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Maria Carlota Vaz Patto earned a PhD in Production Ecology and Resource Conservation at Wageningen University, The Netherlands in 2001, having Piet Stam as PhD Promoter. Earlier degrees include an MSc in Plant Breeding (1997) from CIHEAM and a Post-graduate Studies Diploma in Plant Breeding (1995) from IAMZ, Spain. She obtained a 5 years University degree in Agronomical Engineering from Lisbon Technical University, Portugal in 1994. From 2001 through 2009, she worked as a Post-Doc researcher with several research groups at: Bologna University, Italy; IFAPA and IAS-CSIC, Spain; and finally ITQB NOVA, Portugal. Since 2009 MC Vaz Patto has worked, first as Auxiliary Investigator at ITQB NOVA and currently as Principal Investigator in the same institution, where is also the Head of the PlantX Lab (<http://www.itqb.unl.pt/labs/plantx>). Her research focuses on the genetic and genomic basis of plant complex traits, using different statistical genetic and genomic approaches. Currently her lab is working on resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, and nutritional/health beneficial and organoleptic plant quality traits mainly on grain legumes and cereals of national interest. This research has been contributing to the development of control models, scientific methods and molecular tools to assist quality and resistance precision breeding programs.