

# The role of the IPC in the Chinese-Italian cooperation on poplar cultivation

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# Poplar breeding in Italy starts in the 1920's

Breeding activities in Italy started before 1930:  
Giovanni JACOMETTI in Villafranca Piemonte

**I-214**

**I-154**

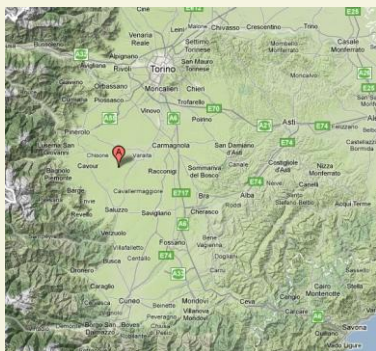
**I-476**

**I-488**



Epidemic outbursts of  
Spring defoliation  
(*Venturia populina*)  
in the late 'twenties  
suggested a  
dedicated breeding  
programme to select  
resistant cultivars.

Jacometti  
collected *P.deltoides*  
from parks in  
Piedmont and  
crossed them with  
*P.nigra* and DxN  
hybrids.





# Poplar breeding in the 1930's

weeding in a seedling bed

poplar planting was  
strongly supported  
by the government  
and celebrated



# The Poplar Research Institute of Casale Monferrato was founded in 1939





# The pioneers in China

## Prof. Weiying XU



**Before 1949:** occasional introductions

**In the 1950's:** 50 clones from Soviet Union, East Germany, Belgium, Poland, etc.

**In the 1960's:** 40 clones from Japan, Romania, etc.

Old gate



Breeding work at the Chinese Academy of Forestry started before the foundation of the Research Institute of Forestry in 1953



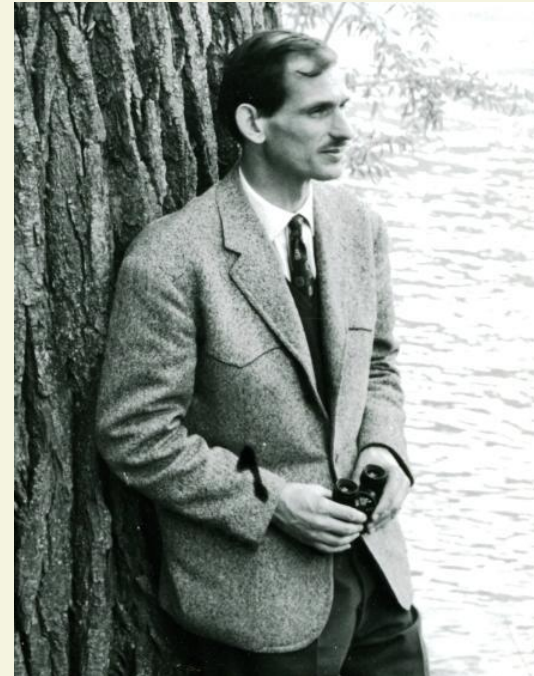
大 门



1952年建

## Five strategies:

- selection among locally cultivated populations
- collections of seed from open pollinated *P.deltoides* and *P.nigra* in Italy
- introduction of seed of open pollinated *P.deltoides* from the USA
- artificial crosses between *P.deltoides* and *P.nigra*
- diploids x tetraploids to produce triploids



**Michele  
SEKAWIN  
(1917- )**



# First Chinese delegation in Casale (11.11.1972)

**Giovanni ARRU**  
(succeeded to Castellani  
as Director in 1979)

**Mr. LIANG Changwu**  
Vice Minister of Forestry

**Michele SEKAWIN** (Head, Genetics Unit)

**Ettore CASTELLANI** (Director)



祝中意兩國和兩國人民之  
間的友誼萬古長青。

中國林業代表團。

梁昌武

1972.11.11.

I-214

I-45/51

San Martino (I-72/58)

Lux (I-69/55)

Harvard (I-63/51)

Villafranca (I-58/57)



Ministry of Forestry,  
Beijing

(County Linyi, Shandong, 1988)



More followed on the late  
'70s and early '80s:

'Bellini'  
'2KEN8'  
'NE222'  
'Luisa Avanzo'  
'Cima'  
I-72/51 'Onda'  
I-37/61 'Triplo'  
'Boccalari'  
'BL Costanzo'  
'Gattoni'  
'Cappa Bigliona'  
'Branagesi', etc.





# The poplar 'champion' in China: Prof. ZHANG Qiwen

In 1984 Prof. Zhang Qiwen visited *ISP* and introduced Italian clones, including in 'Neva', 'Guariento' and 'Eridano'





# Clonal trials and breeding work at CAF

Field/clonal trials of varieties carried out in different climatic zones in several Provinces: Jiangsu, Hebei, Shandong, Beijing, Liaoning.

Since 1980's, crossings among/between Italian clones and local poplar have been made for new hybrid clones suitable in China.









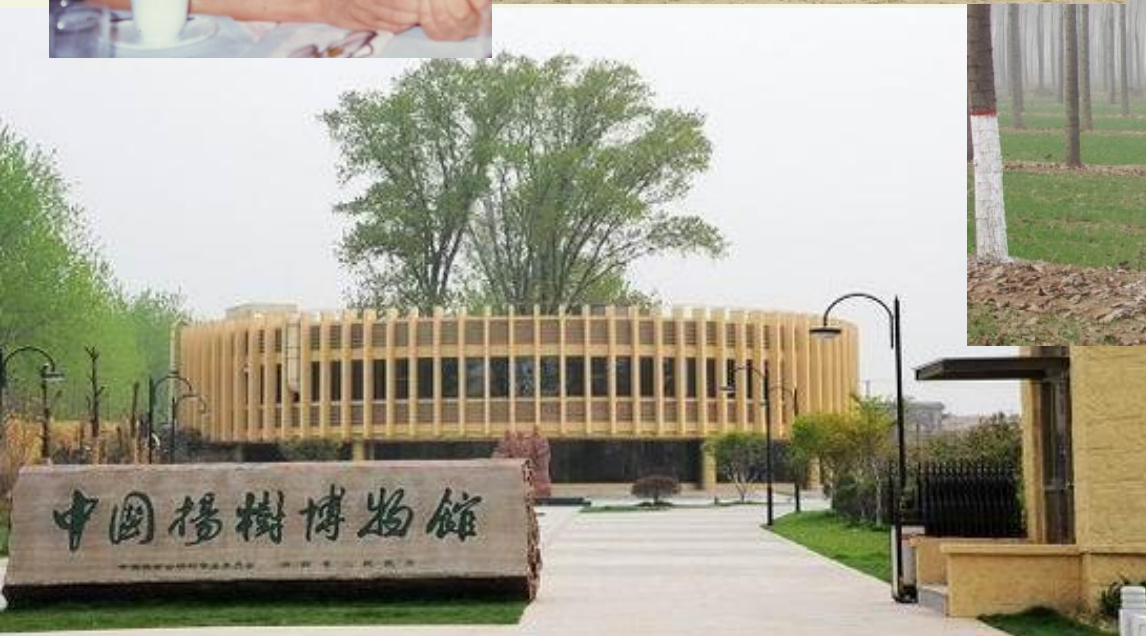






Prof. LU Mengzhu





Agroforestry  
Siyang City  
Jiangsu Province

Poplar Museum, Siyang City, Jiangsu Province



## Poplar Institute in Liaoning Province



Prof. ZHANG Qiwen

Dr LI Jinhua



In 2002 and 2009, 'Neva' and 'Guariento' were certified by the National Committee of Forest Improved Varieties.

良种名称  
欧美杨 108 杨 (库安托)  
树种  
欧美杨  
学名  
*Populus × euramericana* 'Guariento'  
良种编号  
国 S-SV-PE-004-2009  
申请人

适宜推广生态区域  
  
河北、北京、山东、河南等欧美  
杨适宜栽培区。

张绮纹

## 林木良种证

(审 定)

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编号: (2009) 第 04 号 发证机关  
2009 年 12 月 30 日

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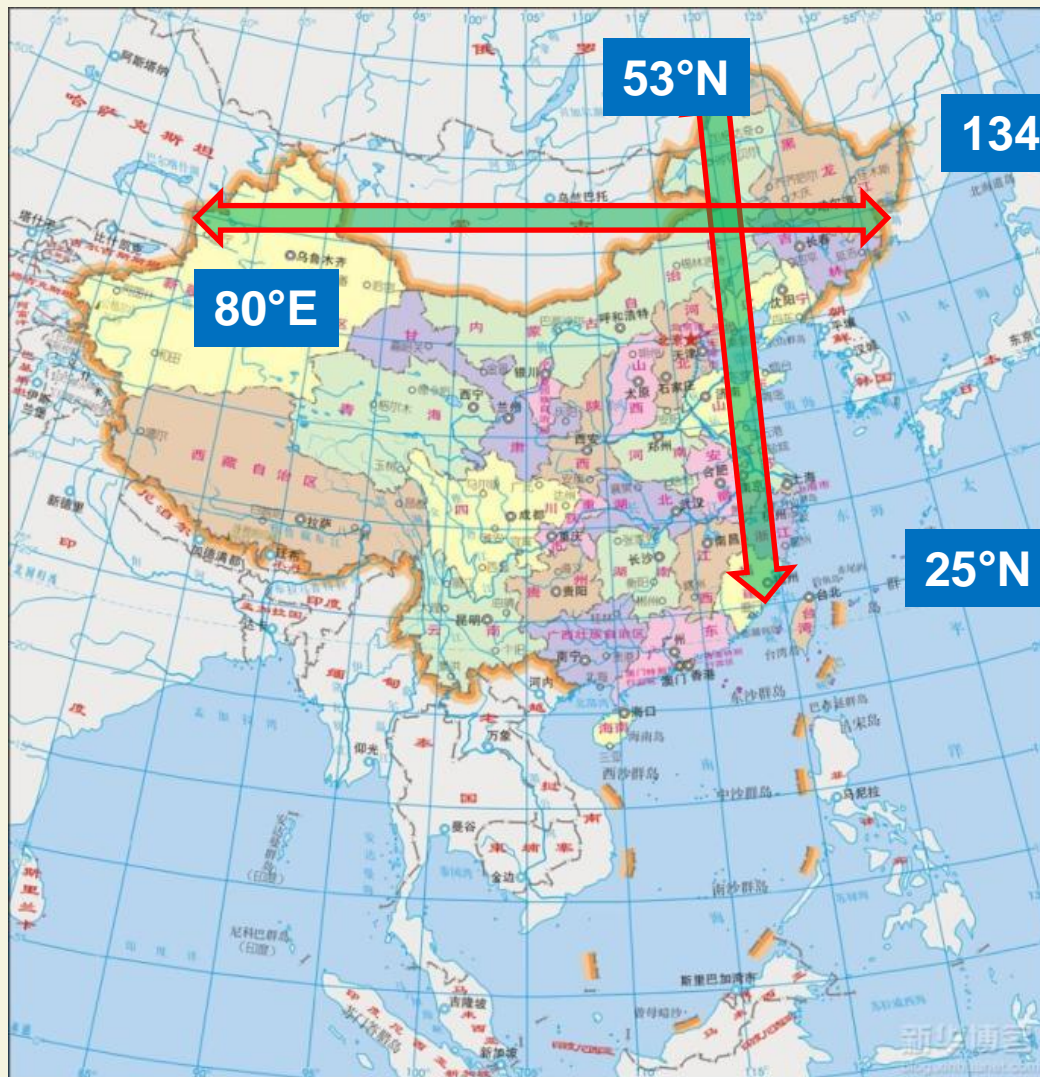
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# Poplar distribution in China

**Totale 10,1 M ha**



**Other poplar  
areas: 3,05 M ha**

**Other poplar  
plantations: 3,05 M ha**

**Poplar timber  
plantations: 4,52 M ha**



# Poplar yield of China in 2010

**122 M m<sup>3</sup> for veneer  
and sawn-timber**

**12 M m<sup>3</sup> for wood pulp.**

- Poplar consumption: **134 M m<sup>3</sup>** (=30.7% of industrial wood consumption=63.2% of total timber consumption).
- Gross output value of **furniture** was **522 billion ¥**, ranking the first in the world.

Approx. 10 M ha of Italian clones  
were planted





## Cooperation agreement with Siyang, 2010



... and research  
continues on  
new series of  
clones



## MoU CRA-PLF with CAF, 2014

**Memorandum of Understanding between**  
**the Research Unit for Wood Production Outside Forests of Agricultural**  
**Research Council (CRA-PLF) in Casale Monferrato - ITALY**  
**and**  
**the Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF-RIF)**  
**in Beijing - CHINA**

For the CRA-PLF,  
Casale M.to, Italy

The Director  
dr. Giuseppe NERVO

Beijing May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014



For the CAF-RIF  
Beijing, China

The Director  
Dr. JIANG Ze-Ping





# Friendship Award 2007

2007: *Friendship Award* to S.Bisoffi in recognition of the support provided by Italy and the Poplar Research Institute (now CRA-PLF) to the development of poplar culture in China







In 1970's — 100 clones from Italy,  
Belgium, etc.

In 1980's — 331 clones from 17 member  
countries of IPC

Since 2000 — 150 clones from 15  
European countries



... all stories usually have a “happy ending” ...

... these were the “happy beginnings” of a long story of cooperation and friendship between China and Italy in the name of poplars made possible by the *International Poplar Commission* of FAO.



Thank you  
谢谢  
Grazie



**COFO 22**  
WORLD FOREST WEEK



[www.fao.org/forestry](http://www.fao.org/forestry)