The 21st International Sunflower Conference was successfully held in Wuyuan, Inner Mongolia,

China, from August 20-24, 2024. The 5-day conference consisted of plenary talks, scientific workshops

and poster sessions. The conference centered around the theme of "**Fostering A Dialogue Between**

**Confection and Oilseed Sunflower**" providing a dynamic platform for collaboration, and sharing of

the latest achievements in breeding research and industry development. Topics of interest included

Genetics and Breeding, Genomics and Biotechnology, Cultivation & Crop Production, Germplasm

Resources and Utilization, Broomrape & Herbicide Resistance, Biotic Stress and Abiotic Stress, and

other fields related to the entire sunflower industry chain. We believe that this event will strengthen the

global scientific sunflower community, as well as, demonstrate the dynamic changes and significant

accomplishments of the confection sunflower industry in China.

During the 5-day event, over 360 participants from 24 different countries attended the conference.

The conference had 11 invited plenary talks and 43 oral presentations covering 8 different topical

sessions. The organization committee received 95 abstracts with 35 poster presentations during the

conference. Participants during the Conference had the opportunity to visit the impressive field

demonstration trials of 139 elite sunflower varieties including 93 confection hybrids, 35 oil type hybrids,

2 dual-purpose hybrids, and 9 ornamental hybrids from 30 domestic and foreign research institutes or

companies.

At the closing ceremony, the ISA awarded Prof. Philippe Debaeke, Dr. Vladimir Miklic, Dr. Begoña

Pérez-Vich, and Prof. Loren Rieseberg the Pustovoit Award for their significant contributions to

sunflower research. The organizing committee also presented the best poster awards to three graduate

students: Jeslca Cespedes Martinez from National Institute of Agricultural Technology, Argentina;

Yating Wang from the Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, China; Emrah Akpina from Trakya

University, Turkey. Additionally, two young researchers, Yanke An from Sanrui Agritec Co. Ltd., China

and Audrey Gantell from SOLTIS, France also received an honorable mention award for their excellent

posters.

Finally, we are grateful for the International Sunflower Association (ISA) granting us the

opportunity to organize and host such an important conference in China. Thank you to all the participants

who came from all over world to be here and support the conference. Also, we greatly appreciate with

the organizers, Inner Mongolia Sunflower Association, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, the

People’s Government of Wuyuan, Yuan Longping High-tech Agriculture Co. Ltd., Sanrui Agritec Co.

Ltd., Sunboy Food Technology Group Co. Ltd, Chacha Food Co. Ltd., Gansu Jiarui Seed Co. Ltd., and

BASF Agriculture for their diverse roles and finical support for making this a very successful event.

In this golden autumn of August, let's build dreams for the future! We wish you all a successful

career in sunflower research and industry development!

Chair: **Prof. Jun ZHAO**

Chair: **Mr. Yongping ZHANG**

President of ISA Co-Chair: **Dr. Jiuhuan FENG**

The Scientific Committee The Organizing Committee

21st International Sunflower Conferenc