Born in Pavia January 8, 1952, Raffaella Cerana graduated cum laude in Biological Sciences in 1974 and got a post-graduate degree cum laude in Biology in 1976 at the University of Milan. She had a scholarships from 1975 to 1981 and she was researcher (Plant Physiology) from 1981 to 1998. She became associate professor in Plant Physiology in 1998 and full professor in 2004 at the University of Milano-Bicocca. Her research activity concerned transport systems and growth and development of plants and their regulation by abiotic and biotic factors. For her research activity she received the "A. Baccarini Melandri" award of the Italian Society of Plant Physiology. She was secretary of the Italian Society of Plant Physiology in 1993-1997. Author of ca. fifty papers published on international journals and of several contributions to national and international congresses.

She was member of scientific and organizing committees of national and international meetings in the field of Plant Physiology.

She was research leader of national and local projects and she is still research leader of local projects.