



'Cornucopia'  
Arno Coenen and Iris  
Roskam  
Markthal - Rotterdam

## **PhD program in Biodiversity in Agriculture and Forestry Fall seminars – 2025**

**30 Sep - Plants in space - It's Only Rocket Science...**

**3 Oct - Automating Plant Micropropagation: Bioreactors**

**Prof. Wagner Vendrame** – University of Florida

**Aula Magna Dipartimento SAAF**

or

**Microsoft Teams link:**

Seminar Prof. Vendrame 30-Sep and 3-Oct 2025 | Ph.D - Biodiversity in Agriculture and Forestry (BAF) - Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy | Microsoft Teams

## **Dr. Wagner A. Vendrame**

Professor

Ornamental Micropropagation and Cryopreservation

Dr. Vendrame leads a broad research program focusing on production and conservation of ornamental plants using plant tissue culture and cryopreservation techniques, including orchids, ornamental trees, foliage plants, palms, and other ornamental plants. In 2007, he partnered with NASA on an innovative research project to evaluate the growth, development and differential gene expression in plant cells of jatropha (*Jatropha curcas*), a biofuel species, as affected by microgravity, with five spaceflight studies on board of the space shuttles Atlantis, Endeavour and Discovery, and the International Space Station National Laboratory. More recently, studies have focused on cryopreservation of orchid seeds, protocorms and pollen, palm seeds, and banana in vitro shoots; and large scale propagation of plants using temporary immersion bioreactor technology, including micropropagation of orchids, bromeliads, sugarcane, banana, papaya, palms, and caçari (a tree native to the Amazon rich in vitamin C). Dr. Vendrame teaches Orchidology (ORH4280), Orchid Biology and Culture (ORH5282), Orchid Short Course (ORH1283), Micropropagation of Horticultural Crops (PLS4242C/5241C), and Special Topics.

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