

Thanks

I am very honoured and I deeply thank from the heart the Steering Committee, in the person of its President, prof. Asko Maki-Tanila, as well as, ERFP Executive Secretary, prof. Andreas Georgudis for this ceremony. Italy has supported, ever since its concept, the establishment of ERFP, as important tool of communication among the various *National Focal Points*. In this context, I remind that the flame inspiring the ERFP establishment spread during some meetings organised by FAO at ConSDABI in Circello (BN) by means of dr. Keith J. Hammond, prof. Jean Boyazoglu, dr. Arthur Da Silva Mariante, dr. John Hodges, dr. Galal Salah, drs. Tiina Vares and dr. Milan Zjalidge, as well as in the course of Symposia held in 1995 in Benevento (*International Symposium on 'Mediterranean Animal Germplasm and Future Human Challenges'*; *3rd International Symposium on Mediterranean Pig*). Furthermore, Italy (Ministry of Agriculture) is included among the first ten countries available to finance the ERFP, in 2000.

I express my personal and particular acknowledgements to prof. Andreas Georgudis, also in quality of representative of the Agricultural Faculty of Thessaloniki University, with which ConSDABI collaborates since various years beyond the relationships in the ERFP context; this collaboration, that also involved the Agricultural Ministry of Hellenic Republic, solidified in important study visits aimed at identifying autochthonous livestock germplasm in the framework of implementation of '*Mediterranean Biodiversity safeguard*' programmes .

To testify the cooperation between ConSDABI and EAAP (dr. Annick Gibon, Chair of the '*Livestock Farming System*' Committee) as well as FAO, I remind the organisation of *6th International Livestock Farming System Symposium*, in 2003, at Benevento .

I thank all [FAO, EAAP (in the person of the former President prof. Alessandro Nardone)] who individuated in ConSDABI the potential to establish an integrator system for management, the rescue and valorisation of Italian livestock genetic resource supporting my appointment as *Co-ordinator of Italian Focal Point* .

The Italian *National Focal Point* has implemented from 1994 to 2009 a strategic approach, carried out according to a systemic vision proper of 'omic' science (genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, lipidomics, glycomics, metabolomics), based on five major reasons for livestock biodiversity safeguard: biological, cultural, juridical and social-economical reasons.

I renew my deeper thanks to all who gave me scientific advances in these fifteen years. I am conscious that biological diversity should be considered a "*rock of knowledge*" on which it is possible to build a future increasingly directed to improve the "*constructive capacity*" of living beings (including humans). In this context, I continue, as responsible of *Sub National Focal Point* inserted in the *National Focal Point* (restructuring of situations carried out by Ministry of

Agriculture in September 2009) to collaborate with international (FAO, EAAP, ERF, RBI, etc.) and national Institutions involved as well as to work, for the activity of safeguard of livestock genetic resource, with particular reference to that of the Mediterranean area, in order to give a contribution to achieve an equilibrium between local development and globalization.