

Ferdinando Branca

He is an experienced director of international research having led or participated pro-actively in different research projects especially about horticulture, germplasm and vegetables. He was declared PhD Doctor on "Crop Productivity of growing plants" in 1991 and has been associated professor of the University of Catania (UNICT) since 2010. He studied aspects related to diversification of vegetable production in terms of biology and adaptation, both in open field and in protected cultivation, of species widespread in other geographic regions, and of species neglected or underutilized, such as wild species utilized as food. He is current chair and Italian representative of the *Brassica* Working Group of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR). Since 2014, he acted as vice-chair of the Section "Vegetables, Roots, Tubers, Edible Bulbs, Brassica, Asparagus" of the International Society of Horticulture (ISHS) and became chair of the section in 2016. He is author of about 200 papers related to the exploitation of the wild and cultivated germplasm utilized as vegetable, medicinal and aromatic plants, in view to qualify and to innovate their production chains. Prof. Ferdinando Branca is the coordinator of the H2020 BRESOV project on Organic breeding recently approved by the EU Commission.

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