



International Competition

My 3-Minute Horticultural Thesis (3MHT)

Within the IHC 2022 (www.ihc2022.org/) organized in France under the aegis of the ISHS, it appeared important to promote and reward young scientists - women and men - most able to communicate in 3 minutes in a very effective and convincing way on their research, using a language adapted to a non-specialist audience. The competition My 3-Minute Horticultural Thesis (3MHT) is open to any candidate who has defended her/his PhD thesis between October 2020 and February 2022. The topic of candidate PhDs must be consistent with one of the major topics of IHC 2022: Competitiveness and skills for horticultural value chains; Food, human health and well-being of citizens; Sustainability of production systems; Adaptation to climate change and mitigation. The candidate PhDs shall bear applications for the progress and transitions of global horticulture in these domains. The Organizing Committee will circulate the competition rules to all ISHS Council member countries.

A sovereign international jury, set up by the organizing committee of IHC2022, will include scientists and professionals from all over the world. It will ensure a pre-selection of the candidate PhDs and arbitrate the competition during the congress, based on oral performances in 3 minutes. The final ranking will lead to the choice of 3 winning PhDs according to the votes of the audience. This competition is distinct from the ISHS awards attributed to the best oral communication and the best poster during the symposia. The competition consists of 3 stages summarized below.

Stage 1: National pre-selections (December 2020 - March 2022)

This step is organized at the initiative (and under the responsibility) of each country. It can be based on a pre-existing national competition or be organized de novo. Eligible candidates from a university or a laboratory in the country (but not necessarily native to that country), must have defended their PhD between October 2020 and February 2022. The qualification criteria are academic (quality of research, valorization, etc.). At the end of this stage, two candidates per country member (1 man and 1 woman) are encouraged to present themselves at stage 2 by submitting their application to the international jury (see below). One of the representatives of the country accredits the applications to the jury by March 15, 2022.

Step 2: International pre-selection (March 15 - May 15, 2022)

An international jury of 7 members, balanced and impartial (no conflict of interest), will ensure a pre-selection on the basis of the applications received. The application of each accredited PhD candidate shall include: a curriculum vitae, a personal video explaining in a very synthetic way the scope of her/his research work for the progress of horticulture, and a 1,500-word abstract. These applications will be graded by the jury, according to a multi-criteria grid (quality and originality of communication, English proficiency, innovation potential for the horticultural sector). The main pre-selection will consist of 12 candidate PhDs and a complementary list of 6, with the whole respecting gender equity and diversity of origins. Candidates shortlisted in the main list will be informed of this decision in mid-May 2022 by the international jury: they will benefit from a free IHC 2022 registration and must attend the congress physically.

Stage 3: Competition during the IHC 2022 (14 - 18 August, 2022)

The preselected PhDs¹ will be divided into 3 groups by the competition's organizing committee on Sunday, August 14 (registration). At the end of each plenary session (Monday 15, Tuesday 16 and Thursday 18 August, a.m.), the candidates will orally present their research work in 3 minutes, according to the principles of national 3MT competitions². This oral communication in English, must be convincing and understandable by a non-specialist audience, and recall the main results and their application scope³. The jury will establish the ranking on the basis of the votes of the audience⁴ at the end of each plenary session, then compile the rankings of the 3 sessions. A prize will be awarded to each of the 3 laureates during the ISHS General Assembly (August 18, 2022; p.m.). The prizes awarded, with a value of 2,000 to 2,500 euros, will result from an endowment in kind or in cash by the sponsors of the Congress.



¹ The supplementary list may be called, in order of merit, if some of the PhD candidates on the main list are not able to attend the Congress

² For example: <https://threeminutethesis.uq.edu.au/>

³ The abstracts of the 12 preselected PhDs will be published in *Chronica Horticulturae* (end of 2022), with a short presentation of the author.

⁴ Electronic voting