

The Israeli Phytopathological Society

الجمعية الاسرائيلية لأمراض النباتات



העמותה הישראלית למחלות
צמחים

26th April, 2016

Prof. Giovanni Vannacci, President, SIPAV (Società Italiana di Patologia vegetalis)
Prof. Francesco Pennacchio, President, SEI (Società Entomologica Italiana)

Dear Prof. Vannacci and Prof. Pennacchio,

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, etiology and epidemiology of plant diseases.

The Israeli Phytopathological Society (IPS) promotes research and dissemination of scientific information on plant diseases in Israel and worldwide, for the management and control of diseases related to phytopathology. The IPS supports the implementation of sound scientific approaches developed by Italian researchers to manage the recent outbreak of *Xylella fastidiosa* on olives, a serious disease affecting the wealth of the Italian and Mediterranean agriculture, environment and landscape. The current and future threat of *Xylella* will be assessed through the diligent examination by pathologists and entomologists in Italy, utilizing a scientific basis for multiple management strategies, including plant quarantines, to limit, restrict, and prevent the unintentional spread of this pathogen. Researchers, who generate the scientific knowledge necessary to support policies developed by phytosanitary authorities, should be recognized for their contributions and applauded for their continued commitment to Italian agriculture and related economy.

As part of the international community of plant pathologists, the IPS 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 to the benefit of agriculture, and possible implications of spread to other areas in Italy, and elsewhere in the region.

Sincerely

Dr. Stanley Freeman, President; on behalf of members of the Israeli Phytopathological Society