

## **Davide Cammarano - Vision Statement - ISPA President-Elect**

### **Vision:**

To advance research, outreach, and education in Precision Agriculture for transforming global agriculture, ensuring it is more productive, sustainable, and resilient for future generations.

### **Rationale for future direction of the society:**

The International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA) is at a crucial crossroad that is to lead the advancement of Precision Agriculture (PA) worldwide in a specific moment in time when the word PA and its meaning are often “*over-used*” and “*abused*”.

As a scientific society, the ISPA must work on several fronts to ensure that PA correctly evolves from its original intentions to a future in which we can promote innovative research, comprehensive education, and impactful outreach. In this way, the ISPA and its members can help shape what drives sustainability in agriculture, and in a broad sense enhance food security.

### **Research:**

From a research point of view the ISPA needs to be at the forefront of cutting-edge research through interdisciplinary collaborations that integrate advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, machine learning, remote sensing, system-based modeling, and data analytics.

Too often those new technologies are considered as “ultimate solution” to our problems. The ISPA goal should be to address the complex challenges of modern agriculture and how those tools can help complement the what the original aims of PA were.

By developing innovative management strategies through those technologies ISPA can provide effective mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change, resource optimization, and crop health.

In addition, the society will support and disseminate research that not only improves agricultural productivity and profitability but also ensures the long-term sustainability of farming systems globally.

### **Education:**

Education is at the core of my vision for the future of the ISPA. Too many Universities do not often have any introductory course on PA, while claiming that they produce bachelors/undergraduate and Master students with the right skills. The current “explosion” of PA and Digital Agriculture (DA) means that a number of places, and consequently young graduates are not able to appreciate how PA has come to be and what are the grey areas to pay attention when applying PA concepts in practice.

The ISPA should aim to be a global leader in the education and training of the next generation of agricultural scientists, practitioners, and policymakers. We must develop and collaborate with universities worldwide to help shape either educational programs or simple courses. Other ideas would be online courses, certifications, and hands-on training, to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement and innovate within the field of PA.

**Outreach:**

Within the domain of PA, On-Farm Experimentation (OFE) and On-Farm Research (OFR) are two philosophical approaches that can help bridge the gap between innovation and implementation, ensuring that the benefits of precision agriculture are accessible to farmers, agribusinesses, policymakers, and communities worldwide. I envision a close collaboration with both efforts, and I plan to engage with members of OFE, OFR, and ISPA to understand how to reach out to diverse stakeholders through workshops, conferences, publications, and digital platforms. In this way, I expect that the promotion of PA practices will be tailored to local contexts and needs.