

■ In Memoriam Gaetano Zipoli (1950–2019)

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Figure 5.1: Gaetano Zipoli (photo courtesy by Daniele Grifoni, CNR-IBIMET and LaMMA).

With great sadness we have to announce that our Italian colleague and friend Gaetano Zipoli passed away on 30th January, after a long illness. He was a member of the UV4Growth and UV4Plants communities from the beginning. His ambition to link understanding of climate with UV radiation left a mark on all of us. He will always be remembered for his vast knowledge of UV climatology, his good mood, his great sense of humor and his desire to walk (he was a tireless walker).

Born in Calenzano (Florence), he was married and had two children. He was educated at the Agricultural Science Faculty of University of Florence, where he got a degree in Agrometeorology in 1980. He completed his training at the Water Conservation Laboratory (USDA-ARS) in Phoenix (Arizona, USA). He became a researcher at the Italian National Research Council (CNR) in 1983, and was an invited lecturer at the University of Florence for many years. He con-

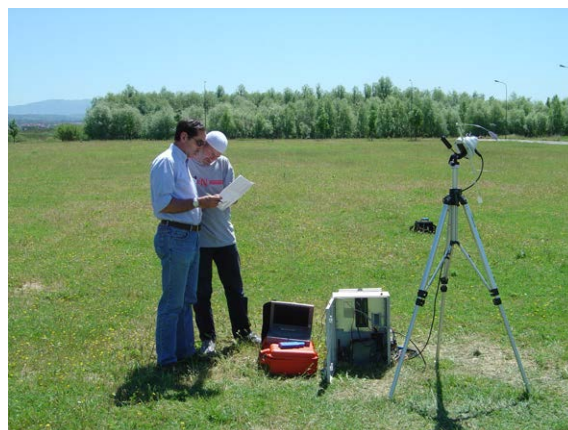


Figure 5.2: Gaetano at work (photo courtesy by Daniele Grifoni, CNR-IBIMET and LaMMA).

tributed to the foundation of the Institute for Biometeorology (IBIMET, CNR) and the Laboratory for Meteorology and Environmental Modelling (LaMMA) in Tuscany, being Leader of Research Projects and finally Director of the LaMMA from its creation, and for several years. As an expert on the diverse topics of agrometeorology and agroclimatology, including radiation modelling, irrigation, remote sensing, crop energy balance and protection, climate change, etc., he strongly collaborated with different international organisms and projects. Gaetano was scientific coordinator of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Commission of Agricultural Meteorology, coordinator of FAO agrometeorological projects in Niger, member of the Board for the CEE Environment Projects on Applied Climatology and Natural Hazards, Project Leader of ENVISAT/ESA programs, etc. From the early 90's, Gaetano specialized in UV radiation, participating in several



Figure 5.3: Gaetano with Annamaria Ranieri and Tjasa Jug in a UV4Growth meeting at Pécs (Hungary) in January 2013 (photo courtesy by Marcel Jansen).

EU COST Actions on UV-B Forecasting, UV climatology, and finally in the COST Action UV4Growth (FA0906) on “UV-B radiation: a specific regulator of plant growth and food quality in a changing climate”, where he developed fruitful scientific (and personal) relationships with colleagues from every corner of Europe and other continents. After his official retirement, he was appointed as environmental consultant in his hometown, and he still collaborated in many tasks and investigations. He was the author of more than 150 scientific publications, a number of them in collaboration with the UV4Growth and UV4Plants communities.

Some members of UV4Plants have expressed their impressions about Gaetano:

“I did not know him personally, but he is remembered fondly by those who did and I wish I had met

him. Also, he evidently made valuable contributions to the UV community” (*Gareth I. Jenkins, Glasgow, U.K., President of UV4Plants*).

“Gaetano’s been a great scientist and a gentle soul” (*Éva Hideg, Pecs, Hungary*).

“I gratefully remember Gaetano’s support in the early days of UV4Growth, as well as his great sense of humor. This is a big loss for the community” (*Marcel Jansen, Cork, Ireland*).

“Gaetano was a good person and a great researcher” (*Annamaria Ranieri, Pisa, Italy*).

“I remember him as a kind man, as well as an excellent researcher” (*Antonella Castagna, Pisa, Italy*).

“I remember Gaetano’s kind words and support for the ESR. I am grateful I had the chance to know him” (*Susanne Neugart, Grossbeeren, Germany*).

“He was indeed an Italian cavaliere and a close person. With infinite patience he made and remade the radiation calculations for the Grapevine Ultraviolet Network investigations, paying attention to all our requests with quickness and wisdom” (*Encarnación Núñez-Olivera, Universidad de La Rioja, Spain*).

“I hope he would not mind I make public one of his last mails, because it is a clear example of his humanity and personality. He said: <I want you to know that I consider myself a lucky man, despite the present occurrence, because I have a wonderful family that is helping me in this new challenge and a lot of

friends. See you in La Rioja during my next Camino to Santiago. Get a bottle of wine ready>” (*Javier Martínez-Abaigar, Universidad de La Rioja, Spain*).

OUR CONDOLENCES FOR HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS. GAETANO WILL FOREVER BE IN OUR HEARTS. REST IN PEACE CARO GAETANO, TERRA LEVIS.

The UV4Plants Managing Group and community.

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