

General information	
Academic subject	I.C. Innovative and smart technologies in crop protection – <i>Smart technologies to manage plant pathogens</i>
Degree course	Master's degree in Innovation Development in Agrifood Systems (IDEAS) – Class: LM-69 Agriculture
Academic Year	1 <sup>st</sup> year
European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)	6
Language	English
Academic calendar (starting and ending date)	October 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 - January 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Attendance	Recommended but not mandatory

Professor/ Lecturer	
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Virtual headquarters	Microsoft Teams code: ix85cgi
Tutoring (time and day)	From Monday to Wednesday, 3.00 pm to 6.30 pm or in the morning following an established appointment requested to the teacher (by phone or e-mail).

Syllabus	
<b>Learning Objectives</b>	The course is aimed to provide knowledge, understanding and abilities for a smart and sustainable use of innovative technologies for crop and plant protection management, disease prediction models and web-based decision support systems (DSS). The students will be able to suggest new physical, chemical, biological, genetic control methods, possible application of biotechnology and nanotechnology in crop protection, sensor systems and novel smart solutions for plant disease management.
<b>Course prerequisites</b>	Basic knowledge on general biology
<b>Contents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the course and educational aims.</li> <li>• Potentiality of new products, tools, and strategies for integrated disease management.</li> <li>• New physical control methods for plant protection (i.e., microwave, UV and pulsed light, electrolyzed water, and cold plasma).</li> <li>• Development, introduction, and adoption of novel plant protection products, including natural or synthetic compounds, biological control agents and plant defence activators.</li> <li>• Disease prediction models and web-based decision support systems (DSS) for plant disease management.</li> <li>• Sensor systems and smart agri-robotic solutions for plant disease management.</li> <li>• Biotechnology and nanotechnology in crop protection.</li> <li>• Advanced techniques for pathogen identification and plant disease detection.</li> <li>• New methods for prevention and control of phytopathological emergences.</li> <li>• 'Multi-actor approach' concept and methodology for innovation in plant protection.</li> </ul>

<b>Books and bibliography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ul Haq I., Ijaz S. (2020) Plant Disease Management Strategies for Sustainable Agriculture through Traditional and Modern Approaches. Sustainability in Plant and Crop Protection, vol 13. Springer, Cham.</li> <li>• Oerke EC., Gerhards R., Menz G., Sikora R. (2010) Precision Crop Protection - the Challenge and Use of Heterogeneity. Springer, Dordrecht.</li> <li>• Capri E., Alix A. (2018) Sustainable Use of Chemicals in Agriculture. Academic Press.</li> <li>• Reddy, P.P. (2013) Recent advances in crop protection. Springer.</li> </ul> <p>Personal notes of the lectures and didactic materials distributed during the course.</p>
<b>Additional materials</b>	<p>Examples of websites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://croplife.org/crop-protection/innovation-in-crop-protection-products/">https://croplife.org/crop-protection/innovation-in-crop-protection-products/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://euplantcropp.eu/">https://euplantcropp.eu/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.fao.org/home/en/">http://www.fao.org/home/en/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.ecpa.eu/">http://www.ecpa.eu/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.apsnet.org/">http://www.apsnet.org/</a></li> </ul> <p>Further materials as research articles and websites will be provided on request.</p>

<b>Work schedule</b>			
Total	Lectures	Hands on (Laboratory, working groups, seminars, field trips)	Out-of-class study hours/ Self-study hours
<b>Hours</b>			
150	32	28	90
<b>ECTS</b>			
6	4	2	
<b>Teaching strategy</b>			
		Lectures supported by Power Point slides, web sites and multimedia. Laboratory classroom, working groups, case studies, and transferring of stakeholders' experiences. E-learning using the MS Team platform will be also used.	
<b>Expected learning outcomes</b>			
<b>Knowledge and understanding on:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Innovative and sustainable technologies for crop protection.</li> <li>○ Advanced methods for monitoring plant health and early detection of relevant pathogens in novel plant production and management systems.</li> <li>○ Advanced methods and tools for managing new epidemics or pandemics caused by phytopathogenic microorganisms.</li> <li>○ Knowledge to apply plant disease prediction models and manage decision support systems (DSS), and to analyse and interpret the data.</li> </ul>	
<b>Applying knowledge and understanding on:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Knowledge for proposing new safer and environmentally friendly solutions for plant protection management.</li> <li>○ Ability to identify and suggest appropriate methods for risk assessment and suitable management strategies for pathogens of interest.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Soft skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Making informed judgments and choices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to maximize efficiency of using new tools for crop protection in different and variable crop management systems to ensure yield, quality, safety, and security and minimize the environmental impact and risks for human health</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability of evaluating the benefits, risks, and negative side effects of the new technologies for plant disease management</li> <li>○ Ability to promote innovation in crop protection by interacting with the research, industry, and farmer communities.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Capacities of updating the knowledge on new approaches and innovative techniques for crop protection.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The results of the expected learning, in term of knowledge and ability, are listed in the Annex A of the Didactic Regulation of the Bachelor Course (expressed by the European descriptors of the study title).</p>
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<p><b>Assessment and feedback</b></p>	
<p>Methods of assessment</p>	<p>The students enrolled in the academic year during which this discipline is offered can have an intermediary exam during the teaching period of the discipline. The result of this intermediary exam remains valid for the whole academic year and concurs to the final evaluation of the student. The intermediary exam will be given on the subjects treated during the lessons and the practical activities up to the suspension of the teaching activity. The evaluation of the intermediary exam is expressed in thirtieths.</p> <p>At the end of the module teaching period, the students who passed positively the intermediary exam, can give the final exam concerning on the subjects treated during the lessons and the practical activities since the intermediary exam.</p> <p>Students who did not pass or give the intermediary exam will be examined on the whole subjects treated during the lessons and the practical activities as reported in the Didactic Regulation of the Master course (art. 9) and syllabus (annex A) and which is correlated to the actual teaching period.</p> <p>The intermediary and the final exams consist of an oral test in English concerning the topics developed during the theoretical and practice lessons. The examinations are public.</p>
<p>Evaluation criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to describe innovative and sustainable technologies for plant disease protection.</li> <li>○ Ability to describe advanced methods for monitoring plant health and early detection of plant disease and for prevention and control of phytopathological emergencies.</li> <li>○ Ability to describe disease prediction models and decision support systems (DSS) for plant disease management.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <i>Applying knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to define and propose innovative and sustainable protection strategies suitable for present and future crop production systems, by explaining</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>applications modes, associated benefits and risks also related to environmental factors and crop management activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to identify and propose tools and methods for risk assessment and management of relevant pathogens and to lead the search for innovative solutions for emerging issues in crop protection.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Autonomy of judgment</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to analyze and critically evaluate various and dynamic social and economic contexts and to transfer innovative technologies for plant disease management.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Communicating knowledge and understanding</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to explain and motivate the choices in the field of crop protection</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Communication skills</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to explain in exhaustive way, with appropriate words, the needs of production process management and the potentialities offered by technological innovations and to interact with various professional figures involved in crop protection</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Capacities to continue learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ability to apply acquired knowledge and skills for problem solving in various operative situations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Criteria for assessment and attribution of the final mark</p>	<p>The evaluation is expressed in thirtieths. The final exam is passed with a vote of at least 18/30. For students who were undergone the partial check, the final evaluation is expressed by the average of the votes obtained in the two oral tests. A <i>cum laude</i> may be added to the highest vote (30/30), as a special distinction. The evaluation of the student's attainment agrees with pre-established criteria, as detailed in Annex A of the Academic Regulations for the Agricultural Technologies and Science Degree Course</p>
<p><b>Additional information</b></p>	