

Report and follow-up of the Youth Forum on Biodiversity for Food Security, 12 October 2004

Participation

The forum was attended by 70 young people from three different continents and belonging to 10 youth organizations and 2 international schools. For personal and professional reasons, the participants were already informed about biodiversity.

Speakers

The keynote speakers gave inputs to the subsequent discussion in terms of the technical, political and social background on biodiversity and provided tools to strengthen the points of view of young people visible at all levels.

Mr Cherfas from IPGRI chaired the event and gave an introductory speech to define the framework.

Mr Esquinas from FAO gave a compelling overview on biodiversity, applying the concept to the social and political consequences for the present and future of the world.

Mr Magliocchetti Lombi of the International Association of Students in Agriculture and Related Sciences spoke of contradictory issues related to agriculture practices in the modern era.

Mr Filibeck of the European Youth Forum gave a powerful speech on the functions and visibility of the European Youth Forum and gave inputs to the audience on how to build a youth network.

Mr Mendes of the Youth Forum for the World Food Summit spoke about the history of the Youth Forum and launched the idea of revitalizing it with the participation of the youth organizations that attended the meeting.

Discussion

The general discussion was articulated and well attended.

Members of all youth organizations intervened, expressing their personal opinions and qualified analyses on the theme. Good sharing of experiences and views is the major result of the discussion. The speakers interacted in a very positive way in plenary session.

Outcome

At the end of the plenary discussion youngsters from all youth organizations met in order to prepare a common statement, based on their previous discussion. The statement is available.

Follow-up

The first follow up was the wide participation of youngsters in the activities of WFD celebrations. They presented the statement during the Forum of Civil Society held on Friday 15 October. It is expected that youth organizations will network as declared during the Youth Forum.