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Ministero delle
politiche agricole
alimentari e forestali



EXPO
MILANO 2015
WORLD EXPOSITION

VI

World Congress of Agronomists

Food and Identity

GLOBAL
FARM
OF THE
FUTURE
2.0

UNIVERSAL CHARTER OF THE AGRONOMIST

The Agronomist taking part at the VI WORLD CONGRESS set in Milan, in EXPO 2015 at the pavilion Global Farm of the future "Farm LAB", gathered to subscribe the Universal Chart of the Agronomist, the document defining the ethical principles pointing to a professional development respecting people from any country and continent.

Practicing the profession in the agricultural, food supply, rural, landscape and natural resources fields embraces a bio-ecological dimension at a planetary level, with no borders of thought, professionalism, and technology.

We believe that our professionalism, while offering advanced technical solutions, raises our ethical responsibility and obliges us to always address our work toward a social progress.

Within the global challenges of XXI century the role of the agronomist has wide potentials, that is why we intend to cooperate in the definition of a common strategy over food production and environmental sustainability.

This is the context where we commit ourselves to respect the following principles:

1) For food and health

The agronomist, as a food designer, optimizes the production process within the agri-food chain, inspired by principles of providing a healthy and nourishing food, meeting the needs at a global scale, reducing food waste, ensuring safety of production, health and wellbeing of final consumers.

The defence of nutrition involves a professional activity based on consciousness and rationality on several fronts. The skills of the agronomist involve the design of food, the active management and waste reduction, as well as training and information for consumers in order to make them more and more aware of the nutritional value of products.

To get a qualitatively high content of food it is necessary that quality measurements characterize the whole production steps along the food chain, starting from the phase of first production, to the processing one, to the following phase of distribution.

The role of the agronomist in the food chain processes is to ensure and certify that each actor applies all necessary measures in order to ensure the final consumer high levels of food quality and safety, considered sufficient for all inhabitants of the planet.



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2) For sustainability

The Agronomists' job has to tend toward actions which do not reduce natural resources, in order to meet today's needs without compromising the needs of future generations.

In a world increasingly crowded, where resources should be managed with social conscience and fairness, the safeguarding of sustainability is an ethical and environmental duty of the professional. At a time when millions of people still suffer from hunger, misuse of resources is intolerable, not only in an ethical point of view, but also on an environmental basis, as it represents a useless waste of natural resources.

3) For biodiversity

The agronomist ensures the custody of biodiversity, commits himself for development and transmission of genetic diversity for food and agriculture and provides "diversity within all life beings, included those living underground, in the air, in water ecosystems and the ecosystems they are part of".

Protection of biodiversity implies the professional moral obligation towards future generations to guarantee the balance between biodiversity and genetic improvement in planning and designing. This is to be obtained by encouraging farm agricultural practices that contribute to forming balanced agricultural ecosystems, by safeguarding existing interactions between agriculture and biodiversity, and by improving the efficiency of production. The fulfilment of this principle is to be reached with the promotion of crop choices that increase the biodiversity of farms.

4) For soil and water

The Agronomist ensures soil and water protection and sustainable management, in order to preserve its functions, and economical, environmental, social and cultural services.

The protection and sustainable management of soil request to the Agronomist the adoption of professional practices that maintain unchanged the fertility of the soil and prevent degradation.

Through finding water needs of a specific production environment, a rational and cautious use of water resources involves the agronomist in the adoption of professional practices that enhance the use of this resource and reduces its waste, also by developing the use of innovative production systems as well as non-conventional water resources.

Soil and water are an essential element for life; they are the fundamental component of terrestrial ecosystems and the environment, that provide a range of benefits to humans through a variety of



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functions and ecosystem services. Avoid their losses and enhance their role are key factors for the welfare of present and future generations.

5) For landscape

The Agronomist preserves the “territory and culture” value and promotes local identities promotion, through rural land and its traditions conservation.

The professional, having deep knowledge of the productive vocation of the territory, has the task of promoting “ad hoc” development models, able to interconnect local features and places of production. The rational and prudent management of the "territorial capital" is aimed to develop strategies and convey the value that a territory can reveal.

The Agronomist, through proper spatial planning and designing, ensures rural development, namely the maintenance and growth of socio-economic values.

6) Social use of genetics

The Agronomist uses genetic improvement techniques in order to ensure better living conditions, on an environmental, social and cultural level, avoiding economic colonialism toward weak populations.

The rational use of genetics, free from economic purposes, involves professional rectitude anywhere in the world.

Genetic pool of species is the heritage of all and therefore must serve the good of all mankind, in other words biotechnology applications should safeguard this principle without becoming arbitrary domain of interests, or being used for purposes of material economic interest.

7) Social use of technology

The Agronomist guarantees that the use of technologies and innovative practices does not determine asymmetric information, prevarication of weak ones, decrease of fundamental rights. Well directed techno-science can produce valuable ways to improve the quality of human life, preserve the balance of the ecosystems and safeguard environmental sustainability.

Any professional application is expected to stay within this framework, and with no doubt constant attention is needed in order to consider any ethical issues involved.

To this end, the professional ensures a scientific and social debate that is responsible and large, able to consider all available information and without interest, be they political, economic or ideological.

8) Intellectual and professional freedom



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The Agronomist excludes any obstacle and bond to his freedom in the exercise of profession.

He should always preserve his freedom in judgment, technical and intellectual role, any external influences.

In a social context dominated by the financial aspects, where money is no longer the instrument but becomes an end, intellectual autonomy is often subjected to economic constraints.

The intellectual independence should always be pursued, and this implies for the professional the continue verification of the absence of external constraints on his work. Moreover it involves moving away from influences of any kind, moral, material, political, ideological, economic and also coming from the family, so that his activity is marked only to the full protection of global interests, in line with the general ethical and social principles.

9) For knowledge

The Agronomist believes in permanent training, in order to offer high quality advice in his work. This is matter of public and professional dignity matter.

Training and professional development, not only represent an opportunity for the professional to improve the quality of performance, but also an opportunity to enhance the peculiarity of profession.

The lifelong learning implemented in some areas of the planet is a crucial point of the strategy, considering that the speed of technological change and scientific progress makes it essential to gain learning opportunities throughout life.

The Agronomist recognizes that changes in the rules and the unstoppable progress of science and technology require constant updating, in order to ensure the highest quality of professional services; the Agronomist considers training and lifelong learning as a means to keep up with scientific progress, a necessary extent to maintain his job safe and effective.

10) Membership obligations

The Agronomist ensures solidarity and fellowship among colleagues all over the world, promoting cooperation and mutual aid, at a professional, social and familiar level.

The spirit of fellowship is born from belonging to the same community, sharing the feeling of mutual consideration and common sense. The spirit of fellowship has undoubtedly positive values as it leads to the collaboration between colleagues and to a mutual aid, provided that it does not end with becoming a more important value than the needs of the majority of citizens.



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An important aspect is the respect of others' professional opinions. The differences should never become occasions of friction on personal terms, but they provide opportunities for civil confrontation of opinions and to mutual enrichment.



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