

**O-50 (259) Keynote Speaker****PROTECTED CULTIVATION IN MEDITERRANEAN REGION****Prof. Dr. Yüksel Tüzel**

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Protected cultivation includes different type of structures protecting the plants from harsh environmental conditions, extending the cultivation season and/or providing out of season crop production. Although commercial protected cultivations developed broadly after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War by using heated glasshouses, the history is shorter for Mediterranean region. The expansion of protected cultivation was in 1960s by the introduction of plastics into agriculture. During 1970s the rise in oil prices enhanced protected cultivation in this Region due to mild winter climate conditions that made the production possible under very simple shelters. Since then, the Mediterranean Region has gained more and more importance, rePresenting now one of the most important areas in the world. Protected cultivation shows significant differences between the countries located in different climate zones. More sophisticated structures and advanced technology are used with extended environmental control in the higher latitudes, whereas lower investment, simpler design, low-tech and low-cost structures, less climate control characterize protected cultivation in the Mediterranean Region. However, increasing attention of the consumers in relation to the quality of the product and the sustainability of production process has resulted in development of sustainable production systems and improved in structures during the last two decades. In this paper, the situation of protected cultivation industry in Mediterranean Region, advantages and constraints (water availability, salinity etc.) and recent developments on sustainable technologies (certified production technologies, energy use etc.) during the last two decades is discussed.

Keywords: Greenhouse, shelter, technology, production systems