



# RETHINKING PLANT SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE

International Conference  
of the Slovenian Society of Plant Biology

17-18 September 2026, Maribor, Slovenia

| Thursday 17.09.2026                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Friday 18.09.2026                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08.30-10.00                                               | <b>Registration and Welcome Coffee<br/>Poster Mounting</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Session 3: Microbes as plant's friends</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 8.30-9.00                                                        | INV-4: Zajc Žunič J.: From emerging threats to biological solutions: Rethinking the role of fungi in plant health                                                                |
|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 9.00-9.15                                                        | OP-9: Vozelj A.: Understanding harmful and beneficial plant interactions through the study of harmful Potato virus Y and beneficial endophytic <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> isolate |
|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 9.15-9.30                                                        | OP-10: Fink K.: Visualizing fast calcium response during beneficial microbe interactions in potato                                                                               |
|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 9.30-9.45                                                        | OP-11: Maček I.: Drivers of arbuscular mycorrhizal communities in plant roots: from community composition to specific taxa                                                       |
|                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 9.45-10.00                                                       | OP-12: Molnar Z.: Application of chitosan and cyanobacterial biomass in agriculture for improving cereal crop productivity                                                       |
| 10.00-10.30                                               | <b>Welcome Address</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 10.00-11.00                                                      | <b>Coffee Break and Poster Viewing</b>                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Session 1: Plant-associated microbiomes</b>            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Session 4: New methods in studying plants</b>                 |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10.30-11.00                                               | INV-1: Šibanc N.: Forest trees as holobionts in a stress-prone Karst landscape: drought, fire and host identity shape fungal resilience                                                                                                                        | 11.00-11.30                                                      | INV-5: Križnik M.: Unraveling potato immune signaling in response to potato virus Y using spatially resolved small RNA and transcriptomic profiling                              |
| 11.00-11.30                                               | INV-2: Stopnišek N.: The microbiome as a plant trait: from cataloguing to steering plant-microbe systems                                                                                                                                                       | 11.30-11.45                                                      | OP-13: Godec T.: Integrating chromatin accessibility and transcriptomics to dissect potato responses to climate stress                                                           |
| 11.30-11.45                                               | OP-1: Stražar M.: Characterisation of potato microbiota for design of successful potatobiome communities                                                                                                                                                       | 11.45-12.00                                                      | OP-14: Nolte N.: LongPolyASE: A framework for allele-specific gene and isoform analysis in polyploid plants using long-read RNA-seq                                              |
| 11.45-12.00                                               | OP-2: Vogrinec L.: Spatiotemporal dynamics of plant viruses across wastewater, river, and wild vegetation                                                                                                                                                      | 12.00-12.15                                                      | OP-15: Kladnik A.: How to look closer at plants?                                                                                                                                 |
| 12.00-12.15                                               | OP-3: Pelko T.: Contrasting effects of biodegradable PBAT and polyethylene microplastics on sunflower root-associated soil microbiomes                                                                                                                         | 12.15-12.30                                                      | OP-16: Režonja B.: Mineral element atlas of six underutilised dicot seeds revealed by high-content ion microscopy                                                                |
| 12.15-12.30                                               | OP-4: Mravlje J.: Intergenerational restructuring of the buckwheat grain microbiome following cold plasma seed treatment under field conditions                                                                                                                | 12.30-13.30                                                      | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 12.30-13.30                                               | <b>Lunch</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Session 5: Plants are not alone: Ecology and conservation</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Session 2: Understanding plant pathogens and pests</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 13.30-14.00                                                      | INV-6: Fišer Ž.: Beyond the plant: Rethinking plant conservation through ecological interactions                                                                                 |
| 13.30-14.00                                               | INV-3: Štajner N.: Small RNAs in plant immunity: Insights from plant-pathogen and plant-virus interactions                                                                                                                                                     | 14.00-14.15                                                      | OP-17: Bočaj V.: Evolutionary co-adaptation and functional architecture of the <i>Noccaea praecox</i> root-associated microbiome                                                 |
| 14.00-14.15                                               | OP-5: Luskar L.: Association mapping of Verticillium wilt response in hop ( <i>Humulus lupulus</i> L.) using a phased reference genome to support resistance breeding                                                                                          | 14.15-14.30                                                      | OP-18: Ambrožič Dolinšek J.: Water extracts from cereal weed corn cockle ( <i>Agrostemma githago</i> ) showed plant growth regulator efficiency                                  |
| 14.15-14.30                                               | OP-6: Lešnik M.: Assessment of the possibility of mitigating the disease severity and reducing the incidence of grapevine infections with phytoplasma causing Flavescence dorée disease by treating vines with the endophytic bacterium <i>P. phytofirmans</i> | 14.30-14.45                                                      | OP-19: Urbanek Krajnc A.: Mulberry germplasm diversity as a foundation for European sericulture, biodiversity conservation and cultural landscapes                               |
| 14.30-14.45                                               | OP-7: Strah R.: Subcellular localisation of SAP11-like and SAP54-like effector proteins from 'Candidatus Phytoplasma solani'                                                                                                                                   | 14.45-15.00                                                      | <b>Concluding Remarks</b>                                                                                                                                                        |
| 14.45-15.00                                               | OP-8: Levak V.: Gene expression during potato leaf response to wounding is determined through interaction between jasmonic acid and salicylic acid signalling                                                                                                  |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 15.00-16.00                                               | <b>Coffee Break and Poster Viewing</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 16.00-18.00                                               | <b>Rethinking Plant Systems for the Future<br/>(discussions in breakout rooms)</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 19.00-                                                    | <b>Conference Dinner</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                  |