


June 2011

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	联合国 粮食及 农业组织	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Соединенных Наций	Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación
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CONFERENCE

Thirty-seventh Session
Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011
International Year of Quinoa

1. In accordance with Rule II-5 of the General Rules of the Organization, the proposal to add to the Provisional Agenda of the 37th Session of the FAO Conference an item on the "Declaration of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa", contained in the attached letter dated 13 May 2011 from the Minister for External Relations of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, was communicated to the membership through circular letter ref. C/CC-701-Add. of 1 June 2011 and through the Permanent Representatives Web site.

**PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS**

VRE-DGRM-UIO 009990/2011
La Paz, 13 May 2011

Mr Director-General,

I have the pleasure to refer to the 37th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which will take place in Rome from 25 June to 2 July this year.

In this regard, I should like to inform you of the proposal of the Plurinational State of Bolivia concerning the "*DECLARATION OF 2013 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF QUINOA*", the aim being to help eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the World Food Summit of 1996.

Because of its high tolerance of adverse abiotic factors and its extensive adaptability to different agroecological conditions, quinoa is one of the genetic resources that will be called upon to feed a constantly growing population. Because of its high nutritional value and medicinal use, it is the pseudocereal with the broadest and most complete nutritional composition known today.

As such and as you are aware, FAO has considered quinoa to be the "grain of the future" and consequently prioritizes this native crop of the Andes to mitigate difficult agricultural conditions and to provide farmers and governments with viable alternatives to secure food of high nutritional quality. In South America quinoa is grown in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, northern Chile and Argentina. The International Year of Quinoa will promote greater production and consumption.

In view of the above, the Plurinational State of Bolivia kindly requests that the proposal concerning the "*DECLARATION OF 2013 AS THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF QUINOA*" be included in the agenda of the 37th Session of the Conference of FAO.

In the meantime, I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to you, Mr Director-General, the assurances of my distinguished consideration.

[signed]

David Choquehuanca Céspedes
MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Mr Jacques Diouf
Director-General
of the Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations
Rome, Italy