STSM Opportunities 2026

Location Institute (Country)	Topic(s)	Time Period
Centro De Investigacion Y Tecnologia Agroalimentaria De Aragon *Spain*	Domestication of medicinal and aromatic plants (MAPs); Promotion of MAPs cultivation in rural areas; Essential oil (EO) extraction at laboratory and semi-industrial scale; Valorisation of plant extracts and by products obtained after plant processing; Analysis and testing of functional properties of EO and plant extratcs.	2 - 3 weeks (July - September)
Universita Degli Studi Di Catania *Italy*	Morphological and Biochemical (aromatic and medicinal compounds) phenotyping; Study on the effectiveness of microbial consortia soil drenching for implementing the resilience of MAPs Crop productivity and quality; Optimization of Breeding Methods for MAPs crops for increase the competitiveness against weeds; Assessing Genetic Diversity and Phenotypic Traits of MAPS diversity using Molecular Markers; Optimization of the Biochemical Profile of Novel Foods through the Use of MAPS as elicitors/biostimulants; Effect of biofumigant MAPs Biomasses for controlling weeds in different vegetable and MAPs crops; Genetic and Biochemical Evaluation of Landraces/clones and Wild MAPs under abiotic/biotic stresses.	2 - 3 weeks (July - September)
Cardiff Metropolitan University Wales *United Kingdom*	This scientific mission focuses on a comparative study of *Ocimum basilicum* 'Genovese' cultivated via an indoor hydroponic system and traditional field conditions. Following harvest, the essential oils will be isolated using both advanced green technology—microwave-assisted extraction (MAE)—and conventional hydrodistillation via a Clevenger apparatus to evaluate the impact of cultivation and extraction parameters on yield. The resulting volatile profiles will be rigorously characterized for their chemical composition and biological activities, including antioxidant and antimicrobial properties. Finally, these bioactive essential oils will be encapsulated into sustainable hydrogel matrices derived from basil seed mucilage to develop innovative, biocompatible delivery systems. This comprehensive approach bridges controlled-environment agriculture, advanced extraction processing, and eco-friendly material science.	2 - 3 weeks (July - September)

Cardiff Metropolitan University Wales *United Kingdom*	I would like to learn methods for extracting herbal raw materials, including supercritical fluid extraction, as well as methods for assessing the quality of plant raw materials and their extracts, with a particular focus on HPLC analysis.	2 - 3 weeks (July - September)
Warsaw University of Life Sciences *Poland*	Methods for postharvest treatment and quality evaluation of herbal raw materials. Methods for extracting herbal raw materials, including essential oil extraction (steam distillation and microwave extraction); Quality assessment of essential oils - analysis using GC-MS.	2 - 3 weeks (July - September)
Laimburg Research Centre *Italy*	Applied field research and agronomic trials with medicinal and aromatic plants (Mediterranean and alpine species), including optimisation of cultivation under organic conditions and projects focused on pathogen control and plant health. Laboratory-scale essential oil extraction.	2 - 3 weeks (July - September)
Institut Technique Interprofessionel Des Plantes A Parfum Medicinales Et Aromatiques *France*	Tbd	2 - 3 weeks (July - September)