ISA NEWSLETTER N°10, April 2021

International Sunflower Association

Contents

Editorial

This is the 10th issue of the ISA Newsletter, started in September 2018. Since then, we try to show the very diverse activity and continuous flow in the world of sunflower research, innovation, and crop development: these innovation efforts contribute to build confidence to prepare sunflower crops to the evolutions, favourable or not.

Adapting to the evolutions of the context is not always easy, and sometimes needs some patience: we shall have to wait one year more to get the possibility to hold our main ISA traditional event, the Sunflower Conference, and the opportunity to meet and discuss in live.

It is a very frustrating situation for all, beginning with the Organization Team, mobilized since 2019, but we have to overcome this frustration, and all do our best to maintain links in this difficult and still unpredictable period. Thanks to volunteers of the ISA Board, 3 online events will be proposed in the next months, which will help us to wait for, and perhaps also to prepare, the next Sunflower Conference. This newsletter and the ISA website are also tools to maintain links: do not hesitate to use them to share information and initiatives: ISA may help.

Etienne Pilorgé, ISA Secretary

Activity and News of the association

20th International Sunflower Conference, postponed to 2022

Further development of the Covid situation cannot be foreseen for 2021, especially concerning the pace of vaccination campaigns in the different countries and the possibilities of international travels and large meetings.

Consequently, and considering that the International Sunflower Conference is a key moment, in the life of the sunflower community and ISA, that offers the extended possibilities of informal exchanges which are essential for all researchers and actors of the sunflower sector, the organization team and the ISA Board decided to postpone the conference once again, to 2022.

The new time for the conference is June 20th to June 23rd, 2022. The conference will be held in the same place, Master Center, in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Already-paid registration fees and hotel reservations will remain valid, and any individual requests on this issue will be handled by the supporting agency Panacomp.

Conference program and speakers will remain the same, with minor changes if needed. Already-received abstracts and papers remain valid and may be modified or replaced. We also invite everyone interested to continue submitting abstracts and papers.

Organization details on the conference website and at the end of this newsletter.

ISA Board Meeting on covid crisis: online seminars

The ISA Board held a special session on how to adapt to the lasting Covid crisis. The Board considered that postponing the conference was preferable to preserve this exceptional occasion of interpersonal contacts, but that maintaining structured exchanges on some key topics was also needed and made possible by using the internet technologies. Several initiatives from ISA Board members emerged on 3 topics, which can be considered as exploratory or as complementary and/or preparatory to further developments in the ISC. They are, by order of dates:

Webinar on sunflower genetic resources for breeding: germplasm evaluation and conservation, by Maria Duca. On June 15th, 2021, specific international sunflower session in the framework of the next XI congress of Moldavian Association of Geneticists and Breeders.

Workshop on climate change – resistance to drought, by Maria Joita-Pacureanu & Dumitru Manole, 19th-20th August 2021.

Webinar on sunflower pollinator interactions, by Nicolas Langlade and Olivier Catrice (LIPME INRAE Toulouse and in charge with a project on pollinator attractivity), early October 2021.

Detailed information will be given on the ISA website. Participation to these events will be upon registration, without participation fees.

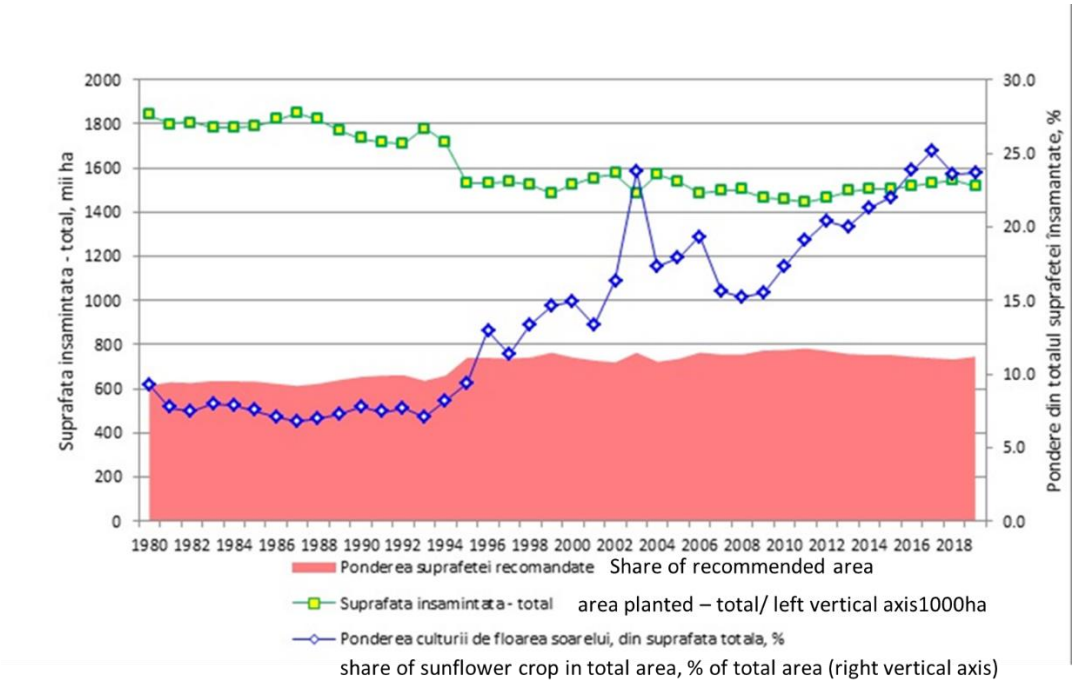
Value chains and regional news

Republic of Moldova: Can the current policy on sunflower cultivation be considered sustainable?

An article by Prof. Maria Duca describes the explosion of sunflower cultivation in the Republic of Moldova in recent years, reaching more than 20% of the cultivated area, overpassing Ukraine (17% and Romania (10%) and leading to question the sustainability of such a development.

https://timpul.md/articol/poate-fi-considerata-sustenabila-politica-actuala-privind-cultivarea-florii-soarelui-162233.html

This paper is in Romanian but can easily be translated through online software.



Pollination and pollinators

The Sunflower Magazine (US National Sunflower Association) reminds of the importance and value of pollinators to sunflower, shown by past works by USDA in Fargo region where wild native bees are dominant, and more recently with honeybees in Arizona where conditions are favorable to study the specific honeybees effect. https://www.sunflowernsa.com/magazine/articles/default.aspx?ArticleID=3949

Birds damage in sunflower, a well spread concern.

The Sunflower Magazine gave a series of papers in its issues of January 2021 and February 2021 (see: https://www.sunflowernsa.com/magazine/past-digital-issues/): “Blackbird researchers seek N.D growers input”, advertising for a new survey to help guide future studies, and “Tracking blackbird with radar”, “NDSU Team Studies UAS role in blackbird control” which deliver progress and results of ongoing studies about monitoring (with the last generation weather radars) and managing the blackbirds problems with UAV and repellents.

When problems in USA occur mainly at maturity and before harvesting, from blackbirds’ flocks, the concern in Europe occurs mainly during the crop establishment period, from miscellaneous species, among them pigeons and crows. The crops surveys regularly organized in France revealed that in 2019, 26% of the sunflower area experienced losses at emergence, according to farmers, with a higher rate than the average (21% per hectare) over the last five surveys (2009-2011-2013-2017 and 2019). Cool, dry conditions at emergence in April-May 2019 increased the risk of depredation. Birds are not the only predators: in 2019, the main causes cited by farmers, were “birds” with 67% of plots, rabbits (16%), slugs (11%) and wireworms (8%). 14% of the plots were partially reseeded because of this lack of emergence and only 2% were reseeded in their entirety. The risk linked to depredation should therefore be put into perspective, even if it is real. (see, in French: https://www.terresinovia.fr/-/tournesol-quelles-sont-les-pratiques-culturales)

More positively, The Sunflower Magazine also gave an article (January 2021) “For the birds – in a good way”, explaining that birds, when they do not help themselves, can make a very interesting market for sunflower producers…

Sunflower protein rich flour

The use of sunflower proteins for human food products is receiving increasing attention in the different regions of the world. A new example: The Sunflower Magazine reported in its December 2020 issue the introduction of a new partially defatted flour from sunflower seeds with 49% protein value, called: "Sustein ® "by Red River Commodities, USA. (https://www.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?m=28507&i=684174&p=4) . "Made from 100% edible sunflower kernels is non-GMO and top 8 allergen-free. Sustein has a mild flavor which is suitable for a wide variety of uses including bakery, confectionary, snack food, plant-based meat, seafood and dairy applications."

Detailed characteristics on http://redriv.com/suntein/suntein-flour/

Scientific news

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GENETICS AND BREEDING

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Coming international and national events

Postponed: 20-23 June 2022, 20th International Sunflower Conference, Novi Sad, Serbia.

https://isc2020.com/

Submission is open: https://isc2020.com/call-for-papers/
Abstract Submission Deadline: 10 December 2021
Paper Submission Deadline: 20 March 2022
We hope and believe that most of the participants, sponsors and exhibitors already registered will be able to adapt to the new date of the conference. Registration is still open.
Registration: https://isc2020.com/participation-fees/
Regular fee deadline 19 May 2022
On site fee from 20 May 2022
The conference website remains active, and all conference information will continue to be published there. https://isc2020.com/program/program-overview/

See you next year in Novi Sad!
20th ISC Organizing Committee

32nd Annual Meeting AAIC Association for the Advancement of Industrial Crops. Bologna, Italy.
www.aaic.org

We invite all the persons who read this newsletter to share information with the Sunflower community: let us know the scientific projects, events organized in your country, crops performances or any information of interest for sunflower R&D.

Contact ISA Newsletter:

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