

EXPO opens the International Organic Forum

On the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Organic and Natural Pavilion created by BolognaFiere in Biodiversity Park at EXPO with the contribution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, today also saw the inauguration of the EXPO International Organic Forum, the brainchild of Minister Martina.

Responding to the Minister's invitation, the Italian organizations from the sector, BolognaFiere's partners at EXPO (FederBio, the Association of Biodynamic Agriculture and ANABIO-CIA) together with AIAB, *Citta del Bio* and the Federation of organic and biodynamic products of *Confagricultura* (General Confederation of Italian Farmers) presented the aims and working programme of the Forum, which will take place throughout the period of EXPO with themed meetings including the participation of national and international experts. The forum will be supported by BolognaFiere, which will also provide a platform for the initiative at SANA, the leading event in Italy for the organic sector and will conclude at the end of September with a large International event organized with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

The forum aims to provide a tangible response to EXPO's theme of 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life', by bringing together the best of national and international skills and expertise to demonstrate that the organic agricultural and food production model is an innovation capable of meeting this challenge in an efficient and sustainable way. Thus the organic movement aims to provide substance to the Milan Charter, the aims of which already include functions performed and promoted by the organic farming sector. For this reason the Forum will be open not only to all organizations involved in organic and biodynamic agriculture, but also to those involved in Fair Trade, environmentalism and the voluntary sector, scientific organizations, individual researchers, farmers, businesses and also workers and citizens who would like to make their own contribution. The opening ceremony with Vandana Shiva, promoting the *Terra Viva* (Living Earth) manifesto, is testimony to the commitment to dialogue and openness of the organizations involved in the Forum. The programme of meetings will be presented in mid June in a press conference at Biodiversity Park in EXPO.

At the opening of the Biodiversity Park and the Organic Pavilion at EXPO Milan 2015 Minister Martina announced to the gathered associations from the sector, a roadmap of discussions at EXPO on the development of organics, this was confirmed today by the Deputy Minister Olivero attending the inauguration of the Organic Pavilion and the opening of the Forum. In addition to the International Organic Forum, work will begin on drawing up a new plan of interventions to support the development of Italian organic production, which will, hopefully, make its conclusions at SANA. The signatory associations support for this initiative is testimony to the government's commitment to a new national policy for the sector, which we hope will also involve the regional administrations and enable Italy to rapidly increase the expanse of land used for organic farming in order to respond to the public's growing demand for sustainable agriculture, healthy environments and quality food products."

AIAB

ANABIO/CIA

Association for
Biodynamic Agriculture



Associazione per
l'Agricoltura
Biodinamica

Città del Bio

Federation of Organic and Biodynamic Products
Confagricoltura

(General Confederation of Italian Farmers)



FEDERBIO
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA AGRICOLTURA BIOLOGICA E BIODINAMICA

Milan, 16th May 2015