

Moving Italianness – INGOING Activities

Name and surname – Department
Host institution
Period of visit

Peggy Thalmayr – FCF UNaM
UniFI - DAGRI
From 20/04/2026 to 24/04/2026

TOPIC ADDRESSED: Conservation through use in the Atlantic Forest: integration of population genetics, production systems, and local value chains. Training activities, academic exchange, and development of scientific collaborations with research groups at UniFI.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT



Peggy Thalmayr presenting a seminar at the Department of Biology, UniFI.



Peggy Thalmayr at Macfrut 2026, together with professors and students.



Peggy Thalmayr with professors and students from the Master's program in Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, UniFI.

The academic mobility was conducted at the University of Florence (UniFI), within the Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry (DAGRI) in collaboration with the Department of Biology, with the aim of strengthening scientific capacities, promoting academic exchange, and fostering international cooperation in plant genetics, plant production, and sustainable agroforestry systems. The activities included:

1. Institutional integration and academic exchange: An initial integration meeting was held with Prof. Edgardo Giordani, who acted as academic host during the mobility. A tour of DAGRI facilities was conducted, including experimental nurseries, along with interactions with faculty members, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers. These activities enabled the identification of ongoing research lines and the discussion of potential collaborations in research and teaching.

2. Technical visits to nursery production systems: A technical field visit was carried out to Pistoia, one of the main nursery production hubs in Europe, together with Prof. Francesco Paolo Nicese. Leading companies such as Vettori Giovani Piante and Giorgi Tesi Group were visited. These visits provided insights into highly specialized production systems, ranging from plant propagation (including in vitro micropropagation) to large-scale commercial production. Key aspects related to management, production organization, and scaling strategies were discussed, allowing comparisons with production systems in Argentina.

3. Participation in the international event Macfrut 2026 (Rimini), together with Prof. Edgardo Giordani and students from the Master's program in Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture. This event provided exposure to innovations in plant production, biotechnology, and value chains, as well as opportunities to interact with stakeholders from the productive and scientific sectors.

4. Activities at the Department of Biology: A visit to the Department of Biology was conducted, hosted by Prof. Alessio Mengoni and his research group. In this context, the following seminar was delivered: *"Conservation through use in the Atlantic Forest: integrating population genetics and the development of Jejy'a, a local food derived from Euterpe edulis."* Subsequent scientific discussions enabled the identification of shared research interests and the exploration of future collaborations, including the potential development of joint academic activities.



Peggy Thalmayr at the experimental nursery of DAGRI UniFI and during technical visits to nursery production systems in Pistoia.

5. Laboratory visits and technical training at DAGRI, guided by Prof. Stefano Biricolti, including molecular biology and plant tissue culture facilities. These activities provided detailed insight into methodologies, equipment, and research approaches, as well as opportunities for exchange with researchers and students, particularly in relation to molecular tools and plant propagation techniques.

SUMMARY

The mobility significantly contributed to strengthening scientific capacities and advancing the internationalization process, integrating perspectives from population genetics, plant production, and sustainable agroforestry systems. It also enabled the consolidation of institutional links with the University of Florence and established a solid foundation for future collaborations in research, teaching, and academic exchange.