

***„Plant security and food safety: Microbiology, Soil Science,  
Food Quality and Agricultural Genetics”  
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**I. Plant-microbial interactions in agriculture and ecosystem management**

**Session Chair:**

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Microorganisms are a key component of soils and plants, and determine the proper performance of agricultural systems. Understanding the interactions between plants and microbes has implications for developing new agricultural microbial products, the discovering new and more effective uses of microbes to increase crop yield and creating alternatives to artificial fertilizers. Understanding the ecology and function of microbiomes of different environments is crucial for maintaining existing microbial communities and for facilitating the development of new microbial products. The microbiome benefits the plant host through increased productivity, enhances fitness and stress tolerance and aids in the management and control of plant pathogens and pests.

