



**BIODIVERSITY
2025**

**15TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON BIODIVERSITY**

**2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON MEDITERRANEAN BIODIVERSITY**



**BIODIVERSITY IN THE XXI
CENTURY: NEW PARADIGMS
FOR NEW CHALLENGES**

PROGRAMME

JUNE 3-6, 2025

**HOTEL GIÒ - PERUGIA CONGRESS CENTRE
PERUGIA, ITALY**

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**15th National Conference on
Biodiversity
2nd International Conference on
Mediterranean Biodiversity**

*Biodiversity in the XXI century: new paradigms
for new challenges*

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Session: Biodiversity in cropping systems

Conserving and enhancing local agrobiodiversity: exchange between Italy and the Sahel region to save local varieties and NUS and promote sustainable food value chains

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Recovery and enhancement of agrobiodiversity are recognized worldwide as a means to save local varieties and promote food security and sustainable production. BiodiverSO research projects, funded by the Rural Development Program (PSR) in the Apulia region (Italy), support the regional network of farmers and seed savers to recover and enhance local agrobiodiversity. The expertise gained in BiodiverSO projects is the basis of the exchange of knowledge between Italy and the Sahel region within the internship organized in the framework of the project "SUSTLIVES: SUSTaining and improving local crop patrimony in Burkina Faso and Niger for better LIVes and EcoSystems" (EU DeSIRA program). The main objective of the internship is to undertake training on agrobiodiversity management towards more sustainable and resilient food systems in the two countries.

BiodiverSO VEG and Karpos projects, while spreading sustainable and agroecological cultivation techniques and strengthening informal community biodiversity management systems, have in common with SUSTLIVES their focus on niche crops or neglected and underutilized species (NUS). During the last edition of the internship all the activities developed in BiodiverSO were discussed. The program will be implemented again in 2025 for eight interns from Burkina Faso and Niger.

Nutritional and functional valorisation of NUS, agroecological criteria for the agrobiodiversity management, creation of local supply chains and related income, and increase in the use of vegetables for healthier diets were central topics of the last year's exchange program, animating the discussion on several points. The new edition is expected to be more in-depth and livelier since various points of view and knowledge needs will be on the table.

Keywords: Agrobiodiversity, Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS), BiodiverSO VEG, BiodiverSO Karpos, Sustlives