

Opening Ceremony of World Food Day Exhibit 2004, Atrium, 12 October 2004

The Rome-based food agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations, partners in the International Alliance Against Hunger, participated in the opening ceremony of the World Food Day exhibit where work developed by FAO, IFAD, IPGRI and WFP related to this year's WFD theme "*Biodiversity for Food Security*" was showcased.

During the opening ceremony, Ms Eva Clayton, Assistant Director-General/Special Adviser to the Director-General for World Food Summit Follow-up, welcomed the participants to the WFD exhibit and gave a brief explanation of its content and purpose. Representatives of the Rome-based food agencies and NGOs delivered speeches regarding areas related to the WFD theme.

Mr. David Harcharik, Deputy Director-General of FAO spoke about "Biodiversity Cooperative Partnerships",

Mr Emile Frison, Director-General of IPGRI dedicated his speech to the "Significance of Biodiversity";

Ms Karen Serres, President of the Committee on Women Farmers of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP) delivered a speech on "Women Farmers and Rural Women Working for Biodiversity at Country Level";

Mr Allan Jury, Director of External Affairs of WFP spoke about how "Biodiversity Helps Us Feed the Hungry"; finally,

Mr Phrang Roy, Assistant President of the External Affairs Department of IFAD focused on "Financial and Other Resources for Biodiversity at Country Level."

Representatives from NGOs and students' organizations as well as FAO staff members actively participated in the ceremony. Following the opening ceremony, a film produced by IFAD entitled "*Still, the children are here*" featuring indigenous people producing rice in north-east India and how they protect their biodiversity was viewed in the Iran Room. Mr Phrang Roy introduced the film, highlighting its links to the theme of 2004 World Food Day, as well as the International Year of Rice.