



Report of the 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium in Quito, Ecuador

Event Name: 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium

Dates: July 31st to August 4th, 2023

Location: Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Quito, Ecuador

Event Objective:

The 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium aimed to bring together experts in the field of plant-microbe interactions, plant microbiome communication and assembly, microbiome-related plant physiology, and translational applications.



Event Summary:

The 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium spanned four days and was hosted at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador. We are honoured by the in-person attendance of approximately 120 participants from all over the world. Many thanks to all the presenters for sharing their knowledge and experiences revolving around the various aspects of plant microbiomes:



- We thank our KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Jos Raaijmakers (The Netherlands), Omri Finkel (Israel), Corné Pieterse (The Netherlands), Britt Koskella (USA), Joana Falcao Salles (The Netherlands), Phil Poole (USA), Mark Liles (USA), Tsai Siu Mui (Brazil), and Gilles van Wezel (The Netherlands).

- We thank our INVITED SPEAKERS: Chunxu Song (China), Mario Serrano (Mexico), Rodrigo Mendes (Brazil), Viviane Cordovez da Cunha (The Netherlands), George Kowalchuk (The Netherlands), Jessica Duchicela (Ecuador), Stephen Sherwood (Ecuador), and David Johnston-Monje (Colombia).

- We also thank all participants who sent us their abstracts. It has been a joy to watch the presenters of 37 SHORT ORAL TALKS, sharing their findings and engaging with the audience in the discussion sessions.

- And we had the privilege to visit a total of 39 scientific POSTER PRESENTATIONS on research topics related to studies of plant microbiomes from all continents [... except Antarctica 😊].

Event timeline

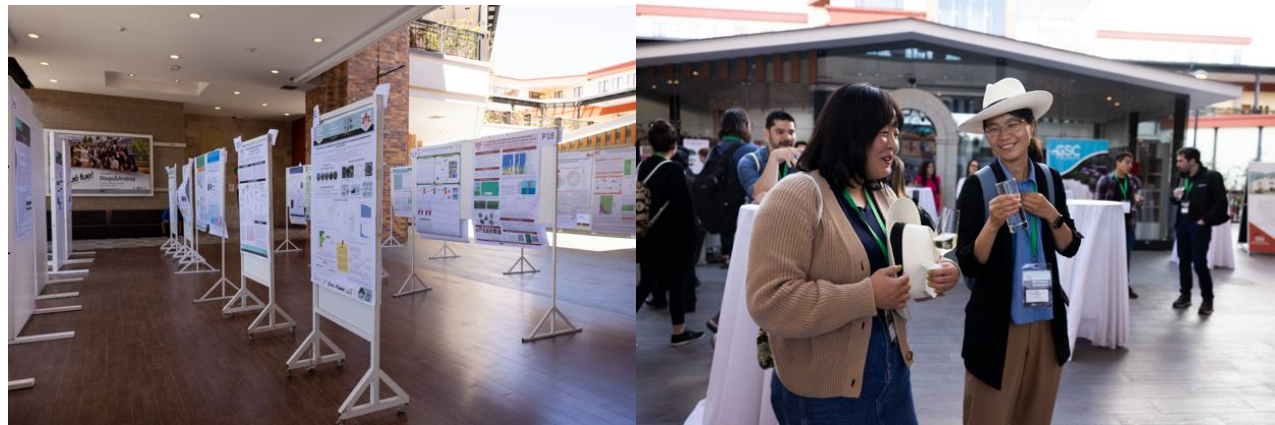
Day 1 (July 31st): The event began with an Ice breaker, which included a small toast, providing participants with the opportunity to interact. Welcoming remarks were delivered by the Dean of Sciences and Engineering, as well as the main organizers, Pieter van 't Hof and Antonio León. On this day, as a gesture of Ecuadorian culture, attendees received bags with indigenous designs and straw toquilla hats, highlighting Ecuador's rich and colorful heritage.



Day 2 (August 1st): The plenary part of the conference started, with keynote talks by keynote speakers, invited speakers. In addition, short oral presentations were given by students and PhD candidates from various countries, including the Netherlands, Scotland, France, Germany, Israel, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, Chile, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, China, Australia, Colombia, Argentina, the United States, Spain, and Ecuador.

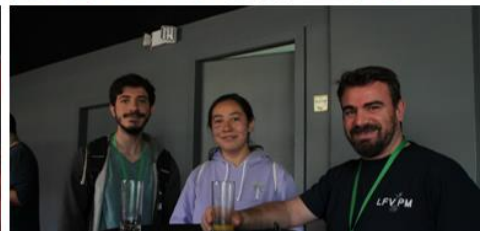
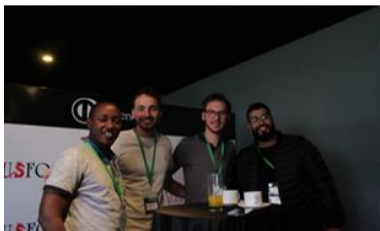


Two poster presentations sessions were held during the official welcome reception, fostering a conducive environment for dialogue among participants.





Day 3 (August 2nd): The Wednesday was a full day of plenary talks, revolving around plant-microbiome communication, the phyllosphere and ecological aspects of plant microbiomes.

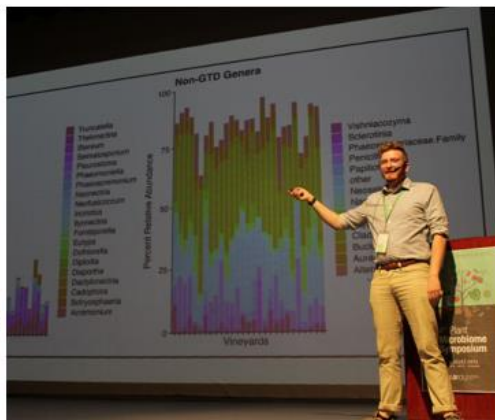


Day 4 (August 3rd): The morning session revolved around beneficial plant microbe interactions such as nitrogen-fixing bacteria and mycorrhizal fungi. After lunch, participants embarked on a tour of Quito's historic center, visiting iconic churches and squares. The day concluded with a dinner at Pim's restaurant, located on El Panecillo, where attendees first enjoyed a cultural dance followed by a three-course meal and beverages while enjoying the panoramic views of Quito's historical center.





Day 5 (August 4th): The final day featured the last conference plenary sessions, and after lunch our back-to-back keynote plenary speakers which closed the conference. At the end of the day, a small closing event took place, offering a relaxed atmosphere and a final opportunity for networking and contact exchange before the participants flew out to their home countries.





Services Provided:

Throughout the event, conference transportation services were provided in the mornings and evenings to pick-up and drop-off participants at various stops (Swissotel, Ibis, and Dann Carlton hotels), and transport them to and from the university.

Sponsors:

The success of this event was made possible through the crucial support of various sponsors. We would like to send our special gratitude to the 4th Plant Microbiome Sponsors for their generous help and their commitment to the success of this edition of the event:

MICROGEO (Brazil), HAIFA (Israel/Ecuador), KULA BIO (USA), ISME (Global), KOPPERT (The Netherlands/Ecuador), and PLANTS / MDPI (Switzerland).

The 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium would not have been possible without the help of the **USFQ authorities, our colleagues, and the students of our research teams** which formed the **amazing CREW**. All have dedicated their time to help us organizing the 4th PMS, for which we are truly grateful.

Conference Scholarship Program and Poster prizes:

We congratulate all the Conference Scholarship Awards winners, especially the 3 PhD candidates who won a Conference Scholarship on behalf of the ISME sponsorship

- *Eva Cea Torrescassana*
- *Vanessa Otero Jiménez*
- *Mason Kamalani Chock*

We also congratulate the 3 winners of the Poster Prizes, with a special thank you to Nature Microbiology for kindly providing the #01 poster prize!



Sustainability Pledge:

The 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium has subscribed to the USFQ's Event Sustainability Pledge, thereby committing to implement many actions to encourage sustainability best practices. We hope you have felt our sustainability commitment during the event.

Stay tuned for more information about the next 5th Plant Microbiome Symposium, to be held in 2024 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. We very much hope to see each other there, to continue this wonderful series of plant microbiome conferences.

Wishing you well and the very best, on behalf of the entire USFQ organizing committee and crew,

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FYI - 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium coverage:

Official Proceedings of the 4th PMS:

van 't Hof, P., León-Reyes, A., Barriga Medina, N., Espinosa Torres, P., & Sagnay Ramírez, B. (2023). 4th Plant Microbiome Symposium. Archivos Académicos USFQ, (50), 1–119.

<https://doi.org/10.18272/archivosacademicos.vi50.3128>

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<https://revistas.usfq.edu.ec/index.php/archivosacademicos/article/view/3128>

Conference photo album created in Flickr: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAQsvj>

Social media coverage:

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CvusCXuAjU0/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA%3D%3D

Article - blog USFQ: <https://noticias.usfq.edu.ec/2023/08/una-semana-dedicada-al-estudio-del.html>

DIALOGUEMOS: <https://dialoguemos.ec/2023/07/4o-simposio-de-microbiomas-de-las-plantas-se-realiza-en-la-usfq/>

PODCAST – Dialoguemos [in Spanish]: <https://dialoguemos.ec/2023/07/plantas-y-bacterias-aliados-contr-el-cambio-climatico/>