



## ISA NEWSLETTER N°8, July 2020

### International Sunflower Association

#### Contents

Editorial .....	2
Activity and News of the association .....	2
<b>ISA New logo</b> .....	2
<b>ISA Board Meeting</b> .....	2
<b>New sponsor</b> .....	3
<b>ISA launched its new website in May: new design, new functions!</b> .....	3
<b>20th International Sunflower Conference</b> .....	5
Value chains and regional news.....	5
<b>Comment on climate conditions and sunflower</b> .....	6
Scientific news.....	8
<b>Publications</b> .....	8
<b>GENETICS AND BREEDING</b> .....	8
<b>PATHOLOGY / CROP PROTECTION</b> .....	9
<b>AGRONOMY</b> .....	11
<b>PHYSIOLOGY</b> .....	13
<b>PROCESS AND PRODUCTS</b> .....	14
<b>ECONOMY AND MARKETS</b> .....	15
Coming International and national events .....	16

## Editorial

*This newsletter shows several evolutions for ISA: a new logo and a new website. These formal changes reflect the efforts of the ISA to adapt itself to the evolutions of technologies and communication and improve its facilities to enhance interactions between its members, and to better communicate between the International Sunflower Conferences once every four years.*

*More than facilities, the important point is the concrete life of the association through interactions on sunflower science and cropping practices for which all ISA members may contribute. The sunflower research and development community has a crucial role to play to face much more important changes, and the key challenge of climate evolutions.*

*Etienne Pilorgé, ISA Secretary*

## Activity and News of the association

### ISA New logo

As shown on the front page, ISA changed its logo, chosen by the Executive Board among a series of possibilities offered by the designer of Terres Inovia, Nathalie HAREL.



The new logo keeps with a new design the traditional sunflower and globe, which accompany the destinies of ISA since the beginnings in the 1970ies. We hope that the cooler colors will bring positive ideas on sunflower in these risky times of dry and hot conditions coming with climate change. Changing a logo is certainly easier than adapting a crop to changing conditions but let us consider it as a beginning.

### ISA Board Meeting

Due to the Covid19 crisis, the ISA General Assembly which is organized at the time of the International Sunflower Conference, gathering all ISA members, had to be postponed to June 2021.

Nevertheless, the ISA Executive Board held its meeting online, in good conditions, on June 17<sup>th</sup>, at a time slot permitting all regions of the world to participate... late in the night for China and soon in the morning for Americas. This 4-hour online session has been a very positive test, demonstrating the possibility of more frequent interactions even if informal exchanges are missing.

The classical topics have been examined by the board: past and future activities, evolution of membership, finances and adoption of budget... and the consequences of the Covid19 crisis.

These consequences are several:

- Since the Executive Board is appointed by the General Assembly, its present composition had to be extended until 2021.
- Then, the postponement of the 20<sup>th</sup> ISC to 2021 was questioning the dates of the next events: two important decisions have been taken: the 21<sup>st</sup> ISC will be maintained in 2024, as initially scheduled, and the next Orobanche Symposium in 2022.

The reflection went on the potential new topics for reinforced exchanges, partially through the new website: a short list of topics will be established and proposed to ISA members (new ideas remain welcome...).

## New sponsor

KWS company joined ISA as a new sponsor through its Hungarian branch.



## ISA launched its new website in May: new design, new functions!

The International Sunflower Association launched its new website in May.

Through this investment, ISA goes on ensuring the traditional services of its website, notably scientific bibliography resources on sunflower and newsletters, and wishes to improve easiness and add new functionalities. The target is to favor easier interactions between the users of the website - ISA members... or not yet members- and ISA, and between the members themselves: this new website offers workspaces for new thematic working groups. It also allows to directly modify one's personal page and to pay membership online with a credit card secured system. At last, this new design better highlight the sponsors of ISA to encourage the involvement of different countries and sub-sectors of the sunflower value chain.

At the same time, we refreshed the LinkedIn page of ISA.

Our webmaster Laetitia Devedeux prepared of notice to make the best use of the main novelties and give some tips and tricks.

TIPS AND TRICKS:

- ➔ Click on the "Refresh arrow" to refresh the page... especially if you begin your visit as an external visitor and log in a second time (if not, menus accessible to members only might not appear).
- ➔ Click on the "Green square with white lines" to access the menu.
- ➔ In order to use properly the SEARCH BOX, please follow the next instructions:
  - \* Type the word or phrase you are searching for in "search box"
  - \* Once on the results pages, press "Ctrl+F"
  - \* Then type the word or phrase you are searching for in the white rectangle bottom left

We report here the novelties:



## **NOVELTIES:**

### **Member's profile**

Now possible online modifications of your profile information: upload new cv, new photo, identification of your centers of interest, activity...

We advise ISA members to check and correct their profile and pay a special attention in expressing their fields of interest (several choices possible): it will favor easier interactions within the ISA community, notably to look for projects partners or organize working groups.

The information that appear on one's profile will be open to all, members and non-members, except for the detailed CV that will be available only for members.

Annual membership fees may now be paid online by credit card.

### **New members**

Now possible online registration: cv, photo, interests, activity...

Online payment by credit card.

### **Workgroups/Collaborative activities**

New collaborative spaces available for our members to work on specific subjects.

### **Search box**

Improved research engine that searches in all site contents.

### **Our Newsletter**

You can register your e-mail address to receive our Newsletter.

You can also read our Newsletter on-line or download the pdf file.

### **Our sponsors**

Sponsors' logos carrousel on our Home page.

## **REMINDERS:**

### **Publications**

In the Archives, open to all, you will find ISC Proceedings until 2015.

GCIRC members have access to the latest IRC proceedings, Seminars/Symposia proceedings and Students thesis/reports and General Assemblies reports.

Board members can read all our Board Meetings reports.

### **Online directory**

Members' directory & Institutions and Companies' directory

You can search Members, Institutions and Companies by:

Name, Countries, Main fields of interest, Main activity, or Type of Institution/Company.

The lists of all ISA members and many Institutions and Companies are also available here.

### **Photo library**

More pictures are now available. Do not hesitate to share yours so we can add them.

***... Finally: we also need some pictures to illustrate sunflower in the different countries of the world, notably for the top parts of the website pages: this is a call for volunteers.***

## 20th International Sunflower Conference, Novi Sad, Serbia.

<https://isc2020.com/program/program-overview/>

Dear colleagues,

As announced previously, due to the Global crisis caused by COVID-19, **20<sup>th</sup> ISC has been postponed to June 21<sup>st</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. The conference will be held in the same venue, Master Center, in Novi Sad, Serbia.

Already-paid registration fees and hotel reservations will remain valid, and any individual requests on this issue will be handled by the supporting agency Panacomp.

Conference program and speakers will remain the same, with minor changes if needed. Already-received abstracts and papers remain valid. We also **invite everyone interested to continue submitting abstracts and papers**.

**Submission is open:** <https://isc2020.com/call-for-papers/>

Abstract Submission Deadline: 10 December 2020

Paper Submission Deadline: 20 March 2021

The special issue of Agronomy-Basel journal (ISSN 2073-4395; SCIE, 2018 IF 2.259) is also now open for submission. The issue focuses on latest and the most prominent research activities on sunflower, including communications from the 20<sup>th</sup> International Sunflower Conference.

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/agronomy/special\\_issues/sunflower](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/agronomy/special_issues/sunflower)

We hope and believe that most of the participants, sponsors and exhibitors already registered will be able to adapt to the new date of the conference. Registration is still open.

**Registration:** <https://isc2020.com/participation-fees/>

Regular fee deadline 20 May 2021

On site fee from 21 May 2021

The conference website remains active and all conference information will continue to be published there.

See you next year in Novi Sad!

**20<sup>th</sup> ISC Organizing Committee**

## Value chains and regional news

### Drought in Romania and East of Europe

The sunflower in East Romania suffers from an exceptionally dry season. We receive mid-June this message from Dr Dumitru Manole, President of the Sunflower Association Council of Romania and member of Scientific Romanian Academy, which describes the situation:

“Dear colleagues,

The year 2020 – THE DRIEST YEAR, since 1946-1947 in S-E Dobrogea Region – Romania, maybe from 1660 year. Rainfall starting from OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2019 – 81 mm., and JANUARY – JUNE 16 – 139 mm.

In the arable land belong to S.C. SPORT AGRA L.T.D. located in Amzacea Village, Constanta County, S-E of Dobrogea Region, we get started to plant 19 hybrids of sunflower of BASF, Euralis, National Institute of Development – Fundulea, Pioneer, RAGT, Syngenta. Those hybrids have been planted in March 28. In Romania optimum period of planting is written to be April 5 – 10. The height of the hybrids



is between 40-50 cm. at May 29 and every other hybrid has reached 12 leaves. In June 16 the hybrids got 14-16 leaves and the height remains the same, the head starting to flowering. In the other hand we get other fields of sunflower planted at different period (You can look at the images) started from February 27, March 2, March 4, March 10 and the check hybrid April 4. The highest of the crop planted earlier in March is between 50-55 cm with 14-16 leaves already to flowering period, and the check hybrid it's get 26-30 cm. and 12 leaves, with no possibility to grow up. Because of the driest climatic conditions, the crop has no possibility to show the potential yield, even adapting the technology to climatic.”



### Comment on climate conditions and sunflower

The situation in Eastern Romania is exceptionally dry and shows that even relatively tolerant crops such as sunflower cannot succeed in case of lasting drought, even in very favorable soils as in Amzacea.

On the contrary, in Western Europe, France, a lot of sunflower has been sown as a consequence of the heavy difficulties for winter crops: rapeseed has been deeply affected by the very dry conditions in August-September 2019, during the sowing period, and many farmers newer sowed this season. The rapeseed acreage fell down. Then sowings of cereals have been affected by the high precipitations in late autumn and winter, leading to late sowing dates in poor conditions in many regions, and finally poor yield results. Presently, the situation of sunflower in France, at beginning of flowering, is globally satisfying as spring rainfall has been sufficient until now, but the final result is still dependent on complementary rainfall. This occurrence of “extreme” weather events more and more frequently in recent past questions research and agricultural practices. Regarding the repetition of dry periods, water management and a reasonable use of irrigation should be considered for critical periods, and certainly

a diversity of field techniques susceptible to improve water efficiency, including interaction with soil and nutrition. This issue is not a recent one for many countries which know water scarcity as normal conditions. Tolerance to drought also questions genetics and is the object of many efforts.

The present agricultural practices, including use of cultivars, are based on “normal climate”, and the regular occurrence of expected events. The recent years show more and more unexpected events and question the idea of “normal climate” at annual scale. Meteorologists begin to produce seasonal forecasts: agronomists will have to test and learn how to use them to elaborate planting strategies... as far as reliability will be sufficient, with the help of crop models, which are useful for crop management too. Fortunately, sunflower crop benefits of quite advanced crops models such as SUNFLO which includes phenological parameters.

Scientific publications regularly treat the water issues as we can see it again in this newsletter bibliography section. Developing exchanges on the issue of water scarcity management in ISA might be wise.

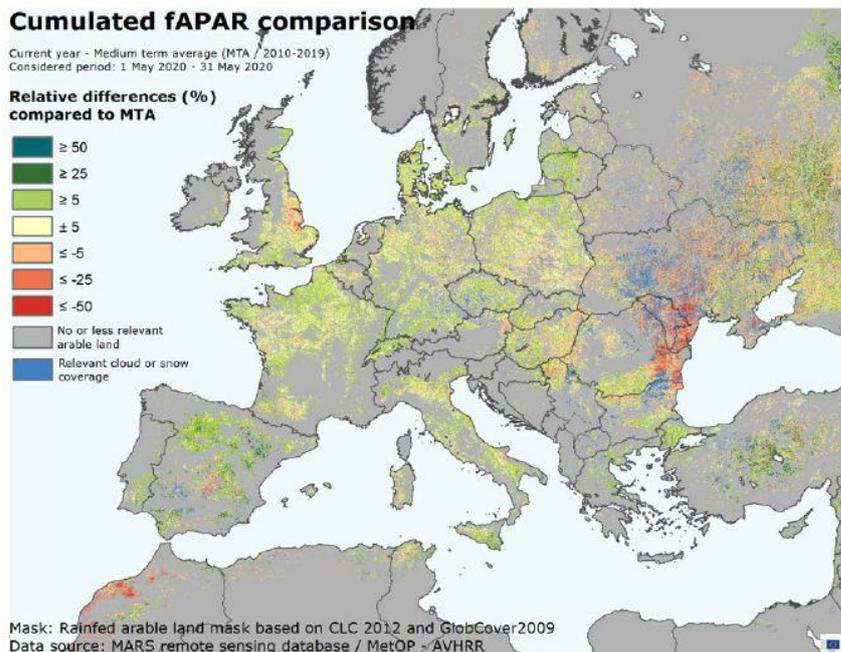
Etienne Pilorgé, ISA Secretary

Going on with climate in Europe, the European Commission regularly publishes the MARS Bulletin, giving the evolution of weather in Europe and its consequences on crops. The last issue on crop monitoring (June 2020) gives a global overview of the weather impacts and some forecasts (see <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/sites/jrcsh/files/jrc-mars-bulletin-vol28-no6.pdf> ). The two graphs hereunder summarize the situation: East Romania and Moldova effectively appear in critical situation.

**AREAS OF CONCERN - EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS**  
Based on weather data from 1 May 2020 until 20 June 2020



## 2. Remote sensing – observed canopy conditions



The map displays the differences between the fraction of Absorbed Photosynthetically Active Radiation (fAPAR) cumulated from 1 May to 31 May 2020 and the medium-term average (MTA, 2010-2019) for the same period. Positive anomalies (in green) reflect above-average canopy density or early crop development while negative anomalies (in red) reflect below-average biomass accumulation or late crop development.

Relevant cloud coverage in the analysis period – with unrealistic low fAPAR values – is coloured in blue on the map (southern Spain, eastern Romania, Ukraine, western Russia). Neighbouring regions could also be affected to some extent by undetected clouds.

Special outlooks for Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Russia have been published in June too (see: <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/mars/bulletins> )

## Scientific news

### Publications

#### GENETICS AND BREEDING

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## Coming International and national events

~~22-25 June 2020~~, **Postponed: 21-24 June 2021** 20<sup>th</sup> International Sunflower Conference, Novi Sad, Serbia. <https://isc2020.com/>



~~6-10 September 2020~~ **Postponed: June 20-24, 2021: 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting AAIC** Association for the Advancement of Industrial Crops. Bologna, Italy. [www.aaic.org](http://www.aaic.org) .



***We invite all the persons who read this newsletter to share information with the Sunflower community: let us know the scientific projects, events organized in your country, crops performances or any information of interest for sunflower R&D.***

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