



RETHINKING PLANT SYSTEMS FOR THE FUTURE

International Conference

of the Slovenian Society of Plant Biology

17-18 September 2026, Maribor, Slovenia

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday 17.09.2026		Friday 18.09.2026	
08.30-10.00	Registration and Welcome Coffee Poster Mounting	Session 3: Microbes as plant's friends (chair: Nejc Stopnišek)	
		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	Welcome Address	10.00-11.00	Coffee Break and Poster Viewing
Session 1: Plant-associated microbiomes (chair: Špela Baeblér)		Session 4: New methods in studying plants (chair: Živa Fišer)	
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: Strah R.: Subcellular localisation of SAP11-like and SAP54-like effector proteins from 'Candidatus <i>Phytoplasma solani</i> '
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	Lunch
12.30-13.30	Lunch	Session 5: Plants are not alone: Ecology and conservation (chair: Nataša Šibanc)	
Session 2: Understanding plant pathogens and pests (chair: Maja Križnik)		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>Noccea 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: Nolte N.: LongPolyASE: A framework for allele-specific gene and isoform analysis in polyploid plants using long-read RNA-seq	14.45-15.00	Concluding Remarks
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	Coffee Break and Poster Viewing		
16.00-18.00	Rethinking Plant Systems for the Future (discussions in breakout rooms)		
20.00-	Conference Dinner		