *Fusarium* mycotoxin damage, in the field and as natural contaminants of agro-food products. The use of prediction models for *Fusarium* mycotoxins in the field, early analyses and identification of the different *Fusarium* species and related mycotoxins in crops, alternative agronomic pathways, application of fungicides or biological control agents, the use of bacteria and their enzymes for mycotoxin degradation, are all well studied topics. Nevertheless, very significant areas of research are still required to find solutions for mycotoxin problems. Evidence exists that the climatic changes are influencing the contamination of *Fusarium* mycotoxins in new geo-

graphical areas and causing the emergence of new mycotoxin compounds.

This *Fusarium* mycotoxin “Feature issue” of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* publishes selected research featured at the 13th European *Fusarium* Seminar held in Martina Franca (TA), Italy, on May 10-14 2015. This meeting has become a traditional appointment for “fusariologists” of all the world, where experts in mycology, genetics, plant pathology, chemistry and toxicology debate the major problems posed by this intriguing fungal genus. We know that readers will find these papers interesting, as their authors present new knowledge on some of the most urgent issues resulting from the effects of *Fusarium* mycotoxins in the human and animal food and feed chains.

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