



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore



WINTER SCHOOL

SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS AND PLASTIC POLLUTION: A ONE HEALTH VISION

November 20th - 21th, 2025

TH Roma Carpegna Palace Hotel
Rome (Italy)

PROGRAMME

Conference chair:

Edoardo Puglisi, PhD

Full Professor of Agriculture Microbiology
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Thursday 20 November

■ 9:00 - 9:50

Opening lecture

Plastic pollution what progress are we making to solving this global environmental challenge?

Richard Thompson, University of Plymouth, UK

Session 1: State of the art on microplastic pollution in the agri-food chain

■ 9:50 - 10:40

Microplastics in soil and crop: state of knowledge and urgent measures

Luca Nizzetto, NIVA (Norwegian Institute for Water Research), Norway

10:40 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

■ 11:00 - 11:50

From soil to table: Analysing microplastics in food system

Sedat Gündoğdu, Sabancı University Istanbul Policy Center, Turkey

■ 11:50 - 12:40

The hidden risk of agroplastics for food safety

Violette Geissen, Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch*

Session 2: Sustainability and impacts of microplastics

■ 14:00 - 14:50

Sustainable use of plastics in agriculture

Tony Walker, Dalhousie University, Canada

■ 14:50 - 15:40

From farm to fork: microplastics in the food chain

Joana Prata, Instituto Universitário de Health Sciences - CESPU (IUCS-CESPU) and at the Abel Institute of Biomedical Sciences Salazar from the University of Porto, Portugal

■ 15:40 - 16:30

Uptake of microplastics by plants: One health perspective

Fang Wang, Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture, International Atomic Energy Agency, China

■ 16:30 - 17:20

Effects of MPs on the soil microbiota: Direct, indirect and interactive effects with other soil organic pollutants

Dimitrios Karpouzias, Thessaly University, Greece



Friday 21 November

■ 9:00 - 9:50

Opening lecture

**Plastic pollution: An unfolding crisis
of and for food systems**

Joe Yates & Megan Deeney, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK

Session 3: Toxicological and ecotoxicological impacts of microplastics

■ 9:50 - 10:40

**Toxicological effects of environmental microplastic
on early life stages of marine organisms**

Mohamed Banni, Sousse University, Tunisia

10:40 - 11:00 *Coffee break*

■ 11:00 - 11:50

Microplastics and human health: fertility and not communicable diseases

Margherita Ferrante, Università di Catania, Italy

■ 11:50 - 12:40

**Microplastics as Vectors of Pollutants: Ecotoxicological
Interactions with Earthworms**

Iteb Boughattas, Agronomic Institute of Chott-Mariem, Tunisia

13:00 - 14:00 *Lunch*

Session 4: Microplastics as a global threat in a One Health perspective

■ 14:00 - 14:50

Global Policy landscape for plastic use in agriculture

Lev Nevertin, FAO, Global

■ 14:50 - 15:40

**Plastics and Working Equids in Agrifood Systems:
One Health Risks from Kenya**

Obadiah Sing'Oei, The Donkey Sanctuary Kenya, Kenya

■ 15:40 - 16:30

Microplastic Pollution in the Marine Environment in Kenya

Agnes Muthumbi, University of Nairobi, Kenya

■ 16:30 - 17:20

**Final wrap-up and discussion with students on microplastics
and One Health**

Edoardo Puglisi & Filippo Vaccari, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy

«Plastic products can bring immense societal benefit, but the associated pollution is presenting a global environmental problem of escalating magnitude”».

Richard C. Thompson, University of Plymouth



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Registration deadline:
16 November

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