

1st announcement

We are pleased to invite you to the VIII International Olive Symposium which will be held at the Conference Hall of the Hotel Le Meridien Lav in Split (Croatia) from October 10 to October 14, 2016. Under the auspices of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) the Symposium is organized by the Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation. Split is a lively city, located on the Adriatic coast in the middle Dalmatia, rich in history, cultural attractions and gastronomy, easy to reach by train, car, boat or plane.

Institute for Adriatic Crops and Karst Reclamation is established in 1894 as c.K. Chemical – Economic Testing Institute in Split. The Institute is state-owned entity and it operates as a public research institute, under auspices of the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia. One of the most important Institute's research interests are olive and olive oil. Olive (*Olea europaea* L.) is traditionally cultivated throughout the Mediterranean region, but in recent decades its importance is increasing in all other continents. According to the estimations of the Food and Agricultural Organization of United Nations (FASOSTAT, 2014) more than 1000 million olive trees are grown on approximately 10 million hectares. The greatest surfaces of olive orchards are situated in EU, where Spain is the most important producing country with more than 50% of the world production (International Olive Council, 10C, 2014). On the other hand, Croatia is a relatively small country where the olive production is low in comparison with greatest world producing countries, but very important for Croatia. Olive growing in Croatia is limited to narrow but long (cca 1000 km) costal area (including islands) characterized with the poor karst conditions. According to the 10C estimations, nowadays olives are grown on more than 19000 ha, with annual increasing of 1000 ha.

The specific aim of the vII International Olive Symposium held in Argentina was development and improvement of the olive growing in south hemisphere. Now, specific aim of the VIII International Olive Symposium is development and improvement of the olive growing in fringe growing areas where the Croatian largest part is situated.

Scientists, students and olive growers are invited to join the Symposium and share their ideas, current achievements, experience, contributing to the enrichment of the international olive community.

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