



Associazione Italiana
per la Protezione delle
Piante



6th “Professor Annamaria Vercesi” Master's Degree Thesis Award

Call for Applications

Article 1 – Purpose of the Call

The Italian Association for Plant Protection (AIPP) and the Giornate Fitopatologiche (GF), as part of their initiatives to promote and advance knowledge in sustainable plant protection, announce a public competition for three prizes in the sixth edition of the Professor Annamaria Vercesi Master's Degree Thesis Award. This award commemorates Professor Annamaria Vercesi, Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Milan, who dedicated her research and teaching career to plant protection.

Article 2 – The Award

Three prizes of €1,000 (one thousand euros) each will be awarded at a dedicated ceremony scheduled for December 2026.

Article 3 – Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility is limited to graduates who have obtained a Master's degree or equivalent qualification from a university within the European Union between 16 September 2024 and 14 October 2026, and who have submitted an experimental Master's thesis, written in Italian or English, providing an original or innovative contribution to plant protection.

Article 4 – Application Procedure and Deadline

Applications addressed to the President of the Italian Association for Plant Protection (AIPP) must be submitted by email to premiovercesi@gmail.com by 14 October 2026. Late submissions will not be considered. Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt via email.

Applicants must declare the following information under their own responsibility (failure to do so will result in exclusion):

- a. surname and first name;
- b. date and place of birth;
- c. permanent address, correspondence address (for this competition), telephone number and email address;
- d. Italian tax identification number (Codice Fiscale), where applicable;
- e. University attended, title of the thesis, date of graduation and final degree mark;
- f. consent to the processing of personal data in accordance with Italian Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 and Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

The application must be accompanied by the following documents in PDF format:

1. an abstract of the thesis, not exceeding 3,000 characters (including spaces);

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LA PROTEZIONE DELLE PIANTE c/o Dipartimento di Biotecnologie Università degli Studi di Verona. Str. Le Grazie 15, 37134 Verona.

E-mail: presidenza@aipp.it, Segreteria tecnica: segreteria@aipp.it. Sito web www.aipp.it

In: [AIPP Associazione Italiana Protezione Piante](https://www.aipp.it) – IG: [aipp_protezione_piante](https://www.aipp.it) – X: [Aipp1992](https://www.aipp.it)

FB: [Associazione Italiana Protezione Piante](https://www.aipp.it) – YouTube: [Associazione Italiana Protezione Piante](https://www.aipp.it)

2. digital copy of the Master's thesis;
3. the degree certificate or a self-declaration issued in accordance with applicable Italian legislation (Presidential Decree No. 445/2000);
4. a copy of a valid identity document.

Article 5 – Selection Committee and Evaluation Procedure

The Selection Committee for the 6th Professor Annamaria Vercesi Master's Degree Thesis Award will comprise three members representing the three promoting organisations. The first member will be the President of AIPP or a designated representative, who will also serve as Chair of the Committee. The second member will be appointed by the Management Committee of the Giornate Fitopatologiche (GF), and the third by the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (DiSAA) of the University of Milan. The Committee will be supported by experts from relevant disciplines in crop protection, who will provide a brief written evaluation and a score for each thesis. These evaluations will enable the Committee to establish the final ranking of candidates. The Committee will complete the evaluation process within 50 days of the submission deadline. Each thesis will receive an overall score of 30, based on the following criteria:

- Relevance of the thesis to the subject areas covered by the competition: up to 10 points;
- Degree of innovation: up to 10 points;
- Overall scientific and methodological quality of the thesis: up to 10 points.

The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and not open to appeal.

Article 6 – Awarding of the Prizes

The results of the selection process will be communicated to successful applicants and other participants via email, with confirmation of receipt. The same communication will include details of the award ceremony, specifying whether it will be held in person or online, the date, and relevant organisational information. Prize winners will have the opportunity to present their research results during the award ceremony.

Article 7 – Processing of Personal Data

The processing of personal data is governed by Italian Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003 ("Personal Data Protection Code") and Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Personal data submitted by applicants will be processed exclusively for the administration of this competition. Providing this data is mandatory to verify eligibility. Failure to provide the required information will result in exclusion from the selection process.

For further information, contact: segreteria@aipp.it.

President of the AIPP
Professor Nicola Mori

President of the GF
Professor Marina Collina

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