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# GLOBAL DROUGHT, LAND DEGRADATION AND DESERTIFICATION

CNRxEXPO together with:

  
ENEA



**ISPRA**

Istituto Superiore per la Protezione  
e la Ricerca Ambientale



**crea**

Consiglio per la ricerca in agricoltura  
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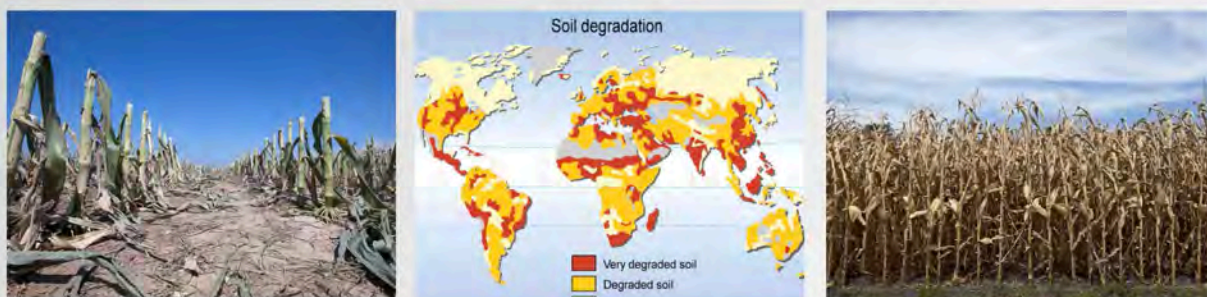


**alce nero**

**26 August 2015**

Padiglione Italia - Expo 2015,  
Milan from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm





**Coordinator:** Mauro Centritto  
Trees and Timber Institute (IVALSA)

**In collaboration with:** Anna Luise (ISPRA), Guido Bonati (CREA), Maurizio Sciortino (ENEA), Vito Uricchio (CNR-IRSA)

*"Forests precede civilizations, deserts follow them"*  
François-René de Chateaubriand (1768-1848)

Combating desertification is becoming one of the major questions facing society today. Isolated interventions are often ineffective and sometimes dangerous; because the combination of natural and anthropogenic (political, social, and economic) factors causing desertification vary over space and time, and may be amplified by global warming. To restore the sustainability of degraded dryland ecosystem services, a systemic approach is required at both the local and global levels. An understanding of ecosystem function and resilience under changing environmental conditions is of the utmost importance to improved decision-making and operational activities towards supporting dryland ecological and social systems, the effective design of restoration programs for degraded ecosystems and the development of successful adaptation and mitigation strategies at national and international scales.

Despite deserts encroaching on the Mediterranean Europe, there is little debate about the environmental or social effects of land degradation. The workshop will provide an opportunity for discussion among research and policy communities, stakeholders and the general public: a platform for scientists and policy makers to interact, to analyse the issues posed by desertification, develop workable solutions to address the challenges that we will face in the future and minimize the negative impacts of increased aridity and land degradation on livelihoods and food security.

## AGENDA

- Introduction - Short video on facts and figures on desertification  
**Mauro Centritto** (CNR-IVALSA): *Ecosystems and ecosystem services*
- Welcome remarks: **Andrea Sisti** (Chair of CONAF)
- Keynote  
**Uriel Safriel** (Chair of the Committee of Science and Technology of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) - *Israel: Land degradation neutrality and land-based climate change adaptation*
- Focus: The surge of water-related crises  
**Alessandro Pagano** (CNR-IRSA) interviews:  
**Giuseppe Scarascia-Mugnozza** (DIBAF - University of Tuscia) - *Italy: Mediterranean dryland forests and water cycle*
- Science and Technology for dryland sustainable development  
**Maurizio Sciortino** (ENEA) interviews:  
**Rachid Serraj** (Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research - Independent Science & Partnership Council, c/o FAO) - *Italy: Drought, desertification and food security challenges in the dryland;*  
**Giuseppe Enne** (Desertification Research Centre - University of Sassari) - *Italy: Improving sustainable land management: agro-ecological practices in African drylands*
- Bioeconomy's cross-cutting nature as unique opportunities: Innovating for sustainable growth  
**Guido Bonati** (CREA) interviews:  
**Nicola Zaccheo** (Chief Executive Officer - SITAEL S.p.A.) - *Italy: New satellite technologies in monitoring global desertification;*  
**Livio Rossi** (Telespazio/e-GEOS - Finmeccanica Group): *Satellite data contribution for land-scape evolution and degradation monitoring*
- New global challenges for land and environmental issues in the SDGs  
**Anna Luise** (ISPRA) interviews:  
**Grammenos Mastrojeni** (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Directorate General for Development Cooperation) - *Geopolitics threats, international security and environmental issues*
- Discussions
- Conclusions, focused on the Mediterranean Basin  
**Giampaolo Cantini** (Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation)