

Foreword

Both selection and preservation of the genetic patrimony of grapevine are fundamental for the establishment of sustainable and high quality viticulture. In fact, starting back in 1968 Europe regulated the production and marketing of grapevine propagation material (68/93EEC). This legislation required that adequate structures be set up able to manage "basic" material to be transferred into production as "certified" material through nurseries. In Italy this sort of structure exists with the centers for premultiplication of grapevine material and one of their primary roles is to preserve, spread and guarantee the germplasm for this important plant.

At a distance of 45 years from that first European legislation and 10 years from the founding of the Associazione Toscana Costitutori Viticoli (TOS.CO.VIT.), the premultiplication center in Tuscany, a study day has been organized entitled I Nuclei di premoltiplicazione e altri interventi per la qualificazione del materiale di propagazione viticolo in Italia (Premultiplication centers and other approaches to qualify grapevine propagation material in Italy). This occasion has made it possible to define the framework of some important realities in this sector through consideration of Tuscan experiences and others taking place in Italy to select and preserve grapevine germplasm, as well as discuss recent solutions to identify and protect it.

The event, held in Crespina (Pisa, Italy) on 15 November 2013, was attended by both private and public scholars and operators in the field and their contributions are collected in the following section.

Prof. Enrico Triolo