

Professor Francesca Maria Sarti was born in Perugia on 16 February 1962, where she completed her compulsory education.

ACADEMIC CAREER

She graduated in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Perugia with a mark of 110/110 cum laude on 27 February 1987, defending the thesis “*Knowledge-based analysis of some productive parameters of the pigeon.*”

From November 1988 to November 1991 she attended the 4th cycle of the PhD in *Technical Applications in the Zootechnical Field* at the Institute of Rural Appraisal and Agricultural Accounting – Faculty of Agriculture – University of Perugia, under the supervision of Prof. Vito Saccomandi, choosing the curriculum *Economics of the Livestock Products Market*.

On 11 June 1992 she obtained the PhD title by defending the thesis “*Economic performance analysis of a group of dairy farms in the Umbria region, classified according to production technologies through factor analysis.*”

In November 1991 she first held the position of Technical Assistant and later Technical Officer in the Chair of Animal Science at the Department of Animal Production, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bari.

From 10 June 1997 to 31 December 2003 she was a confirmed Researcher at the Institute of General Animal Science of the Faculty of Agriculture of Perugia.

By Rector’s Decree no. 2165 of 17 October 1995, she was assigned, for teaching duties, to the scientific disciplinary sector G09A “*General Animal Science and Genetic Improvement.*”

Since 1 January 2004 she has been Associate Professor for the SSD AGR/17 (now AGRI-09/A) at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences (DSA3), University of Perugia.

In 2018/2020 she obtained the National Scientific Qualification as Full Professor (Area 07/G1 – SSD AGRI-09/A), valid until 09/06/2033.

TEACHING

In the academic year 1998–99 and subsequent years, she was entrusted with the course “*Applied Informatics for Animal Production Systems*” within the Degree Programme in Animal Production Science and Technology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Perugia.

In the academic year 1998–99 she was entrusted with the course “*Veterinary Genetics*” within the Degree Programme in Animal Production Science and Technology at the University of Molise.

From the academic year 1995–96 to 2000–01 she delivered lecture series and practical classes for the course “*Genetic Improvement of Livestock*” within the Degree Programme in Animal Production Science and Technology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Perugia.

For the academic year 2001–02 she was entrusted with the course “*Genetic Improvement of Livestock*” within the Degree Programme in Animal Production Science and Technology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Perugia.

For the academic year 2004–05 she was entrusted with the following courses: “*Genetic Improvement of Livestock*” and “*Applied Informatics for Animal Production Systems*” within the Specialist Degree in Animal Production Science and Technology; and “*Advanced Animal Biotechnology*” within the Specialist Degree in Agricultural and Environmental Biotechnology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Perugia.

From the academic year 2005–06 she was entrusted with the following courses: “*Genetic Improvement of Livestock*” (Quantitative Genetics module) and “*Informatics, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics*” (Statistics and Applied Informatics for Animal Production Systems module) within the Specialist Degree in Animal Production Science and Technology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Perugia.

Since 2006 she has been responsible for the courses “*Animal Biometrics*” (6 ECTS) and “*Genetic Improvement*” (module of *Genetic Improvement of Livestock*, 6 ECTS) within the Master’s Degree

in Animal Science.

In the academic years 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 she was entrusted with the module “*Advanced Genetic Improvement Applied to Animals*” (6 ECTS) within the course Advanced Genetic Improvement of the Master’s Degree in Agricultural and Environmental Biotechnology.

In the academic year 2021–2022 she was entrusted with the module “*Animal Diversity*” (3 ECTS) within the course Conservation and Management of Biodiversity of the Master’s Degree in Sustainable Agriculture.

In 2009–2010 she delivered lecture series in the course “*Expert in the Protection, Conservation and Valorisation of Biodiversity*” organised by INNOVA BUSINESS SOLUTIONS.

She has taught in several courses on Statistical Methodology organised by the Italian Society of Animal Production, focusing on matrices and linear models.

She participated as Lecturer in the *Master in Health and Production Management of Sheep and Goat Farming*, presenting “*Operational protocols in the selection of sheep and goats*”, organised by the Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Perugia (12/05/2017).

She participated as Lecturer in the training event “*The Role of Genetics in Animal Health*” held at the Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute of Umbria and Marche “Togo Rosati” (IZSUM) on 11/12/2018.

She participated as Lecturer in the training event “*Genetic Resistance to Infectious Diseases*” held at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences – University of Perugia on 03/10/2019, organised by IZSUM.

2023: lecture within the Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) “*Use of local genetic resources for sustainable farming in the Mediterranean basin*” (Erasmus+, University of Perugia) on *Guidelines for the management of animal biodiversity, the situation of local breeds in Italy and in situ conservation*.

2026: Coordinator of the *Livestock Farming Technologies* module of the First-Level University Master’s programme of the Department of Veterinary Medicine, where she also delivers lectures on: “*Pastoralism and sustainable livestock farming: approaches in the national context and in development cooperation*” (4 hours); “*Operational protocols in selection and recovery experiences of sheep and goat breeds*” (4 hours); “*Wool sheep: farming and production*” (6 hours).

TRAINING

In April 1987 she obtained the professional qualification to practise as an Agronomist.

From 5 to 16 October 1992 she attended the ASPA course “*Statistical Methodology Applied to Research in Animal Production – Level I.*”

In April 1993 she participated in the Congress “*Foods of Animal Origin: Hygienic and Health Quality and Safety of Use.*”

From 11 to 22 October 1993 she attended the ASPA course “*Statistical Methodology Applied to Research in Animal Production – Level II.*”

In September 1994 she participated in the Congress “*Official Methods for Food Analysis: Current Situation and Future Perspectives.*”

From 5 to 9 February 1996 she attended the statistics course “*SAS Package*” organised by ASPA.

In March 1999 she attended an Internet course at the University IT Services Centre of the University of Perugia.

In December 1999 she obtained the qualification to carry out the activity of Expert Classifier of sheep carcasses in accordance with EEC Regulation No. 2137/92.

Expert evaluator of the Appenninica sheep breed and Italian Merino-derived sheep breeds.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

From 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2005 she was a member of the PhD Board in *Animal Science*, University

of Perugia.

From 01/01/2005 to 31/12/2009 she was a member of the PhD Board “*Genetics, Biodiversity, Biostatistics and Biotechnology*”, University of Padua.

From 01/01/2008 to 31/01/2012 she was a member of the PhD Board in *Plant Biology and Agro-Environmental and Animal Biotechnology*, University of Perugia.

From 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2012 she was a member of the PhD Board in *Animal Science*, University of Padua.

From 01/01/2013 she has been a member of the PhD Board in *Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences and Biotechnology*, University of Perugia.

She served as Representative of Researchers and Assistants on the Degree Programme Council in Animal Production Science and Technology from the academic year 1998–99.

She served as Representative of Researchers and Assistants on the Faculty Board in the period 2000–2003.

From October 2000 to December 2003 she was a member of the Users’ Conference of the University IT Services Centre (C.A.S.I.).

From November 2000 to 2013 she was a member of the Faculty IT Committee, becoming its Coordinator in 2005.

Since November 2000 she has been a member of the Faculty Committee for Linguistic, IT and Interpersonal Skills (now the Committee for Other Educational Activities), becoming its Coordinator in 2004.

From November 2005 to 2012 she was a member of the Faculty Editorial Initiatives Committee.

From 2014 to 2019 she was a member of the Joint Teaching Committee of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences (DSA3).

From 2016 to 2019 she was a member of the Committee for the Management of the University Educational Livestock Farm, University of Perugia.

Since November 2019 she has been Scientific Coordinator of the DSA3 Distance Learning and Helpdesk Committees established for the delivery of online teaching and examinations during the COVID emergency.

She is a member of the Council of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences.

She participates in the Animal Production and Ecosystem Services Committee of the Italian Society of Animal Production (ASPA).

She participates in the Statistical Methodology and Experimental Design Committee of the Italian Society of Animal Production (ASPA).

She participates in the Phenomic Approaches in Livestock Committee of the Italian Society of Animal Production (ASPA).

Head of the Animal Science Research Unit of DSA3.

Quality Assurance Manager of the Master’s Degree in Animal Science.

Coordinator of the Practical Training Internship Committee of the Master’s Degree in Animal Science.

Delegate of the DSA3 Director for Other Educational Activities.

Delegate of the DSA3 Director for Equal Opportunities.

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

On 22 March 2006 she was appointed by the Umbria Region as expert for the Appenninica sheep breed Committee within the National Sheep Breeders' Association.

On 18 December 2006 she was appointed President of the Appenninica sheep breed Committee within the National Sheep Breeders' Association.

Member and subsequently President of the Scientific and Technical Committee of the *Promoting Committee for the IGP recognition of "Central Italy Lamb."*

She participates as Italy's representative in the *Iberoamerican Association for the Conservation of the Biodiversity of Local Domestic Animals (CONBIAND Network)*.

She was a member of the EAAP (European Federation of Animal Science) Commission on fibre-producing animals.

In 2017 she was appointed livestock expert in the Technical Committee of the National Register of Hybrid Pig Breeders (ANAS) for the 2017–2019 term, renewed for 2021–2023.

In 2018 she was appointed member of the Scientific Technical Committee for the evaluation of applications to the Register for the Protection of Genetic Resources of Agricultural Interest at Risk of Genetic Erosion (Regional Law Umbria, 9 April 2015, No. 12).

In December 2018 she was appointed expert member of the Central Technical Commission of the Herd Book of the sheep species (ASSO.NA.PA.), where she serves as Vice-President.

She is Team Leader of the AGR/17 group of the University of Perugia within the *Italian Goat Consortium*.

In 2021 she was awarded a mobility grant for incoming PhD students, researchers and lecturers from the Southern Mediterranean area by the University of Perugia; in this context she hosted Dr Nour el Houda Bakri as co-supervisor of the PhD thesis "*Genomic evaluation of dairy cattle and study of its application in Tunisia.*"

In 2022 she contributed to the creation of the DSA3 webpage dedicated to Third Mission activities related to *in situ* and *ex situ* biodiversity conservation.

In 2022 she was appointed member of the Board of Directors of the University Foundation Agricultural Enterprise (FUAA), University of Perugia, as representative of the Italian Ministry of University and Research.

From 2025 she has been a member of the Regional Support Group for Europe (RISG) within the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) 2026, promoted by FAO and the International Land Coalition (ILC), and member of the working group on animal fibres.

On 30 September 2025 she was appointed member of the Scientific and Technical Committee for Continuing Medical Education (ECM), serving as Coordinator and Scientific Manager of the Board of the CESAR – Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development.

External reviewer for VQR 2020–24 (Research Quality Evaluation) – ANVUR, the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research.

On 4 November 2025 she was appointed by the Rector as expert in the activity sector of the Foundation for Agricultural Education (FIA), Perugia.

In February 2026 she was appointed President of the Council of the Regional Landowners' Union and member of the Regional Horticulture Product Section Council within Confagricoltura, as representative of the Foundation for Agricultural Education.

In 2026 she was appointed member of the Research Centre for Sport Horse, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Perugia.

ASSOCIATIONS

Member of the Italian Society of Animal Production (ASPA).

Member of the Italian Society of Agricultural Genetics (SIGA).

Member of the Italian Society of Sheep and Goat Pathology and Farming (SIPAOC).

INVITED TALKS AT SCIENTIFIC AND OUTREACH EVENTS

2018 – Festival dei Saperi, Amelia (TR), Italy – *“Farming biodiversity between tradition and innovation.”* Invited talk on the role of traditional livestock systems as drivers of innovation and sustainability.

2018 – AGRIMUMBRIA International Livestock Exhibition, Bastia Umbra (PG), Italy – *“Genetic improvement of Italian meat sheep.”* Technical outreach talk on genetic improvement of Italian meat sheep breeds and sector development prospects.

2019 – AGRIMUMBRIA International Livestock Exhibition, Bastia Umbra (PG), Italy – *“Protection and conservation of breeds at risk of genetic erosion: Sopravissana sheep, Appenninica sheep, TPR horse, Facciuta della Valnerina goat.”* Plenary lecture on biodiversity valorisation in livestock systems.

2019 – Italo-Argentine Symposium *“Crece el patrimonio: trashumancia y pastoreo”*, Universidad Nacional de Comahue – INTA IPAF Patagonia – INTA Bariloche (Argentina) – *“The challenge of the Sopravissana sheep: relaunching pastoralism in the Umbrian-Marche Apennines.”* Invited international lecture on transhumance and revitalisation of traditional sheep farming.

2021 – National Biodiversity Day, L’Aquila, Italy – *“The Teramana goat: a resource for biodiversity (genetics at the service of farmers).”* Keynote on genetic resources for local breed conservation.

2022 – *“The livestock scientist on the move... Rural development in Burkina Faso and Tunisia”*, organised by NGO TAMAT and the University of Perugia – *“Meat sheep: naturally resilient.”* Talk on the role of meat sheep in international rural development and cooperation.

2023 – *“The pig in Etruscan civilisation”*, Aula Magna DSA3, Perugia – *“The ‘Suino Nero Cinghiato’: history and the path of its reconstitution.”* Lecture on the historical-scientific recovery of the breed and its link with archaeology and territorial identity.

2023 – 3rd Edition Ambassador of Mother Earth Award, Campi di Norcia – *“The ‘Suino Nero Cinghiato’: from fresco to reality.”* Talk on historical-scientific valorisation and sustainability of local livestock resources.

2023 – Conference on Collective Land Domains, Visso (MC), Italy – *“Safeguarding native genetic types for environmental sustainability.”* Invited talk on biodiversity and socio-ecological resilience.

2023 – 13th Umbrian Conference on Collective Land Systems, Sant’Eraclio (PG), Italy – *“Safeguarding native genetic types for environmental sustainability.”* Outreach talk on conservation of native genetic types for territorial valorisation.

2023 – *“The Etruscans and animals: time tells our history”*, Perugia – Talk on the historical relationship between humans, animals and environment in Etruscan culture and its relevance for sustainability.

2023 – Conference *“The Apennine City: Territory and Policies between Marche and Umbria”*, Gubbio – *“The Apennine city and the unresolved mountain issue.”* Talk on the role of mountain territories in development policies.

2024 – 4th Ambassador of Mother Earth Award, Norcia – *“Is there a future for biodiversity?”* Public keynote on biodiversity conservation challenges in marginal rural areas; award acceptance for DSA3.

2024 – Mugello Agricultural Fair, Borgo San Lorenzo – *“Selection in meat sheep: ancient methodologies for modern results.”* Talk on integrating traditional and innovative selection strategies.

2024 – International Conference on Biodiversity, Torre Orsina – *“The value of biodiversity: a common good.”* Lecture integrating environmental, cultural and scientific perspectives on agrobiodiversity.

2025 – AGRIMUMBRIA International Livestock Exhibition – *“Study and protection of native Umbrian animal resources: the role of the Technical Scientific Committee.”*

2025 – Conference “*Napoleone Passerini and the origins of the Chianina breed*”, Bettolle (SI) – “*Ezio Marchi’s vision: local livestock between identity and future.*”

2025 – Mugello Agricultural Fair – “*Genetic pathways for the livestock of tomorrow.*”

2025 – 15th Umbrian Conference on Collective Land Systems – “*Collective land systems, agrobiodiversity and the Canticle of the Creatures.*”

2025 – Meeting on Hazelnut Cultivation and Inner Areas, Confagricoltura – “*Study and protection of native Umbrian animal resources.*”

2026 – World Day of Greek Language and Culture, Perugia – “*From ancient Greek to agricultural and veterinary sciences.*”

2026 – Conference “*The soul of the forest, the breath of the earth*”, Pietralunga – “*From stable to pasture: tradition, innovation and new frontiers.*”

2026 – AGRIMUMBRIA International Livestock Exhibition – “*Agrobiodiversity that generates income.*” Talk on coordination between institutions, the University of Perugia and the Umbria Agro-Food Technological Park for research and valorisation of regional agrobiodiversity.

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH TOPICS

She is author of more than 220 publications on:

- Development of livestock systems in marginal agricultural areas
- Genetic improvement of Appenninica and Italian Merinised sheep and product quality
- Rabbit breeding and genetic improvement
- Conservation and valorisation of Sopravissana and Gentile di Puglia breeds
- Genetic improvement of Italian beef cattle breeds
- Biodiversity conservation of native genetic resources
- Recovery and economic valorisation of the Suino Nero Cinghiato in Umbria
- Genomic biotechnology for genetic variability in cattle, sheep and poultry
- Genetic factors affecting stress in poultry
- Performance of sport horses
- Mitochondrial DNA studies in livestock species
- Supervisor and co-supervisor of over 100 undergraduate theses.