



CERN Colloquium

SPEAKER: Dr. Salvatore Ceccarelli (formerly Barley Breeder at ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas))

TITLE: **Seeds of the Future**

DATE: Thu 26/11/2015 16:30

PLACE: Council Chamber

ABSTRACT

Five of the global issues most frequently debated today are the decline of biodiversity in general and of agrobiodiversity in particular, climate change, hunger and malnutrition, poverty and water. These issues are connected with each other, and should be dealt with as such. Most of our food comes from seeds (even when we eat meat, we indirectly eat plants, which come from seeds) and food affects our health. The evolution of plant breeding, the science which is responsible for the type and the diversity of seed that farmers plant, and hence for the diversity of food that we eat, helps us understand how agrobiodiversity has decreased. An agro-ecological model of agriculture could be solution to the most important problems affecting the planet, but is often criticized for not being able to produce enough food for a growing population casting doubts on whether food security and food safety can be compatible objectives. Participatory and evolutionary plant breeding, while benefiting from advances in molecular genetics, reconcile increased production of more readily available and accessible food, with increased agrobiodiversity while maintaining the evolutionary potential of our crops needed to cope with climate change. Being based on selection for specific adaptation, participatory and evolutionary plant breeding are able to produce varieties specifically adapted to an agro ecological agricultural model.

Organised by: Wolfgang LERCHE PH/TH & Francesco SPANO
PH/UAT.....**Tea and coffee will be
served at 16h00**