



## First Announcement and Call for Abstracts

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

# BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DIETS UNITED AGAINST HUNGER

3-5 NOVEMBER 2010

FAO HEADQUARTERS, ROME

FAO and Bioversity International are pleased to announce the International Scientific Symposium “Biodiversity and Sustainable Diets” that will take place from 3 to 5 November 2010 in Rome.

### ***The Global Challenge***

The alarming pace of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and their impact on poverty and health make a compelling case for re-examining food systems and diets. Thus, there is an urgent need to develop and promote strategies for sustainable diets, emphasizing the positive role of food biodiversity in human nutrition and poverty alleviation. Presently, one billion people suffer from hunger and another two billion suffer from micronutrient deficiencies. Diets low in variety but high in energy contribute to the escalating problems of obesity and chronic diseases, affecting also poor people and developing countries. The recent trends show an increase in these problems, highlighting the inadequacy of the present food supply and dietary patterns. Globalization, industrial agriculture, rural poverty, population pressures, and urbanization have changed food production and consumption in ways that negatively affect ecosystems, biodiversity, and human diets.

### ***The Symposium***

The Symposium is a three-day event. Its main purpose is to discuss the impact of food consumption patterns on human health, agriculture production, environment and poverty alleviation. It will serve to identify practices and production systems that would protect food biodiversity while improving the nutritional quality, affordability and sustainability of diets. One of the major outcomes of the symposium will be an agreed understanding of the concept of “sustainable diets” and recommendations on how such a concept could be promoted and applied in different agro-ecological zones, particularly to benefit the rural poor. Experts from academic institutions and research centres, UN agencies, national and local governments, private sector, non-governmental organizations and foundations, will further elaborate the emerging concept of “sustainable diets” through a biodiversity-focused cross-sectoral approach. The value of nutrition in food biodiversity will be highlighted to support a shifting paradigm in approaches to malnutrition, for both urban and rural settings. The Symposium has the aim to provide recommendations for food production, distribution and consumption, with positive impacts and rehabilitation for the environment. Nutrition and trends in the sustainable utilization of biodiversity will be explored at the Symposium and best practices will be presented. This Symposium will bring together the evidence, showcase synergies and demonstrate benefits across different development sectors.

#### **TOPICS**

- the role of food biodiversity in human nutrition, health, and poverty alleviation;
- repositioning nutrition, food and biodiversity as central to sustainable

#### **ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

The call for abstracts is now open, for oral presentations and posters sessions. The length should not exceed 400 words. Authors should email their abstract to: [sustainablediets@fao.org](mailto:sustainablediets@fao.org)

development and to the right to food;

- food as an ecosystem service
- varietal differences in the nutrient content of foods;
- food-based approach for improving nutrition through biodiversity;
- biodiversity as an element of dietary diversity;
- bringing biodiversity to the plate;
- eco-friendly, healthy diets, and local and traditional food systems;
- food chain sustainability from production to consumption;
- biodiversity, nutrient requirements and food-based dietary guidelines;
- challenges for trade to promote food biodiversity;
- sustainable healthier diets for consumer and environment;
- Mediterranean diet as an example of a sustainable diet;
- urban nutrition and biodiversity
- case studies on successful interventions that promote food biodiversity;
- cross-cutting approaches to biodiversity and sustainable diets;
- international policies and instruments.

## DEADLINES

September 6, 2010: Abstract submission

September 27, 2010: Acceptance Notification

## SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

The 3-day programme includes invited lectures, submitted oral presentations and posters sessions.

## LANGUAGE

The official language will be English.

## THE VENUE

The conference will take place in Rome, at the FAO Headquarters, near the Colosseum and the Baths of Caracalla.

## LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Rima Alcadi (IFAD)

Barbara Burlingame (FAO)

Ruth Charrondiere (FAO)

Sandro Dernini (FAO-consultant)

Florence Egal (FAO)

Jessica Fanzo (Bioversity International)

Stefano Mondovi (FAO-consultant)

Stefano Padulosi (Bioversity International)

## ORGANIZATION

The Symposium is organized by FAO Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division and Bioversity International, in collaboration with CBD, IFAD, IUNS, INFOODS.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



A CONTRIBUTION TO

THE CROSS-CUTTING INITIATIVE ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION

For more info and registration: [sustainablediets@fao.org](mailto:sustainablediets@fao.org)  
[www.fao.org/infoods/biodiversity](http://www.fao.org/infoods/biodiversity)