



International Field Trips to Vegetable Grafting Nurseries 2016 Trip to Sicily, Italy March 22-26, 2016

USDA SCRI Vegetable Grafting Technology Working Group presents opportunities primarily for those who are interested in grafting in US industries and US academia to visit selected nurseries to learn about commercial vegetable grafting worldwide. Dr. Chieri Kubota (University of Arizona), Dr. Carol Miles (Washington State University), and Dr. Xin Zhao (University of Florida) have organized these trips together with on-site local hosts.

In 2016, we will visit **Sicily, Italy** for **March 22-26** (March 21-26 including US departure date). We will see the largest commercial grafting operation in Italy as well as growers' fields using grafted tomato and melon plants. Sicily is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea, and we will be visiting Catania, Ragusa as well as Siracusa provinces (East and Southeastern Sicily).

Registration fees and logistics:

The estimated cost per person is **US\$620 for double occupancy and US\$830 for single occupancy**, which include 4-night hotel rooms, lunches on travel days, one group dinner as well as arranged transportation (tour bus). **You will need to arrange your own international travel and necessary visa (costs not included in the estimates provided here)**. Attendees should arrange their air travel to arrive at Catania Fontanarossa Airport (CTA) to check in the designated hotel in Catania on Tuesday, March 22 (see the itinerary).

The costs are based on 20 participants and will be adjusted slightly if minimum capacity is not met or if there is a sudden currency rate change. The trip is subject to change and may be cancelled if minimum capacity is not met. **Limited seats are available and so early registration is strongly recommended.**

Please **Register by December 20, 2015** if you are interested in signing up for this grafting tour, and you will receive invoice with payment information from University of Arizona. **To register, go to** <http://goo.gl/forms/4MM2YStvRM>



Locations to visit:

- 1) Centro Seia Nursery – Centro Seia is located in Ragusa and is a leading company that sells quality seedlings. Annual seedling production is about 60 million plants, out of which 20 million plants are grafted including tomato, pepper, eggplant, melon, watermelon, and cucumber. Website: <http://www.centroseia.it/english/index.htm>.
- 2) University of Catania – At DISPA (Department of Agricultural and Food Science), Prof. Cherubino Leonardi, a leading scientist of vegetable grafting, will give us an introduction to vegetable production and grafting use in Italy.
- 3) Seed company field trials in Donnafugata area.
- 4) Tomato and melon growers in Pachino, Vittoria, and Licata.

Itinerary:

Date	Activity	Comments
Day 1 (3/22, Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arrive in Catania-Fontanarossa International Airport (CTA)• Check in at hotel in Catania (Hotel NH Catania Centro)• Dinner on your own	Participants need to arrange their own airline tickets. There will be a pre-arranged tour bus for transporting arriving participants from the airport to the hotel (one trip only, departure time TBA). It is about 20 min by car from the airport to the hotel. Wikitravel guide for Catania: http://wikitravel.org/en/Catania
Day 2 (3/23, Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast at the hotel• TBA – Meet up in the hotel lobby & depart by bus• 9AM-11AM – Visit University of Catania Presentation by Prof. Cherubino Leonardi (Sicilian Horticulture and Grafting)• 11AM – Tour bus to Pachino• Lunch in a restaurant in Pachino• PM – Visit melon growers in Pachino area• Travel to Ragusa• TBA – Check in at hotel in Ragusa (Hotel Mediterraneo Palace)• Possible visit of the old city of Ragusa Ibla (depending on the arrival time)• Dinner on your own	University of Catania: http://www.unict.it/en/ Wikitravel guide for Ragusa: http://wikitravel.org/en/Ragusa
Day 3 (3/24, Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breakfast at the hotel• TBA – Depart by tour bus• AM – Visit Centro Seia Nursery	Centro Seia: http://www.centroseia.it

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour facilities and visit various stages of grafted plant production • Discussion • Lunch in a restaurant in Donnafugata • PM – Visit seed companies trials • Group dinner at Planeta Wine House in Ragusa, sponsored by Centro Seia • TBA – Travel back to the hotel 	
Day 4 (3/25, Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel and check out of hotel • TBA – Depart by tour bus • AM – Visit tomato growers in Vittoria area • Travel to Licata • Lunch in a restaurant in Gela • PM – Visit growers in Licata area • Travel to Catania • Check in at hotel in Catania (NH Parco Degli Aragonesi) • Dinner on your own 	
Day 5 (3/26, Sat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast at the hotel and check out • Leaving Italy to go home 	<p>There will be a pre-arranged tour bus for transporting participants from the hotel to the airport (one trip only, departure time TBA).</p> <p>It is about 10 min by car from the hotel to the airport.</p>

Contact person for questions:

Chieri Kubota
School of Plant Sciences
The University of Arizona
ckubota@email.arizona.edu
Phone: 520-626-8833

Local host

Giovanna Causarano
R&D Manager
Centro SEIA
Contrada Piombo, 9700 Ragusa