Stefano Cesco is Full Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Udine (Italy), following his academic appointment at the Free University of Bolzano, where he served from 2010 until his move to Udine. He graduated in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Udine and obtained his PhD in Crop Production from the University of Padua.

Throughout his academic career, he has conducted research at several international institutions, including the Universities of Hohenheim (Germany) and Zurich (Switzerland), the Federal University of Santa Maria and the Santa Catarina State University (Brazil), and Universidad Austral de Chile. These experiences have contributed to the development of an interdisciplinary and internationally oriented research profile.

His research focuses on the biological, chemical and physiological processes governing nutrient acquisition by agricultural crops at the soil–microorganism–plant interface. Particular attention is devoted to the mechanisms regulating nutrient and metal mobilization, uptake and allocation, and to their implications for sustainable crop production, nutrient-use efficiency and soil resource management.

He has authored more than 235 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed international journals (Scopus H-index = 58; Web of Science H-index = 52). He serves on the editorial boards of *Plant and Soil* and *Scientific Reports* and regularly acts as an expert evaluator for competitive European and international research funding programmes, including the European Research Executive Agency (REA), the European Research Council (ERC) and the European Innovation Council (EIC) Pathfinder programme.

Over the yearsl, he has held numerous academic leadership and governance positions, including Study Programme Director, PhD Programme Coordinator, Dean of Faculty, Quality Assurance Coordinator, Chair of the Academic Disciplinary Board, Member of the Academic Senate, and Rector's Delegate for relations between UniBZ and CRUI, the National AGRITECH Centre and ITS Academy initiatives.

He has also held leadership roles in national and international scientific and higher education organizations, including President of the Italian Society of Agricultural Chemistry, President of the Conference of Directors of Departments of Agricultural Sciences, and Board Member of ICA-EDU – Network for Innovation in Life Sciences Higher Education, within the Association for European Life Science Universities (ICA). Since 2021, he has been a member of the Accademia dei Georgofili.

His scientific contributions have received several national and international recognitions, including awards from the Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature (UEAA). He has been included among the *Top Italian Scientists* since 2018 and among the *World's Top 2% Scientists* since 2021, with his inclusion also confirmed in the 2026 ranking. In 2025, he was additionally recognized as a *Highly Cited Researcher* by Clarivate, highlighting the international visibility and impact of his scientific contributions.