**Agricultural Biodiversity for Healthy Soils and People**

*Nourishing people and sustaining the planet*

**16 November 2015 – Rome, FAO HQ - Sheikh Zayed Centre (9.30-12.30)**

**Registration (9.30)**

**Opening (9.45 -10.00)**

* H.E. Pierfrancesco Sacco, PR Italy
* Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General, FAO
* Ann Tutwiler, Director General Bioversity International

Moderator: Luca Fratini, Deputy Head of Mission, Italian Permanent Mission to the UN Organizations and Vice Chair, Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

**Session 1- Why Agricultural Biodiversity matters to Healthy Soil and People? (10.00 -11.00)**

* *Agricultural Biodiversity for healthy soil*. Anna Benedetti, Director of CRA-RPS (Research Centre for the Soil-Plant System), Vice President of SISS (Italian Society of Soil Science).
* *Soils and Biodiversity*. Ronald Vargas, Secretary of the [Global Soil Partnership](http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), Soils and Land Management Officer (NRL), FAO.
* *Use of Agricultural Biodiversity to enhance soil health, other ecosystem services and livelihood outcomes*. Fabrice de Clerck, Programme Leader, Agrobiodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Bioversity International.

**Session 2 - Demand for Change? Options for Implementation. (11.00-12.15)**

* Karim Hussein, Policy and Research Adviser, Global Engagement and Research Division, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD.
* Vincenzo Lenucci, World Farmers Organization, WFO-OMA.
* Milena Dimitrovska, Director of the Pelagonija Regional Development Agency PREDA, in Prilep, FYROM.
* Andrea Sisti, President of World Association of Agronomists, WAA.

**Open discussion**

Speakers from the floor :

* Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of the International Treaty (tbc).
* Fabio Terribile, Full Professor at the University of Napoli Federico II, President of Italian Society of Pedology (SIPE).
* Luca Montanarella, Senior Expert Land Resources Management, European Commission.
* Michele Pisante, Deputy Commissioner - Council for Agricultural Research and Economics – CREA (tbc)

**Organization:** Permanent Representation of Italy to UN, FAO, Bioversity International.

**Working language:** English