



Dr./Professor **Laurent URBAN** is a researcher in Plant Physiology and Agronomy. He was the Director of the Integrated Research Unit in Horticulture of the french National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA) in Sophia-Antipolis (France) from 1988 to 1995. He became the Head of the Franco-Tanzanian Development Programme and a senior lecturer at Sokoine University of Agriculture in Morogoro (Tanzania) from 1995 to 1999. From January 2000 to June 2006, he was sent on secondment to the french International Centre of Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD) in la Réunion. He was the scientific responsible of the « Ecophysiology of Tropical Fruit Trees » project.

He created and managed HORTITROP, a consortium including INRA, CIRAD, the University of La Réunion et local development partners. From July 2006, Laurent Urban was recruited as the Director of the Research Unit « Genetic and environmental determinants of the quality of Citrus fruits » of INRA in San Giuliano (France). Since October 2009, Laurent Urban is Professor of Plant Physiology and Agronomy at the University of Avignon (France). He is also the Director of the Federative Research Structure TERSYS which aim is to develop plant products, mainly fruits and vegetables, with enhanced concentrations in phytochemicals. Since 2007, Laurent Urban studies the way environmental factors (oxidative stress, carbohydrate availability and UV-C light) influence the secondary metabolism of plants and their natural defenses.