

**Dr Mary Cole (Australia)      ORCID ID 0000-0001-5239-9963**

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**Award winning Plant pathologist, Regenerative Agriculture Advocate,  
International Speaker.**

Dr Mary Cole is recognised globally as one of the top experts in the world of plant pathology, biological regenerative agriculture and soil health, with over 50 years of experience spanning research, education and on-ground innovation. She is the 2025 winner the Agri-futures Rural Women's Award and was named 2024 Cardinia Shire Senior Citizen of the Year for her work in soil health, education and farmer wellbeing. A Chartered Agriculturist with the Ag Institute of Australia, she also holds honorary membership of the Institute of Ecological Agriculture.

Mary holds a PhD in Plant Pathology from Monash University and is the founder and principal scientist of Agpath Pty Ltd, a leading independent biological research and consultancy firm specialising in biological solutions, soil ecology and organic viticulture. Her work includes over \$2.7 million in commercially funded research, along side major public grants, including Sustainability Victoria, Landcare, And GWRDC (Wine Australia), with funding exceeding \$1million.

A passionate educator, Mary has been involved in international projects from Timor-Leste to Singapore, recently speaking at the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Congress on Plant pathology and Biotechnology and the Climate Action Forum in Singapore. Her work bridges science and practice. With contributions to composting, waste mineralisation, biological inputs and ecological farming systems all of which she has used on her family farm for the last 40 years.

Mary is also a board member of for multiple national and international agricultural and environmental organisations, including The Federation of Industrial Hemp Organisation (FIFO), CORE (Centre of Organic Research and Education), and the Australian Industrial Hemp Alliance (AIHA).

She continues to mentor, consult, and advocate for sustainable food systems rooted in soil intelligence and ecological integrity.