



Rendiconti
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EMILIA CHIANCONE *

Welcome address

I would like to welcome you all also on behalf of the National Academy of Sciences, known as Academy of the XL from the number of its founding members.

We are celebrating the 2015 World Food Day and have chosen «*Poverty Alleviation in Family Farming: the Role of Agrobiodiversity*» as theme. A topical theme, since – as you most likely know – the 2014 International Year was dedicated precisely to family farming. The importance of this type of farming to reduce poverty and improve global food security has received increasing worldwide attention given the existence of 500 million family farms that employ and support about 2.5 billion people. These impressive data were given by the Secretary of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, at the closing ceremony of the International Year in Manila.

Today, students of the International PhD Programme on Agrobiodiversity in Pisa will talk about their experiences in Malaysia, Myanmar, Madagascar and Ethiopia and will also show how their studies here in Italy can help in their own countries. Let me finish by thanking Prof. Paolo Bàrberi, the coordinator of the PhD Programme, Doctor Mario Marino from FAO, who will talk about the involvement of this institution in «Family farming and Agrobiodiversity» and Prof. Enrico Porceddu, who will draw the conclusions.

* President, Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL, Roma (Italy).
E.mail: segreteria@accademixl.it emilia.chiancone@uniroma1.it