

LOUKIA VASSILIOU



Agricultural Research Institute
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Place of Birth
Nationality

- Nicosia, Cyprus
- Greek Cypriot

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- "Apolyterion", Palouriotissa's Gymnasium and Lyceum, Nicosia, Cyprus (1984-1990)
- BSc in Crop Sciences, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece (1990-1995)
- MSc in Plant Protection and Environment, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece (1995-1997)
- MSc in Horticulture, Floriculture and Postharvest Handlings, Cranfield Health, Plant Science Laboratory, Cranfield University, UK, (2007-2009)
- MSc in Biodiversity and Ecology, Biological Sciences, University of Cyprus (2021)

PERSONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Languages

- Greek (mother language)
- English (excellent)

Computer skills

Competent with the Software: Excel, Word, Power Point, ArcMap, ArcPad, Corel Draw Photo Paint, Internet

WORK EXPERIENCE

Dates

January 2010 onwards

Position

Agricultural Research Officer, Responsible for Ornamentals, Native and Endemic plants, Natural Resources and Environment

Name of Employer

Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Nicosia, Cyprus

Main activities and responsibilities

- Preparation and implementation of research projects and activities within the wider domain of floriculture

- Preparation and implementation of educational and training programs to students, floriculturists and extension officers of the Ministry covering various topics relevant to my field
- Organization and/or participation in Forums, International Conferences and Seminars
- Preparation and submission of reports and reviews for the Institute and for the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
- Participation in EU and National Funded Projects and Activities
- Supervision, guidance, inspection and training of students, technical and labor staff

Current research activities

- Evaluation of endemic species of Cyprus flora for potential use in commercial floriculture, landscape, botanic gardens etc. At the same time research activities aim at the conservation and protection of biodiversity
- Development of propagation and cultivation protocols for indigenous tulip species *Tulipa agenensis* and the endemic species *Tulipa cypria* for commercial production. Activities for the conservation of these species and the protection of biodiversity are also included in the project
- Joint research activity with the Department of Botany, Estonian University of Life Sciences about *Anacamptis Pyramidalis*. The aim is to evaluate the genetic diversity and reproduction ability of deceptive terrestrial orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* in its' distribution range. Research activities for other terrestrial orchids will follow
- Evaluation of Crop production systems and practices of ornamentals
- Cultivation of new ornamental species under the climatic conditions in Cyprus

External funded Projects and Activities

- **COST Action CA18201: "ConservePlants"** - "An integrated approach to conservation of threatened plants for the 21st century". October 2019-October 2023 (Management committee member and STSM coordinator)
- **Erasmus +: "GreenNet"** - Assistant Gardener Curriculum for people with Intellectual Disabilities. November 2019-October 2021 (partner)
- **Excellence-RIF: "ICARUS"** - RobotIcally Controlled RADAR Inspired WiReless Charging for/from Flying UAV PlatformS. March 2020-February 2022 (partner)
- **DIDAKTOR- RIF: "SPACES"**-Screen-Printed Agricultural Chemical & Electrical Sensors. November 2019-October 2021 (partner)
- **Interreg MED: "MED Greenhouses"** - Green growth through the capitalization of innovative Greenhouses-MED Greenhouses. February 2018 - July 2019 (partner)
- Lifelong Learning Programme, **Leonardo Da Vinci**, transfer of innovation. Project Title: **"UGreenS"** - Urban Greening Systems for the Mediterranean Region. October 2013-October 2015 (partner)

Dates January 2009-December 2009

Position Scientific Coordinator, Responsible for the Office of Sponsored Research

Name of Employer The Cyprus Institute (CyI), Nicosia, Cyprus

Main activities and responsibilities

- Collaborating with the Research leadership and staff as well as with the relevant administration to ensure the proper management of research grants
- Ensuring that the implementation and management of research

projects and grants comply with the required sponsor and CyI regulations

- Provision of support and guidance to Research leadership and staff through meetings, training, awareness-raising sessions relevant to project proposals, innovations and timesheets
- Monitoring research opportunities relevant to the Institute's fields of research and communicating those to the Institute's researchers
- Administering proposal related procedures and supporting researchers in the preparation of proposals where required; general tracking of the proposal life cycle
- Acting as a liaison with partners and funding agencies
- Monitoring research projects and reporting obligations
- Working with the Institute's management to assess research success criteria and fields of research

Dates July 2005-December 2008

Position Scientific Collaborator, Responsible for four (4) funded EU Projects and one (1) FAO Project

Name of Employer Agricultural Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment, Nicosia, Cyprus

Main activities and responsibilities

- Organization and Implementation of:
 - a. Project INCO-MED WASAMED: Water Saving in the Mediterranean (FP5) (<http://wasamed.iamb.it>)
 - b. Project INCO-MPC NOSTRUM: Network on Governance, Science and Technology for Sustainable Water Recourses Management in the Mediterranean (FP6) (<http://www.nostrum-dss.eu/>)
 - c. Project INCO-MPC-2 GEWAMED: Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region (FP6) (<http://www.gewamed.net/>)
 - d. Project INCO-MPC-2 MELIA: Integrating and Strengthening the European Research Area, Specific Measures in Support of International Cooperation (FP6) (<http://www.meliaproject.eu/>)
 - e. Project in Cooperation with FAO: HORTIVAR: Data base on the performances of horticultural cultivars (www.fao.org/hortivar)
- Preparation and submission of reports and proposals on the course of the above programs and for future research
- Studying and evaluation of the programs' research data, in co-operation with the Projects coordinators
- Proposal of methods and approaches for practical implementation of the research results in Cyprus Agriculture
- Searching for information regarding the programs, getting in contact with the collaborators and updating programs' web page
- Organization or participation in Forums and International Conferences according to the Programs' agenda

In addition to the above, due to my close cooperation with the Head of the Vegetables and Ornamental Crop Section, I was involved with all the research projects of the Floriculture Department

Other funded projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ENDIMANTHI: Cultivation of endemic species of Cyprus flora for commercial Floriculture, funded by Research Promotion Foundation ▪ RODO: Transfer of aroma of <i>Rosa damascena</i> of Agros area into the hybrid tea roses, funded by Research Promotion Foundation
Dates	March 2003–June 2005
Position	Agricultural Payments Officer
Name of Employer	Cyprus Agricultural Payments Organization, Nicosia, Cyprus
Main activities and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning, organization and supervision of on-the-spot controls, for subsidies by the EU and the Republic of Cyprus, according to the Rural Development Plan ▪ Quality check that the procedures are ensured according to the standards and directives of the European Union ▪ Training of inspectors and material preparation in order to carry out the controls
Dates	October 1997–January 2004
Position	Marketing Executive
Name of Employer	Merck Sharp and Dohme Ltd, Nicosia, Cyprus
Main activities and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning and preparation of budget and strategic methods for promoting products in Cyprus and Middle East countries ▪ Preparation of promotional material in cooperation with the Medical and Legal Department of the company in France, co-ordination and management of promotional material for Cyprus and Middle East countries ▪ Organization of Conferences in Cyprus and in Middle East ▪ Promotion of pharmaceutical products to Doctors of Private and Public Sectors and scientific briefing regarding new developments and clinical studies and research ▪ Successful launching of new products in Cyprus market ▪ Supporting of staff in Middle East offices

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Short trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training course "Train-the-trainers" on planning and practices concerning the «Living Walls», UGreenS Project. University of Seville, Seville, Spain. September 8-12, 2014 ▪ Training course "Train-the-trainers" on planning and practices concerning the «Green Roofs», UGreenS Project, Floriculture and Landscape Department, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece. May 21-23, 2014 ▪ 2nd International Course "Orchid conservation using <i>in vitro</i> techniques". Native Flora Centre of Lombardy, Italy, March 18-23, 2013 ▪ Training course on planning and practices concerning the «green roofs». Floriculture and Landscape Department, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece. November 20–26, 2011 ▪ Training course on propagation of ornamentals using the <i>in vitro</i> technique. Floriculture and Landscape Department, Agricultural
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University of Athens, Greece. December 5–10, 2010

- Training course on *ex situ* conservation of endemic and native species of Greek and Mediterranean flora. Ornamental and Native flora Department, NAGREF, Thessaloniki, Greece, November 21-27, 2010
- Geographic Information System, June 2005.
- Integrated Crop Management (ICM), November 2004.
- Organic Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of Cyprus, November 2004.
- Offensive Communication Skills, 2002.
- Professional Communication Skills, 2001.
- Time Manager International, 1998.

Organization of Conferences/meetings

- Second Regional Coordination Workshop of GEWAMED: Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in water Management for Food Security and Safety, 12-14 March 2007, Larnaca, Cyprus
- First Training Workshop of HORTIVAR/FAO, 6 September 2007, Nicosia, Cyprus
- Final Conference of NOSTRUM, 25-27 October 2007, Larnaca, Cyprus.
- Member of the Organizing Committee of the 12th Pan-Hellenic Entomological Conference, 13-16 November 2007, Larnaca, Cyprus
- Member of the Organizing committee of the European Commission Conference «Europe's rural areas in action: Facing the challenges of tomorrow», Limassol, Cyprus 16-17 October 2008
- Second Training Workshop of HORTIVAR/FAO, Nicosia, Cyprus, 18 December 2008, Nicosia, Cyprus

Participation in conferences/workshops/meetings

- 5th Workshop of the WASAMED Thematic Network, Malta, 3-7 May 2006.
- Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors Conference "Water Cooperation Session in Mediterranean River Basin". November 5-8, 2006, Athens, Greece
- Regional Working Group, Greenhouse Crop production in the Mediterranean Region. Sixth Coordination Meeting, Amman, Jordan 17-20 December 2006
- Conference on Water saving in Mediterranean Agriculture & Future Research Needs, 14-17 February 2007, Bari, Italy
- 2nd Regional Workshop of GEWAMED, 10-12 March 2008, Larnaca, Cyprus
- Nostrum-Dss, Science and Policy Workshop, 15-16 February 2007, Bari, Italy
- First Training Workshop–HORTIVAR-FAO, 6 September 2007, Nicosia, Cyprus
- Final Conference NOSTRUM-DSS and INECO joint event 25-27 October, Larnaca Cyprus.
- 12th Pan-Hellenic Entomological Conference, November 13-16, 2007, Larnaca, Cyprus
- European Conference of Rural Development: "Rural Areas in Action" 16-17 Οκτωβρίου 2008, Limassol, Cyprus.
- 3rd International Conference of the GEWAMED Project, 21-26 March 2010, Amman, Jordan,
- 1st semi-annual meeting 2011, European Botanic Gardens Consortium meeting, 20-23 May 2011, Poland
- 1st International Trials Conference, Assessment of Ornamental Plants, RHS Whisley, 4-7 July, 2011, Surrey, UK
- 25th Conference of the Greek Society of Horticultural Sciences, 1-4

- November 2011, Limassol, Cyprus
- 4th International Workshop, International Network of Plant Abiotic Stress. "Plant Abiotic Stress: From Systems Biology to Sustainable Agriculture", 17-19 November 2011, Limassol, Cyprus
- 6th European Botanic Gardens Congress (EUROGARD VI), May 28-June 2 2012, Chios, Greece
- 2nd semi-annual meeting 2012, European Botanic Gardens Consortium meeting, 1-2 December 2012, Gijon, Spain
- Supporting Women's Economic Empowerment: Today and Tomorrow Conference. 27-29 April 2013, Amman, Jordan
- 5th Global Botanic Gardens Congress, Dunedin New Zealand, 20-26 October 2013.
- 2nd semi-annual meeting 2013, European Botanic Gardens Consortium meeting, 6-8 December 2013, Gibraltar
- 1st semi-annual meeting 2014, European Botanic Gardens Consortium meeting, 5-8 June 2014, Zagreb, Croatia

Publications

1. Thesis Title: "Biological characterization of Citrus Tristeza Virus (CTV) isolations in plant-indicators of citrus species and distribution of virus in them" 1997. MSc Thesis, Athens, Greece
2. Loukia Vassiliou and Dora Chimonidou, 2006. Protected Cultivation in Cyprus. Organic Agriculture-GAP for Greenhouse Crops. Proceedings of the Regional Working Group Greenhouse Crop production in the Mediterranean Region. Sixth Coordination Meeting, Amman-Jordan 17-20 December 2006, p.9-18.
3. Chimonidou Dora, Vassiliou Loukia, P. Kerkides and Psyhoyiou Maria, 2007. Rose Cultivation in Cyprus Under Two Irrigation Regimes Using Local Substrates. *Options Mediterraneennes*, Series B, No 56, Vol. II, p.333-336.
4. Dora Chimonidou, Androniki Bolla, Christina Pitta, Vassiliou Loukia and Henriette Mc Put, 2007. Possibility of Transferring Aroma from Rosa damascena to Tea Hybrid Cultivars by Hybridization? Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on Rose Research and Cultivation. Santa Barbara, California, 18-22 September 2005. *Acta Horticulturae* 751, p.299-304.
5. Dora Chimonidou, Cristina Pitta and Vassiliou Loukia, 2007. Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions in Water Management for food Security and Safety. *Options Mediterraneennes*, Series A, No. 77, p.41-48.
6. Chimonidou Dora, Bolla Androniki, Vassiliou Loukia, Christoforou S., Kerkides P. Psyhoyiou Maria and Karabourniotis G. 2005. Rose Cultivation in Substrates and two Irrigation Regimes. In Proceedings of the 22nd Hellenic of Science Society on Horticulture, Patra, Greece, 18-22 October, 2005, p.153-156.
7. Chimonidou Dora, Bolla Androniki, Christina Pitta, Kyriakou G., Vassiliou Loukia, Christoforou S. and Papafotiou Maria. 2007. Programme of Transferring Aroma from Rosa damascena to Tea Hybrid Cultivars by Hybridization. In Proceedings of the 22nd Hellenic of Science Society on Horticulture, Patra, Greece, 18-22 October, 2005, p.181-184.
8. Dora Chimonidou, P. Polycarpou, Vassiliou Loukia and Papadopoulos I., 2008. Harmonization and Integration of Water Saving Options in Cyprus. Proceedings of the 5th Workshop of the WASAMED Thematic Network, 3-7 May 2006, Malta. *Options Mediterraneennes*, No 59, Series B: p. 71-80.

9. Dora Chimonidou, P. Polycarpou, Vassiliou Loukia, 2008. Rational Use of Water Resources in Cyprus. Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop of MELIA, 29 Oct.-2 Nov.2008, Morocco.
10. D. Chimonidou, Vassiliou Loukia and G. Adamides, 2008. Gender and National Policies for Rural Development in Cyprus. Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop of GEWAMED, 19-22 May 2008, Tunis
11. Thesis Title: Effects of pre-harvest salinity levels (EC) on postharvest characteristics of lisianthus (*Eustoma grandiflorum*) flowers. 2009. MSc Thesis, Cranfield Health, Plant Science Laboratory, Cranfield, UK
12. Aigi Ilves, Mirjam Metsare, Andrej Seliskar, Maria Garcia, Loukia Vassiliou, Simon Pierce, Irina Tatarenko, Kadri Tali and Tiiu Kull, 2016. Genetic diversity patterns of the orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis* at the edges of its distribution range. *Plant Syst Evol* (2016) 302:1227-1238
13. Charalambous, K., Bruggeman, A., Eliades, M., and Vassiliou, L. 2019. Stormwater Retention and Reuse at the Residential Plot Level—Green Roof Experiment and Water Balance Computations for Long-Term Use in Cyprus. In *Water* 11(5):1055, DOI: 10.3390/w11051055. May 2019

Other related activities

- National representative of Cyprus in the European Botanic Gardens Consortium (EBGC)
- Member of the experts group of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment for the development of the Cyprus National Strategy for Biodiversity.
- National representative of Cyprus in the FAO working group for protected cultivation in the Mediterranean countries
- Member of the working group of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment for ornamental crops
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture for the preparation and transmission of TV series "YPETHROS" (Agriculture) through the Cyprus Broadcasting Cooperation (CyBC), December 2006-December 2008