



Healthy Plants • Healthy World

July 1, 2015

Giovanni Vannacci
President, SIPAV (Società Italiana di Patologia vegetalis)

Francesco Pennacchio
President, SEI (Società Entomologica Italiana)

Dear Giovanni Vannacci and Francesco Pennacchio,

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is a premier international scientific society of approximately 5000 members, including Italian plant pathologists, that promotes the discovery and dissemination of scientific information on plant diseases and their control in the United States and worldwide. This purpose includes the dissemination of relevant information needed to support and implement sound policies to manage and control diseases.

In order to protect critical agricultural resources worldwide, plant pathologists are committed to understanding, developing and validating effective management practices for plant diseases. This process is dependent upon fundamental principles derived from knowledge of the biology, epidemiology, and ecology of plant diseases.

The APS supports the implementation of sound scientific approaches developed by researchers to manage the recent outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* on olives in Italy. The current and future threat of *Xylella* will be assessed through the diligent examination by entomologists and pathologists in Italy, utilizing a scientific basis for multiple management strategies, including plant quarantines, to limit, retard, and prevent the unintentional spread of this pathogen. Researchers, who generate the scientific knowledge necessary to underpin policies developed by phytosanitary authorities, should be recognized for their contributions and applauded for their continued commitment to Italian agriculture and economy.

The recent American experience of addressing outbreaks of *X. fastidiosa* in grapevines in California has presented similar challenges to the U.S. plant pathology community and demonstrated to us the complexity of such situations. As part of the international community of plant pathologists, APS recognizes the need for additional research by our Italian colleagues to develop appropriate solutions to address and mitigate the devastating impact of this disease in Italy.

Sincerely,

Rick Bennett
APS President

The American
Phytopathological Society

3340 Pilot Knob Road
St. Paul, MN 55121-2097 USA

Phone: +1.651.454.7250

Fax: +1.651.454.0766

E-mail: aps@scisoc.org

Website: www.apsnet.org