

“Un mondo (bio)-diverso: l’agrobiodiversità in un mondo che cambia”

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SPEAKER’S ABSTRACT

II SESSIONE - Noi e la biodiversità

[Biodiversity in the shopping basket: policies to sustain a biodiverse diet](#)

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To feed the world in a healthy and sustainable manner requires biodiversity. We as consumers have been dining out on biodiversity since our early days as foragers and hunter-gatherers. Many indigenous peoples and local communities today continue to consume diverse local foods, upon which they also depend for their livelihoods. As consumers, they are important custodians of biodiversity, safeguarding much of this valuable natural resource for food and agriculture for future generations.

People have used biodiversity for millennia to meet changing needs which has had major impacts on the way we produce and consume food today. More recently, agricultural and technological revolutions have concentrated on increasing yields of just a few staple crops (such as rice, wheat and maize), which has reduced agricultural biodiversity in global food systems. This is at a time when we are seeing population growth and increasing urbanization coinciding with an increase in health problems relating to poor nutrition. An estimated 2 billion people suffer from micronutrient deficiencies - when the essential vitamins and minerals for growth and development are inadequate, with a lack of dietary diversity thought to be a leading cause.

For diverse nutritious foods to make their way back into consumer shopping baskets, they need an enabling policy and market environment. Examples of success include efforts in India to create markets for nutritious but ‘forgotten’ minor millets, and Brazil’s innovative school feeding programme which demands that 30% of procurement comes from local family farmers.