

# WORLD AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION EXHIBITION IN THE KIP PAVILION AT EXPO 2015

The World Agricultural Heritage Foundation (WAHF) held a weeklong programme in the KIP Pavilion at Expo Milano 2015 from September 28 to October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The programme *Sustainable Agriculture: The Importance of Agricultural Heritage in Sustainable Food Systems and the Contribution of Research and Education* sought to bring researchers and academicians from varied disciplines to deliberate the importance of a trans-disciplinary approach in sustainable development efforts.



The World Agricultural Heritage Foundation's mission is to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development through policy and technical assistance, research, training and education for safeguarding dynamic conservation of the world's agricultural heritage systems and sites around the world. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHs) initiative specifically looks to promote science-based evidence regarding the social, cultural, economic and environmental goods and services that traditional agricultural systems provide to smallholders farmers, family farmers and indigenous communities.



Experts from more than 10 research and academic institutions; ranging from the Italian Association for Sustainability Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Università Degli Studi eCampus, the Italian Council for Research and Experimentation Research, Wageningen University, and the Ecologic Institute among others, to speak on behalf of their research and work in sustainable development.

Many researchers presented their findings on sustainability sciences covering the fields of agroecology, biomass and renewable energy sources, soil sciences, and entomology. A particular presentation by the Italian



Association for Sustainability Sciences showed a key finding about the impacts of resource use by the food industry - 80% of freshwater consumption is used for agricultural production, a finding that has many implications for climatic cycles and global warming.

In addition, professors and research experts in the fields of social sciences also urged the need for social and economic interventions in academia as well as at local, national and global levels in order to present robust data that promotes policies to enable smallholder farmers, rural farmers, indigenous communities in the production of goods and services for sustainable agriculture and development.

The seven day long programme captured the necessity of creating a “holistic” approach to development – converging sustainability sciences with social, cultural, economic and political disciplines to deliver services for livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, food and nutrition security, and the preservation of traditional knowledge and culture.

WAHF and few partner institutions are now finalizing a Master’s programme that will be devoted to Sustainability Science, Agricultural Systems and International Cooperation with research themes related to the future of sustainable food systems.

### For more information

[World Agricultural Heritage Foundation](#)

[Programme Agenda](#)

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