

Sustainable viticulture with rhizobacteria

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Chiara Tezza is the winner of the second prize of the first edition of the AgriFood Future Award, in the Non-Agricultural category. The student from the University of Verona was awarded for her work on the molecular identification of the cultivable grapevine microbiota and the search for rhizobacteria with plant growth-promoting activity.

The award was presented on May 9th in Salerno during Agrifood Future Research, a moment of in-depth exploration connected to the national AgriFood Future event promoted by Unioncamere in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce of Salerno. In just two editions, this event has become one of the main forums for discussing the future of agri-food systems.

The AgriFood Future event, under the scientific direction of Professor Alex Giordano, in 2024 and 2025, launched a series of meetings among companies, institutions, and trade associations to foster dialogue among technology, communities, and food production based on the concept of FoodSystem 5.0. A concrete stimulus to ensure that it is not innovations that guide our future, but rather that technological solutions guarantee sustainable development from an environmental, social, and economic perspective.

With the AgriFood Future Award, the aim was to provide further encouragement by awarding, in collaboration with Image Line, those research works capable of proposing innovations aimed at bridging the gap between scientific production and the needs of the agri-food system. Concrete studies that tackle problems and propose solutions that can be implemented by the industry.

Tezza's work, titled "Molecular identification of the cultivable grapevine microbiota and search for rhizobacteria with plant growth-promoting activity," earned her second place in the Non-Agricultural category for making an important contribution in developing a more environmentally respectful biological approach to ensure plant health and productivity, and for having developed strategies to cope with abiotic and biotic stresses by exploiting the potential of soil microorganisms, including rhizobacteria, that promote plant growth.

Problems Addressed

- Dependence on chemical fertilizers and environmentally harmful pesticides.
- Emergence of resistance in pathogens to conventional phytosanitary products.
- Need for more sustainable solutions for vine protection and growth.

Proposed Solutions

- Identification of PGPR (Plant Growth-Promoting Rhizobacteria) isolated from the grapevine rhizosphere.
- Inhibition tests of pathogen growth such as *Botrytis cinerea*.
- Development of biological control strategies with native bacteria.

Target Companies

- Wineries and wine producers focused on sustainability.
- Companies producing biostimulants and products for organic agriculture.
- Research institutions in microbiology and agricultural biotechnology.

To learn more about Chiara Tezza's work, visit Agronotizie.

Fonte: <https://www.ruralhack.org/en/sustainable-viticulture-with-rhizobacteria/>