

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Paolo Merante



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Sex: Male | Date of birth: 26/06/1967 | Nationality: Italian

### EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- January 2008 – Dec. 2011 **PhD in Agro-ecosystem sustainability**  
Defence on 12 March 2012 Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences (DIPSA) of Florence University (IT).  
Dissertation: Combining the Sustainable Value approach with farm-level modelling to assess the corporate contribution to sustainability in the agricultural sector.
- Assessment of environmental sustainability at farm level
  - Farming systems modelling
- March 2005 **Degree in Agricultural Sciences**  
Five degree awarded with honors  
Mediterranea University, Reggio Calabria (IT).  
Dissertation: Grafting of vegetable seedlings in the Netherlands. Technical aspects and financial analysis of manual and semi-automated grafting.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

- May 2019 - present **Researcher- Postdoc position**  
Department of Crop Science – DNPW, Division of Tropical Plant Production and Agricultural Systems Modelling (TROPAGS), Georg-August-Universität Göttingen.
- July 2017 - April 2019 **Research fellow**  
Department of Agrifood and Environmental Sciences (DISPAA), Florence University and National Research Council, Institute of Biometeorology CNR-IBIMET, Florence, Italy.
- Coordination of the Project's Work Package "Dissemination and Outreach" (Clim4Vitis)
  - Coordination of the research unit (Adapt2Clima project).
  - Crop modelling: calibration and application of CropSyst model (Projects: AgMIP potato, Adapt2Clima, Clim4Vitis).
  - Contributing to the development of a Decision Support Tool for adaptation planning in agriculture (Adapt2Clima project).
  - Crop vulnerability assessment under Climate Change effects (Adapt2Clima project).
  - Assessment of the environmental sustainability of olive farming systems; designing a framework for indicators selection (Olive Miracle project).
  - Projects implementation.
- January 2013 - June 2017 **Research fellow**  
Department of Agrifood and Environmental Sciences (DISPAA), School of Agriculture, Florence University (IT)
- Crop modelling: calibration and application of CropSyst model (Projects: AgMIP potato,

ICFAR).

- Assessment of the environmental sustainability of dairy farms; definition of a farm practices protocol in compliance with ISO 26000 (CASET project).
- Research on soil carbon storage, soil organic matter and conservation agriculture (SmartSOIL project).
- Co-coordination of the research unit.
- Projects implementation.

April 2012 - Sept. 2012

**Research fellow**

Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences (DIPSA) of Florence University (IT)

- Investigation amongst stakeholders on the development and use of decision supporting tools about soil protection and soil carbon storage (SmartSOIL project).

October 2010 – Sept. 2011

**Research assistant**

National Institute for Agricultural Economics - INEA, Rome

Research and consultancy for the Department for quality and food fraud repression of the Italian Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies.

- Research on control systems for foodstuffs, normative analysis of food chains, control and vigilance system for organic products, market analysis of foodstuffs.

July 2005 – Sept. 2010

**Research assistant**

Department of Plant, Soil and Environmental Sciences (DIPSA) of Florence University (IT)

- Research on Sustainability in the agricultural sector (concepts and frameworks), Biodiversity and Farming systems.
- Environmental sustainability assessment at farm level.
- Modelling of environmental farm performances.
- Research on Environmental Management Systems.
- Coordinator of the Sustainable Development Working Group (within a Transnational Programme).
- Co-coordination of the research unit (Projects: SVAPPAS, FloViTur).

**Teaching experiences**

2010 - Present

**Lecturer for graduate and undergraduate students**

At the:

- University of Florence, School of Agriculture.
- Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare - IAO, Italian Foreign Ministry; MSc Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development.
  - Topics: Crop Simulation Model; Introduction and application of the CropSyst model

At the:

- University of Gastronomic Sciences Bra (Cn), Italy; MSc Food Culture and Communications - Human Ecology and Sustainability.
  - Topics: Sustainability Principles and Sustainability Assessment in the agricultural sector (frameworks and indicators).

2005 - 2010

**Lecturer in vocational training courses for farmers, technicians and public servants**

- Workers' organizations, Regional Development Agency, Agencies for training and dissemination in the agro-food and environmental sector.
  - Topics: Environmental certification, Environmental Management Systems, EMAS (EU Reg.), ISO 14001, Organic farming system (EU Reg.), Agenda 21.

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s)	Italian				
Other languages	<b>UNDERSTANDING</b>		<b>SPEAKING</b>		<b>WRITING</b>
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	B2	C1	B2	C1	C1

- Communication skills
- Good communication skills gained by:
    - giving lectures to different type of audiences (students, farmers, technicians and public servants);
    - interviewing stakeholders and conducting, together with my research unit, stakeholder workshops;
    - working in large international networks of people with different expertise from various institutions;
    - in the field of sport, coaching a women's five-a-side soccer team.

- Organisational / managerial skills
- Good organisational skills acquired as:
    - coordinator of my research unit and coordinator of an international working group;
    - responsible for developing and delivering specific documents (deliverables, milestones and manuscripts) within fixed deadlines,;
    - co-organizer of project meetings and stakeholders workshops;
    - responsible for production and sale of an industrial animal production.

- Computer skills
- Proficient in Excel, Word and Power Point
  - Cropping Systems Simulation Model - CropSyst, versions 3 and 4.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Editorial activity
- Editorial board member, AIMS Agriculture and Food Journal (Open access)
  - Reviewer: Biomass and Bioenergy Journal; Agricultural Systems Journal; PLOS ONE Journal
  - Guest editor, Agronomy Journal; Special issue "Effects of Agriculture Practices on Dynamics of Soil C and N under current and future climate"
- Driving licence A, B

***Project Acronyms and Denominations*** (in alphabetical order)

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Adapt2Clima: “Adaptation to Climate change Impacts on the Mediterranean islands’ Agriculture – EU LIFE Programme.

AGMip potato: “Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project - Potato Pilot”.

CASET : “Agro-environmental, socio-economic and territorial characterization of the Mugello milk” - Tuscany Rural Development Plan, 2007-2013.

Clim4Vitis Climate change impact mitigation for European viticulture: knowledge transfer for an integrated approach’ - H2020 WIDESPREAD-05-2017 – Twinning

FloViTur: “Sustainable and integrated rural development” - EQUAL-EU Programme.

IC-FAR : “Linking Long Term Observatories with Crop Systems Modeling for a better understanding of Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Strategies for Italian Cropping Systems” – PRIN Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

OliveMiracle: “ModellIng solutions for improved and Resilient mAnagement strategies for Olive tree against future CLimatE change” FACCE SURPLUS.

SmartSOIL: “Sustainable farm Management Aimed at Reducing Threats to Soils under climate change” – 7th Framework Programme EU.

SVAPPAS: “Sustainable Value Approach of Policies and Performances in Agriculture” - STREP project 6th Framework Programme EU.