

Biography of Prof. Alessandra Gentile



Prof. Alessandra Gentile is full professor of Fruitculture at the University of Catania (Italy) (since 2006), member of the Management Board, Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, Rome, Italy (since 2006) and Delegate of the Rector for Research at Catania University (since 2017). She was Deputy Commissioner of Council for Agricultural Research and Economics, Rome, Italy (2015-2016), Vice Rector of Catania University (2013 - 2016), "Shennong Scholar" Chair professor of Hunan Agricultural University Changsha, China (2012-2015), "Shennong Scholar" Chair professor of Hunan Agricultural University Changsha, China (2018-2023).

Gentile had been Director of Department of Horticulture and Food Technology of Catania University (2009-2010), and Vice-dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Catania, Italy (2004-2006). She earned a Ph.D. in "Productivity of cultivated plants" with a thesis on "Biotechnological approaches on genetic improvement of lemon for tolerance to mal secco" (1992). As scientist and expert, Prof. Gentile's main interest is genetic improvement of fruit tree by traditional and innovative methods (considerable expertise through biotechnological approaches). She has an extensive research experience in plant tissue culture, germplasm preservation and identification by molecular markers, and gene identification and isolation. Prof. Gentile is a referee for the evaluation of grant of high scientific interest of the MiUR, of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Directorate of Science and Technology, United Kingdom; and reviewer for international journal; component of editorial board of *Italus Hortus*.