

Stefano Cesco is Full Professor of Agricultural Chemistry at the Faculty of Agricultural, Environmental and Food Sciences of the Free University of Bolzano, where he has been active since 2010. He obtained his degree in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Udine and earned a PhD in Crop Production from the University of Padua.

Throughout his career, he has carried out research periods at several international institutions, including the Universities of Hohenheim (D) and Zurich (CH), the Federal University of Santa Maria and the Santa Catarina State University in Brazil, as well as the Universidad Austral de Chile. These experiences have contributed to the development of a strongly interdisciplinary and international scientific perspective.

His research activity focuses on the study of the processes regulating nutrient acquisition by agricultural crops at the soil–microorganism–plant interface. In particular, his work addresses the mechanisms controlling nutrient and metal mobilization, uptake and allocation within plant tissues, with specific attention to their implications for the sustainability of agricultural systems and soil resources management.

He is the author of more than 220 articles published in peer-reviewed international journals (Scopus H-index = 54; Web of Science H-index = 50). He serves on the editorial boards of *Plant and Soil* and *Scientific Reports* and acts as reviewer for competitive European and international research funding programmes, including EU REA, ERC and EIC Pathfinder.

At the academic level, he has held several institutional and governance roles, including Study Course 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 the Bolzano University within the National AGRITECH Centre and for the ITS Academy initiatives.

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

He has received several recognitions for the quality and impact of his scientific activity, including awards from the Union of European Academies for Science Applied to Agriculture, Food and Nature. Since 2018, he has been listed among the *Top Italian Scientists*, since 2021 among the *World's Top 2% Scientists*, and in 2025 he was recognized as a *Highly Cited Researcher* in the Web of Science–Clarivate analysis.