



# Slow Food®

## **Terra Madre The world network of food communities**

Terra Madre represents positive globalization and gives a voice to those who refuse to surrender to standardization and industrial approaches being applied to agriculture. Terra Madre communities unite to declare that food production must be in a harmonic relationship with the environment; to affirm the cultural and scientific dignity of traditional practices; and to return to their homelands with the positive drive that comes from being part of an international community with a shared vision.

This worldwide network of food communities has grown through the biannual global meetings that have been held in Turin since 2004, and the regional meetings which have taken place in five continents: in Ireland, the Netherlands, Ethiopia, Brazil, and Belarus. These gatherings provide thousands of farmers, breeders, fishermen and artisan food producers with the opportunity to discuss and share their knowledge and experiences.

In addition to these national and international meetings, Terra Madre has seen many exchanges, collaborative projects and local meetings take place. Over recent years, Dutch Chaam chicken breeders travelled to Piedmont to meet with Morozzo capon breeders; 52 international fishing communities visited fishers in Italy; farmers in Uganda hosted 25 colleagues from Kenya to share skills and knowledge; women from Imraguen in Mauritania, responsible for the production of fish eggs, attended a seminar in Ortobello, Tuscany. These are just a few examples from this constantly growing network.

Terra Madre's key event is the biannual World Meeting of Food Communities in Turin, the last edition of which was held over October 23-28, 2008. This gathering - organized by Slow Food in collaboration with The Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies, The Italian Cooperation for Development - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Piedmont Regional Authority and the City of Turin - brings together producers and others involved in agriculture and food from around the globe. This diverse group represents an alternative and comprehensive approach to quality food, taking into account environmental resources, global equilibrium, the sensory characteristics of food, the dignity of workers and the health of consumers.

With the participation of the Youth Food Movement for the first time, Terra Madre 2008 highlighted the importance of young people. Launched at the Fifth International Slow Food Congress (held in Mexico in November 2007), this movement brings together youth committed to the defence of food and food culture. The idea came from a group of students from the University of Gastronomic Sciences and Slow Food USA. Today the Youth Food Movement is made up of 1,000 students, young producers, cooks and activists from around the world.

An important new aspect of Terra Madre 2008 was the increased access to the event by the public through the Presidia market, and opportunities to participate in the communities' Earth Workshops and the opening and closing ceremonies of the event.

In addition, the 2008 event included performances by groups of non-professional musicians from the food communities, both at Terra Madre and inside the Salone del Gusto - the quality food production fair and market organized by Slow Food that is held in Turin concurrently with Terra Madre.

In 2008 Terra Madre brought together in Turin:  
1,650 food communities from the five continents  
4,000 farmers, breeders, fishermen and artisan food producers  
153 countries  
800 cooks  
300 teachers and university delegates.  
1000 students  
210 musicians