

International Seminar on the role of Agriculture Biodiversity in addressing hunger and climate change

The International Seminar is convened in the International Year of Biodiversity and as a contribution to the celebrations of the World Food Day. It will focus on the role of agricultural biodiversity for food security, to fight hunger and to buffer the effects of climate changes. During the event, prestigious international experts will discuss the work being undertaken in these fields in diverse institutions. The Seminar will promote awareness raising and the dialogue among public institutions, universities, scientists, civil society and the private sector. It is expected to catalyze action and projects, as well as to contribute to defining priorities and developing policies at international, national and local levels. An expert committee, which will include representatives of the participant institutions, will draft a document or declaration with specific recommendations for action. This will be presented at international fora such as the the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Biodiversity to be held in September 22 in New York.

Organizers:

- Ayuntamiento de Córdoba
- Bioversity International
- Chair of Studies on Hunger and Poverty (CEHAP) at the University of Cordoba
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Diputación Provincial de Córdoba
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs (MARM)
- Ministry of Science and Innovation, National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA)

Introduction:

During the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 established by the United Nations, the City of Córdoba (Spain) will host two international events in the second week of September which will focus on agricultural biodiversity: a meeting of high-level international experts convened by FAO and the International Seminar described in this document. The two events will be held consecutively in order to facilitate synergies between the objectives of both and for efficiency savings in the funding of participants and experts, some of which are common to both events.

Agricultural biodiversity is the source of food, clothing and medicines necessary for all mankind as well as being extremely important in the development of sustainable agriculture and food security. Agricultural biodiversity is the result of the work of domestication, adaptation and conservation that generations of farmers have carried out since the beginning of agriculture 10,000 years ago.

Despite its vital importance to human survival, agricultural biodiversity is disappearing at an increasing pace. It is estimated that over the history of mankind, more than seven thousand species have been used for food and agriculture. Currently, only some 150 species are cultivated on a significant scale and no more than 12 plants and five animal species provide us with more than 70% of our global energy intake. Only four plant species (potato, rice, maize and wheat) and three animal species (cattle, pigs and chickens) provide us more than half.

Over the last hundred years a tremendous loss of genetic diversity has occurred within the so-called "major food species". Hundreds of thousands of heterogeneous varieties of crop plants cultivated over generations have been replaced by a small number of modern commercial varieties that are highly uniform. Over the last 100 years there has been an increasing loss of genetic diversity, particularly in major crops grown under "modern" farming conditions.

No country in the world nowadays is self-sufficient with regard to agricultural biodiversity, in the sense that the crops and livestock species that countries rely on for their own food production originated elsewhere, and the average country interdependence for the major crops is 70%. The dependence of the Spanish agriculture on the agrobiodiversity originated and diversified elsewhere is over 80%. Paradoxically, many countries that are poor from an economic point of view are rich in genes and genetic diversity that are necessary for the survival of humanity. International cooperation in this matter is therefore not an option but a need.

During the International Year of Biodiversity and in commemoration of World Food Day, the Seminar aims to highlight the role of agricultural biodiversity in helping to ensure global food security in the context of climate change and the importance of international cooperation for its conservation and sustainable use.

The Seminar will take place in the twelfth century palace of La Merced. Participants expected to attend, include researchers from universities and research centres, particularly those related to agricultural sciences, environment, development and international cooperation as well as government officials, public and private sector managers, university students and general public, particularly from civil society and NGOs.

Description

On the first day of the seminar, the international framework will be presented and discussed with the participation of different institutions and international experts involved in agricultural

biodiversity. The morning presentations will be made by senior representatives of FAO, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Bioversity International and the Global Crop Diversity Trust. In the afternoon there will be two roundtables on the role of agricultural biodiversity to fight hunger and to buffer climate change, respectively, with the participation of representatives of developing countries, developed countries, civil society (international NGOs of farmers, of consumers, and for development, among others) and the international private sector.

On the second day national activities will be presented and discussed. In the morning presentations will be made by representatives of National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA), the Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs, in the agricultural and environmental sectors, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development (AECID) and the Junta de Andalucía. In the afternoon there will be two roundtables on agricultural biodiversity, one focused on International Cooperation in that area, and the other focused on its relationship with environment and climate change, with participation of representatives of public institutions, civil society and the private sector.

Finally, the third and final day will capitalize on the efforts made during the previous days by preparing a document with conclusions that can help to define priorities for research, and to develop policies on the issues under discussion. The document will be a contribution to the UN General Assembly during its plenary session on Biodiversity on 22 September.

The organizers will provide the stakeholder organizations the opportunity to set up information booths on their activities, to distribute publications and to present exhibitions of their work.

In parallel to the Seminar, and in order to illustrate some aspects of agricultural biodiversity, the photographic exposition: "Custodians of Agrobiodiversity" will take place in the same building. The black and white photographs show the role of traditional agriculture and farmers in the development and conservation of wheat, maize, rice and potatoes in different continents. They reflect the work and knowledge of small farmers that continue to protect and grow biodiversity in many countries.

Provisional Agenda and Speakers

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON AGROBIODIVERSITY TO FIGHT HUNGER AND CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA

MONDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2010

17.30 h. – 19.30 h.

Opening Ceremony

- Representatives from cosponsoring organizations

Opening speech of the seminar

– D. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation or

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2010

MORNING SESSION

Work on agricultural biodiversity to combat hunger and climate change: Intervention by representatives of various international institutions

9:00 am – 9:50 am Conference:

"Food security and agrobiodiversity": FAO.

9:50 am – 10:40 am Conference:

"Nutrition and agrobiodiversity" Emile Frison, Director General of Bioversity International

10:40 am – 11:30 am Conference:

"Global Interdependence on Genetic Resources and Intellectual Property: Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources

11:30 am – 11:45 am Coffee Break

11:45 am – 12:40 pm Conference:

"Long-term conservation and climate change" Geoff Hawtin, Senior Adviser, Global Crop Diversity Trust, and Chair, Board of Directors, CATIE, Costa Rica

12:40 pm – 13:30pm Conference:

"The Nagoya road map with emphasis on agricultural biodiversity" Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

AFTERNOON SESSION

The session will be dedicated to discussions to take into account the information shared during the morning. It will be opened with an introduction on the relationship between agrobiodiversity, food security and climate change, and followed by two parallel round tables with representatives of developing countries, developed countries, civil society, farmer organizations, industry and consumers.

16:00 pm. Introduction to the afternoon session:

"Fighting hunger and climate change: D. M. S. Swaminathan (Indian scientist known as the father of Green Revolution in this country, Prince of Asturias Prize and World Food Prize awardee)

16:45 pm – 18:45 pm Parallel Roundtables	
<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agricultural biodiversity for food security</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator/ Rapporteur: Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to food</p> <p>Speaker 1: (Developing country) Elizabeth Matos, Director of the Angolan Plant Genetic Resources Centre, Agostinho Neto University, Luanda, Angola.</p> <p>Speaker 2: (Agricultores) Paul Nicholson, European coordinator of Vía Campesina</p> <p>Speaker 3: (Consumers) Cinzia Scaffidi, Director Slow Food Study Center, Slow Food International</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open debate</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Roundtable 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agricultural biodiversity to tackle climate change</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderator/ Rapporteur: Roberto Acosta, ex Coordinator of the Adaptation, Technology and Science Programme of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.</p> <p>Speaker1: Toby Hodgkin, Bioversity International (Developed Country)</p> <p>Speaker 2: (Civil society) Ditdit Pelegrina, Executive Director of Southeast Asia Regional Initiative for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)</p> <p>Speaker 3: (Industry): Dean Oestreich, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., company of which he was president between 2007 and 2009.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Open debate</p>

18:45 pm. – 19:00 pm. Coffee Break

19:00 h. – 20:30 h.: Plenary Session for the presentation of the findings of the roundtables

Presentation of the reports of each roundtable followed by general discussion to allow suggestions and recommendations.

WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2010

MORNING SESSION

Spanish Policies on Agrobiodiversity

9:00 am – 9:40 am Conference

Santiago Menéndez de Luarca Navia-Osorio, Deputy Minister of Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs

9:40 am – 10. 20 am Conference

Manuel Núñez Gutiérrez, Director of the National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA)

10.20 am – 11.10 am Conference

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

11:10 am – 11:30 am Coffee break

11:30 am. – 13:30 pm. Roundtable: *Spanish policies. Synergies and future prospects.*

Moderator:

Speaker 1. José Jiménez García Herrera, Director-General of Natural Environment and Forestry Policy. Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Environment.

Speaker 2. Carlos Escribano, Director-General for Agricultural and Livestock Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs

Speaker 3. Judit Anda Ugarte, Director-General of Agricultural and Farming Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Regional Government of Andalusia.

Speaker 4. Luis Ayerbe Mateo-Sagasta, Director of the National Centre for Plant Genetic Resources, National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA)

AFTERNOON SESSION

The session will be dedicated to discussions to take into account the information shared during the morning. The participants of the two parallel roundtables will be officers of public institutions and members of the civil society, agricultural organizations, the private sector, consumers and organizations working in the field of cooperation.

16.00 pm. Introduction to the afternoon session:

"Biodiversity and climate change solidarity": Miguel Delibes de Castro, director of the Doñana Biological Station from 1988 to 1996.

16.30 h. - 16.45 h. Coffee break

16.45 – 18.45 h. Parallel Roundtables

16.45 – 18.45 h. Parallel Roundtables	
<p>Roundtable 1</p> <p>Agricultural biodiversity in the international cooperation sector</p> <p>Moderator/Rapporteur: Elías Fereres Castiel, Chairman of the Research Network on Agriculture for Development</p> <p>Speaker 1: represent of NGOD</p> <p>Speaker 2: Maite Martín-Crespo, Chief of Environment and Climate Change Unit of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation and Development</p> <p>Speaker 3: Mario Tapia Núñez, National Association of Ecological producers of Peru, ANPE.</p> <p>Open debate</p>	<p>Raoundtable 2</p> <p>Agriculture, environment and climate change</p> <p>Moderator/ Rapporteur: Esteban Hernández Bermejo, Director of the Andalusian Germplasm Bank</p> <p>Speaker 1: Ana Leiva, director of Fundación Biodiversidad</p> <p>Speaker 2: (Civil society) Juan José Soriano Niebla, Seed Network</p> <p>Speaker 3: (Industry) Ignacio Solís Martel, Technical director of the seed company Agrovegetal</p> <p>Open debate</p>

18:45 pm. – 19:00 pm. Coffee Break

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20:30-21:00 Closing of the seminar

– Da. Elena Espinosa Mangana, Minister of Environment, Rural and Marine

Organizing Committee:

- Ayerbe Mateo-Sagasta, Luis. National Institute for Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (INIA)
- Esquinas Alcázar, José. Director of CEHAP at the University of Cordoba
- Fernández y García de Vinuesa, Antonio. Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Affairs
- Hodgkin, Toby. Secretariat of Bioversity International
- Martín López, Miguel Ángel. Director of the Office of International cooperation for Development of the County Council of Cordoba.
- Martín Martín, Luis Miguel. Professor of Genetics, Secretary of CEHAP at the University of Cordoba
- Navazo Suela, Miguel. General Coordinator of the Environment and Infrastructure. Ayuntamiento de Córdoba.
- Rojas, Germán. Information Office of FAO for Spain and Andorra
- Toledo Chávarri, Álvaro. Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture