

In memory of Gaetano Castro

This special issue of ASR is dedicated to Gaetano Castro, researcher at the Research Centre for Forestry and Wood at Casale Monferrato, recently passed away, who, as an expert in wood technology, participated in the work of the H2020 European project "WOODnat - Second generation of planted hardwood forests in the EU".

The research activity of our friend Gaetano mainly concerned wood and derived products, from investigations to support the genetic improvement of poplar to the harvesting techniques of forest plantations and the technological qualification of wood-based panels. In particular, he effectively and competently managed the operational connection of research in poplar breeding and cultivation with the wood industries. Known nationally and internationally for his research on the quality of wood and for his expertise about standardization in wood technology, recently nominated Chairman of ISO/TC 89/SC3 'Plywood', Gaetano was not only a brilliant researcher, but also an IT expert: particular mention deserves, for example, the creation of a software for the macroscopic identification of the wood of the main tree species in Italy.

His sympathy and contagious cheerfulness, as well as his kindness and positive attitude, made him appreciated by all those who had the opportunity to work with him. All of us will be missing not only the competence of a colleague but also the simple, genuine and real smile of a friend.



Piermaria Corona

ASR Editor in Chief