

Keynote Speakers (will be updated)



Miguel Altieri

Miguel A. Altieri received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Chile and a Ph.D in Entomology from the University of Florida. He has been a Professor of Agroecology at UC Berkeley since 1981 in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management (www.agroeco.org and <http://www.cnr.berkeley.edu>). Dr.

Altieri served as a Scientific Advisor to the Latin American Consortium on Agroecology and Development (CLADES) Chile an NGO network promoting agroecology as a strategy for small farm sustainable development in the region. He also served for 4 years as the General Coordinator for the United Nations Development Programme's Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension Programme which aimed at capacity building on agroecology among NGOs and the scaling-up of successful local sustainable agricultural initiatives in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In addition he was the chairman of the NGO committee of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research whose mission was to make sure that the research agenda of the 15 International Agricultural Research Centers benefited the poor farmers of the. Currently he is advisor to the FAO-GIAHS program (Globally Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems) a program devoted at identifying and dynamically conserving traditional farming systems in the developing world. He is also Director of the US-Brasil Consortium on Agroecology and Sustainable Rural Development (CASRD) an academic-research exchange program involving students and faculty of UC Berkeley, University of Nebraska, UNICAMP and Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina. He is also the general coordinator of the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (www.agroeco.org/socla) He is the author of more than 200 publications, and numerous books including *Agroecology: The Science of Sustainable Agriculture and Biodiversity*, *Pest Management in Agroecosystems* and *Agroecology and the Search for a Truly Sustainable Agriculture*.

Alessandra Galiè

Alessandra Galiè has a background in social sciences and Middle East studies. After an MA in anthropology of development at the University of London and a few years in the NGO sector Alessandra started a doctoral research at the University of Wageningen, Netherlands, in collaboration with the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Syria. Her research is a social impact assessment of participatory plant breeding with a focus on Syrian women farmers, empowerment, rights and governance issues. Alessandra is involved in her family farm in Italy that mainly produces organic olive oil and wine. Here, she experiences personally the challenges faced by small-scale organic agriculture.





Edith Lammerts van Bueren

For more than 25 years Edith Lammerts van Bueren has been involved in research on organic agriculture, especially focussed on plant breeding issues. She is the theme leader of Organic Plant Breeding at the Louis Bolk Institute in the Netherlands, a research institute specialised in organic agriculture, health care and nutrition. She is also the first professor of Organic Plant Breeding at the Wageningen University in the Netherlands and is co-founder and president of the European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO-PB), and chair of the Organic and Low-input Agriculture section of the European Association for Research for Plant Breeding (EUCARPIA). Through all these networks she supports the development of varieties that are better adapted to low-input agriculture, in close cooperation with European farmers. Organic farmers do not want to mask the diversity in environmental growing conditions by using high levels of nitrogen fertilisers and chemical pesticides. Rather they look for ways to take advantage of biodiversity.

Florianne Köchlin

Swiss biologist and chemist Florianne Koechlin, born in 1948, is well known as a critic of genetic engineering and for her various books and articles. She is Managing Director of the Blueridge-Institute (<http://www.blueridge-institute.ch/>) and for years has worked on alternatives and options to the current all too one-sided scientific understanding - especially in relationship to plants. She is on the boards of the Foundation for Future Farming and Swissaid, and is a member of the "Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology." Her most recent books are "Zellgeflüster" ("Cell Whispers", 2005) and "Plant Chat. Overheard Secrets from the Botanical World".



Pat Mooney

Pat Mooney, Executive Director, ETC Group (Ottawa, Canada)
Pat Mooney has more than four decades experience working in international civil society first addressing aid and development issues and then focusing on food, agriculture and commodity trade. In 1977 Mooney was a cofounder of RAFI (renamed ETC Group in 2001). Much of ETC's work continues to emphasize plant genetic resources and agricultural biodiversity but the work expanded in the early 80s to include biotechnology and, in the late 1990s, to encompass a succession of emerging technologies such as nanotechnology, synthetic biology, geoengineering, and new developments in genomics and neurosciences. ETC's contribution has always been on the socio-economic impact of new technologies on marginalized peoples and on issues of global governance, corporate concentration, and intellectual property monopoly. ETC remains a nano-CSO with offices in Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Philippines and works in close cooperation with many civil society partners around the world.

Vanaja Ramprasad

In the last 30 odd years I have meandered through valleys and villages in India to search and understand the mainstream development and its impact sector wise on the poor. What impacted my understanding was the largely accepted flawed analysis as the real reasons for third world poverty and hunger.

A study I was involved in south of India during the 80s gave me to understand that the cultivation practices during the green revolution pointed towards the arrival of new seeds. The loss of genetic resources at the seed level had a phenomenal impact on farmers' independence to save their seeds. In the early stages of starting this work on seed saving I was a close associate of Dr. Vandana Shiva who inspired me and subsequently felt the need to go deeper into the issue at the grass roots level in the south of India and the Genetic Resource, Energy, Ecology and Nutrition Foundation took genesis. With this began the uncharted course of my involvement in seed saving by different communities in different ecological niches. To date we have reached the various states in the south of peninsular India and networked with different civil society organizations. The concept of community owned seed banks has become popular. The rich experience that I gathered has been endowed with different ideas to make it sustainable and replicable. Our work with the small and marginal farmers focused on reviving the lost genetic resources through practices of on farm conservation participatory seed selections and crop improvements. In an effort to market the diversity, certification needs have been met through participatory guarantee systems. I would like to take the message of conserving the indigenous heirloom seeds for sustainability to the organic world.



Vandana Shiva

Dr. Vandana Shiva is trained as a Physicist and did her Ph.D. on the subject "Hidden Variables and Non-locality in Quantum Theory" from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. She later shifted to interdisciplinary research in science, technology and environmental policy, which she carried out at the Indian Institute of Science and the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore, India. Dr. Shiva is one of the world's most renowned environmentalists. Time Magazine identified Dr. Shiva as an environmental "hero" in 2003 and Asia Week has called her one of the five most powerful communicators of Asia. Dr. Shiva has pioneered the organic movement in India and established Navdanya, the country's biggest network of seed keepers and organic producers. Among her many awards are the Alternative Nobel Prize (Right Livelihood Award, 1993), Order of the Golden Ark, Global 500 Award of UN and Earth Day International Award. Lennon ONO grant for peace award by Yoko Ono and Honourable Mayor of Reykjavik. Dr. Shiva also serves on the boards of many organizations including World Future Council, International Forum on Globalisation and Slow Food International.

Álvaro Toledo

Álvaro Toledo works at the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The FAO Commission provides the only permanent forum for governments to discuss and negotiate matters specifically relevant to biological diversity for food and agriculture, including crops, farm animals, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates. The Commission has negotiated the two major international policies for farm animal and agricultural plant genetic resources: *The Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* and the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Álvaro is an agronomist specialized in genetic resources and has followed with great interest the development of initiatives and standards related to the management of genetic resources by the organic world.



Jacob Wanyama

Jacob Wanyama is a Veterinarian with over twenty years experience in Dryland Livestock development in East and Southern Africa Regions. During this period, Wanyama has worked with both the Government of Kenya and a number of International Civil Society Organizations in different capacities, where he has set-up and implemented numerous community-based livestock development projects with special emphasis on the promotion of indigenous and local livestock production practices.

In addition, Wanyama has conducted extensive research in indigenous livestock practices among the livestock keepers and pastoralists of Eastern Africa. He is the author and co-authors of several books and publications on indigenous knowledge and Livestock Production.

Based on his experience, Wanyama has been extensively involved in advocating for pro-poor livestock policies at both National and International Level. In particular, since 2000 Wanyama has been involvement in advocating for Livestock Keeper's rights to continual breeding and drawing livelihoods from their local breeds. He is the current Africa Regional Coordinator for the LIFE Network, an action research and advocacy network seeking to empower local livestock keepers through the use of their local breeds.