

Invitation

Plant material
and agronomic practices
to improve vineyard
sustainability in
a changing climate

Thursday
27 February 2020
18:00 - 19:30

Amphitheatre 1,
Tassos Papadopoulos Building,
Cyprus University of Technology,
Themidos and Ifigenias corner,
Limassol



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The Department of Agricultural Sciences, Biotechnology & Food Science of the Cyprus University of Technology, in cooperation with Kyperounda Winery invite you to an open lecture on:

Plant material and agronomic practices to improve vineyard sustainability in a changing climate

Speaker: Prof. Cornelis van Leeuwen

Head of the department of viticulture and enology
Bordeaux Sciences Agro

Abstract:

Viticulturists face major challenges worldwide. In a context of climate change, temperatures are increasing and periods of drought are more frequent and more intense. Given the importance of climate in viticulture, this trend is likely to modify yield parameters and wine quality. Most of the cultivated varieties belong to the species *Vitis Vinifera*. This species has a high quality potential, but is particularly vulnerable to fungal diseases (in particular downy and powdery mildew and Botrytis). Traditionally these diseases were controlled through frequent sprayings of fungicides but this is less and less accepted by consumers. Wine estates need to secure their margins for economic sustainability. Selling prices, yields and production costs are major levers to ensure profitability. In the challenging context of climate change and increased competition on the international market, growers need to adapt their plant material and agronomic practices. Genetic variability among rootstocks, varieties (including autochthonous varieties from Mediterranean countries) and clones is a major resource for adaptation. Varieties need to be chosen in function of local climatic conditions and probably, in the future, their resistance to fungal diseases. Rootstocks need to be adapted to soils in terms of water availability, presence of lime and overall soil fertility. Training systems, canopy management and vineyard floor management need also to be adapted to local conditions in terms of soil and climate. In this way it is possible to optimize output in terms of yield and quality in each particular location.



Bio:

Cornelis (Kees) van Leeuwen is professor viticulture at Bordeaux Sciences Agro and the Institut des Sciences de la Vigne et du Vin (ISVV) Bordeaux. He is the head of the viticulture – enology department of Bordeaux Sciences Agro and editor in chief of the open access journal in vine and wine sciences OENO One. His research activities are focused on the concept of terroir, i.e. the effect of soil and climate on vine development, phenology, grape composition and wine quality. This research includes studying the effect of climate change in viticulture and helping growers to find adaptations to continue to grow high quality wines in a changing environment. He writes since 1995 on a regular basis for the Dutch wine Magazine Perswijn.

The seminar is organised under the auspices of VitiSaroma Project: Valorization of the reference indigenous grape cultivar 'Xynisteri' under variable vineyard conditions through sensorial analyses and aromatic characterization.

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