

Using agricultural biodiversity to face malnutrition and climate change

Keynote Lecture in the Aula of the University of Zurich

Ann Tutwiler

– 21. Mai 2015, 18:15

Director General, Bioversity International, Rome, Italy

Most of the discourse on malnutrition and climate change takes place in separate forums. This lecture will highlight how climate change is contributing to less productive farming systems and loss of ecosystem services and biodiversity, which can result in decreased availability and accessibility of nutritious crops, unsustainable farming systems and increased dependence on chemical inputs to maintain yield. As household incomes suffer due to dwindling agriculture yields and resilience, consumption of nutritious food is further threatened due to the decreased diversity in food systems. With less available food diversity comes decreased dietary diversity and quality. Promising solutions will be highlighted by demonstrating a number of case studies that showcase how improving agricultural biodiversity including engagement with the private sector in value chain development and innovations in data collection and safeguarding of local crop varieties can directly contribute to systems increasing their resilience and therefore, increasing the capacity to adapt to climate change and improving health.



Ann Tutwiler is Director General of Bioversity International in Rome, Italy. The organization was established in 1974 as the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) to coordinate an international plant genetic resources program with its secretariat based at The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). In 1994 it became an independent CGIAR Center and changed its operating name in 2006 to Bioversity International. The new name reflects an expanded vision of its role in the area of agricultural and forest biodiversity and research-for-development activities. Prior to joining Bioversity International, Ann served as Deputy Director General, Know-ledge, at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) where she coordinated the development of cohesive positions on Rio+20 for FAO in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and Bioversity International. Ann holds degrees in Agribusiness from Purdue University and Harvard Business School, a Masters from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Davidson College.

Previous Lectures on Sustainability and Innovation

Sustainability and Innovation: Challenges and Opportunities

Calestous Juma – 19. Februar 2015, 18:15

Professor of the Practice of International Development at Harvard Kennedy School and Martin Luther King, Jr Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Achieving Sustainability: should people be fitted to policies, or policies to people?

Paul Collier – 19. März 2015, 18:15

Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford

Cradle to Cradle® Celebrating the Human Footprint – 40 years of environmental debate as the engine for innovation in quality

Michael Braungart – 16. April 2015, 18:15

Professor at Erasmus University, Rotterdam and Founder of EPEA Hamburg