The role of the IPC in the Chinese-Italian cooperation on poplar cultivation

Stefano BISOFFI (CRA, Italy)
Jinhua LI (CAF/RIF, China)
Breeding activities in Italy started before 1930: Giovanni JACOMETTI in Villafranca Piemonte

I-214
I-154
I-476
I-488

Epidemic outbursts of Spring defoliation (Venturia populina) in the late ‘twenties suggested a dedicated breeding programme to select resistant cultivars.

Jacometti collected P. deltoides from parks in Piedmont and crossed them with P. nigra and DxN hybrids.
weeding in a seedling bed

poplar planting was strongly supported by the government and celebrated
The Poplar Research Institute of Casale Monferrato was founded in 1939
Breeding work at the Chinese Academy of Forestry started before the foundation of the Research Institute of Forestry in 1953.

**Before 1949:** occasional introductions

**In the 1950’s:** 50 clones from Soviet Union, East Germany, Belgium, Poland, etc.

**In the 1960’s:** 40 clones from Japan, Romania, etc.
Breeding work in Italy after World War 2

Five strategies:

• selection among locally cultivated populations
• collections of seed from open pollinated *P. deltoides* and *P. nigra* in Italy
• introduction of seed of open pollinated *P. deltoides* from the USA
• artificial crosses between *P. deltoides* and *P. nigra*
• diploids x tetraploids to produce triploids

Michele SEKAWIN (1917- )
Mr. LIANG Changwu
Vice Minister of Forestry

Michele SEKAWIN (Head, Genetics Unit)

Ettore CASTELLANI (Director)

First Chinese delegation in Casale (11.11.1972)

Giovanni ARRU
(succeeded to Castellani as Director in 1979)
First shipment of Italian poplar clones to China

I-214
I-45/51
San Martino (I-72/58)
Lux (I-69/55)
Harvard (I-63/51)
Villafranca (I-58/57)

Ministry of Forestry, Beijing

Ministry of Forestry, Beijing

(Country Linyi, Shandong, 1988)

More followed on the late '70s and early '80s:

‘Bellini’
‘2KEN8’
‘NE222’
‘Luisa Avanzo’
‘Cima’
I-72/51 ‘Onda’
I-37/61 ‘Triplo’
‘Boccalari’
‘BL Costanzo’
‘Gattoni’
‘Cappa Bigliona’
‘Branagesi’, etc.
In 1984 Prof. Zhang Qiwen visited ISP and introduced Italian clones, including in ‘Neva’, ‘Guarento’ and ‘Eridano’
Field/clonal trials of varieties carried out in different climatic zones in several Provinces: Jiangsu, Hebei, Shandong, Beijing, Liaoning. Since 1980’s, crossings among/between Italian clones and local poplar have been made for new hybrid clones suitable in China.
Prof. LU Mengzhu
Siyang delegation in Casale Monferrato

Poplar Museum, Siyang City, Jiangsu Province

Agroforestry
Siyang City
Jiangsu Province

Jiangsu
Poplar Institute in Liaoning Province

Prof. ZHANG Qiwen

Dr LI Jinhua
In 2002 and 2009, ‘Neva’ and ‘Guariento’ were certified by the National Committee of Forest Improved Varieties.
Poplar distribution in China

Totale 10,1 M ha

Other poplar areas: 3,05 M ha

Other poplar plantations: 3,05 M ha

Poplar timber plantations: 4,52 M ha
• Poplar consumption: **134 M m³** (=30.7% of industrial wood consumption=63.2% of total timber consumption).

• Gross output value of furniture was **522 billion ¥**, ranking the first in the world.

Approx. 10 M ha of Italian clones were planted.
Cooperation agreement with Siyang, 2010

MoU CRA-PLF with CAF, 2014

Memorandum of Understanding between
the Research Unit for Wood Production Outside Forests of Agricultural
Research Council (CRA-PLF) in Casale Monferrato - ITALY
and
the Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF-RIF)
in Beijing - CHINA

For the CRA-PLF,
Casale M.to, Italy

For the CAF-RIF
Beijing, China

The Director
dr. Giuseppe NERVA

The Director
Dr. JIANG Ze-Ping

Beijing May 12th, 2014

... and research continues on new series of clones
2007: *Friendship Award* to S. Bisoffi in recognition of the support provided by Italy and the Poplar Research Institute (now CRA-PLF) to the development of poplar culture in China.
In 1970’s — 100 clones from Italy, Belgium, etc.

In 1980’s — 331 clones from 17 member countries of IPC

Since 2000 — 150 clones from 15 European countries
... these were the “happy beginnings” of a long story of cooperation and friendship between China and Italy in the name of poplars made possible by the International Poplar Commission of FAO.

... all stories usually have a “happy ending” ...
Thank you
谢谢
Grazie