

AGROSYM

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS



*XV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium  
"Agrosym 2024"  
Jahorina, October 10-13, 2024*

AgroSym  
2024

AGRO 2024  
sym

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## Impressum

XV International Scientific Agriculture Symposium „AGROSYM 2024“

### Book of Abstracts Published by

University of East Sarajevo, Faculty of Agriculture, Republic of Srpska, Bosnia  
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Agriculture, Serbia  
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari (CIHEAM - IAMB) Italy

International Society of Environment and Rural Development, Japan  
Balkan Environmental Association (B.EN.A), Greece  
CDR, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Austria  
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Institute for Animal Science, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, North Macedonia  
Serbian Academy of Engineering Sciences, Serbia  
Balkan Scientific Association of Agricultural Economics, Serbia  
Institute of Agricultural Economics, Serbia

**Editor in Chief**

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**Website:**

<http://agrosym.ues.rs.ba>

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији  
Народна и универзитетска библиотека  
Републике Српске, Бања Лука

631(048.3)(0.034.4)

INTERNATIONAL Scientific Agricultural Symposium "Agrosym 2024" (15 ; Jahorina)  
Book of Abstracts [Електронски извор] / XV International Scientific Agriculture  
Symposium "Agrosym 2024", Jahorina, October 10 - 13, 2024 ; [editor in chief Dušan  
Kovačević]. - East Sarajevo =Istočno Sarajevo : Faculty of Agriculture =Poljoprivredni  
fakultet, 2024. - 1 USB флеш меморија ; 1 x 2 x 7 cm

Системски захтеви: Нису наведени. - Насл. са насл. екрана. - Регистар.

ISBN 978-99976-816-5-2

COBISS.RS-ID 141522433

# AGROBIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT: EXPLORING HOW THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE CAN HELP PROMOTING NEGLECTED AND UNDERUTILIZED SPECIES IN BURKINA FASO AND NIGER

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## Abstract

The project SUSTLIVES (SUSTaining and improving local crop patrimony in Burkina Faso and Niger for better LIVes and EcoSystems), implemented in Burkina Faso and Niger, aims to promote the transition towards sustainable agricultural and food systems more resilient to climate change, ensure food security and improve the livelihoods of rural communities. This transition is driven by the promotion of local agro-biodiversity. Moreover, SUSTLIVES also aims to strengthen the research and innovation capacities of actors in the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) on the value chains of neglected and underutilized species (NUS) in Burkina Faso and Niger. To this end, an internship was carried out in March - April 2024 at the National Research Council (CNR) of Italy. The main objective of the internship was to undertake training on agrobiodiversity management and nutritional and functional properties of NUS by addressing, inter alia, the topics of custodian farmers; community seed banks; techniques for multiplication and conservation of genetic resources; agronomic and qualitative characterization of crops; nutritional and functional aspects of NUS and their beneficial health effects; food quality and safety; potential for processing, product development and commercialization. These topics were addressed through lessons, technical visits and discussions with various actors, including farmers growing local varieties and processing companies or associations involved in seed conservation. At the end of the internship, numerous points for reflection emerged. The internship provided insights into (i) organization and support of seed custodian farmers in Burkina Faso and Niger; (ii) development of NUS value chains through raising awareness among stakeholders; (iii) support for all stages in the agri-food value chain; (iv) creation of a multi-actor framework around the valorisation of certain agricultural products, in particular NUS, in Burkina Faso and Niger.

**Keywords:** *Agrobiodiversity, NUS, value chain, case study, SUSTLIVES.*