

Enrico Porceddu

Enrico Porceddu is Professor of Agricultural Genetics at the University of Tuscia and Scientific Coordinator of the International Programme on Agrobiodiversity. As first Director of the Germplasm Institute in Bari (1971-83), Porceddu was responsible for 75 collecting missions throughout the Mediterranean, which resulted in the collection of more than 11 000 samples. While serving as coordinator of a Mediterranean network for plant genetic resources, he helped establish genebank facilities at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, the International Center for Research in Dry Areas, and the International Rice Research Institute and supported national genetic resources activities in Bolivia and Peru. Porceddu has also been deeply involved in the development of the Italian National Biodiversity Plan and the International Doctoral Programme on Agrobiodiversity.

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**From:** luigi monti [mailto:lmonti@cds.unina.it]

**Sent:** Wed 3/31/2010 12:56 PM

**To:** Frison, Emile (Bioversity)

**Subject:** Guardians for Diversity

Dear Emile,

I am sending you a few notes on Enrico Porceddu contribution to GR conservation in Italy and abroad.

As you see from the notes, he was one of the pioneers in understanding the

importance of and acting for the conservation of plant GR and his research has consistently been at the forefront in the field of plant genetic resources.

You may like to present him a recognition out of the formal competition for the Guardian of the Diversity in the Mediterranean, as you did for Scarascia last year.

Thank you very much.

Best regards.

Luigi Monti

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## **Enrico Porceddu**

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Enrico Porceddu is chair professor of Agricultural Genetics at University of Tuscia. Concurrently he is scientific coordinator of the International Programme in Agrobiodiversity, Curriculum: plant Genetic resources.

As first Director of the newly set up Germ plasm Institute, CNR, Bari (1971-1983), he laid down the basis of activities and physical facilities for seed conservation, seed rejuvenation, and research; mounted (51) and guided (24) exploration and collection missions in the Mediterranean area down to Ethiopia (Table 1), during which more than 11,000 samples were collected. After multiplication, seed samples were distributed to a number of scientists in different countries (table 3). Planned Research activities and lead a group of more than 20 scientists in Genetic Resources characterization and evaluation.

As coordinator of FAO Durum wheat sub-network on Genetic Resources, promoted the use of diversified sources of genes and the utilization of wild species in breeding programs.

As coordinator of FAO-IBPGR Mediterranean network for Genetic Resources, promoted genetic resources preservation activities and the establishment of conservation facilities in different countries.

Promoted, gave technical advice, and procured funds from the Government of Italy for: 1) restructuring seed conservation facilities at the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, Nigeria, and at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), Cali, Colombia, and 2) constructing an entirely new Genetic Resources building at ICARDA, Aleppo, Syria and a Laboratory for N-fixing Bacteria Genetic Resources at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Los Banos, The Philippines.

Promoted, prepared the plans and secured funds, in the frame of program financed by the Government of Italy, for the setting up of plant genetic resources conservation facilities in Pairumani (Bolivia), mounted collecting activities, and trained junior Bolivian scientists in genetic resources. Co-operated in establishing Genetic resources activities at Cenargen (Brasile).

Has promoted (including the procurement of funds from the Government of Italy) the evaluation of the World collection of durum wheat for morphological, resistance, and biochemical characters; the results are assembled in a specific catalogue.

Has promoted (including the procurement of funds from the European Union, in the frame of the Peace-Campus program) and has coordinated the institution of a Bio-diversity network which includes Institutions in Israel, Palestine, Egypt, Germany, and Italy.

Coordinated the Committee that prepared the base Document for the Italian National Bio-diversity Plan. Prepared the Documents for establishing the International Doctoral Programme in Agro-biodiversity.

Table 1. - Exploration and collection missions organized and guided from 1971 to 1983.

Country/Year	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83
TOT													
Italy	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	2		4	3	1	3
Ethiopia			2	1									
Algeria			1	2	2	1	1						
Tunisia						1	2						
Spain						1	1	1					
Greece							2	1	1	1			
Egypt									1	1	2	2	
Libya											1		1
TOT	1	1	4	3	3	5	8	5	2	6	6	3	4

Table 2. - Number of samples of different species collected during missions from 1971 to 1983

Country	Triticum	Hordeum	Zea	Other Gram.	Pisum	Vicia faba	Other leg. pl.	Other spp.	TOT
Italy	460	181	159	1516	75	344	964	932	4631
Ethiopia	411	191	39	62	96	38	56	184	1077
Algeria	376	103	22	159	22	29	90	276	1077
Tunisia	117	59	5	72	16	35	64	148	516
Spain	367	183	173	296	6	32	188	428	1673
Greece	231	82	45	206	10	55	126	224	979
Egypt	117	79	83	139	19	94	183	308	1022
Libya	94	76	13	59	7	12	27	109	397
TOT	2173	954	539	2509	251	639	1698	2609	11372

Table 3. - Number of samples distributed to breeders from 1971 to 1983

Year	Countries	Samples
1972	2	988
1973	4	936
1974	3	421
1975	8	2144
1976	4	3043
1977	7	7126
1978	10	10760
1979	8	1908
1980	7	3721
1981	16	12812
1982	13	2190
1983	13	1533