“2015, Año del Generalísimo José María Morelos y Pavón”

Comisión Nacional Forestal

Unidad de Comunicación

9 de noviembre de 2015

Boletín

**The National Forestry Commission of Mexico and the National Research Council of Italy sign a Memorandum of Understanding**

* *This instrument reflects the interest of both countries to promote scientific research and technological development in forestry.*
* *Genetic improvement and Bioenergy are two themes of interest for immediate cooperation between the Parties.*

In the framework of the Year of Italy in Latin America, Jorge Rescala Pérez, Director General of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)a of Mexico, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Research Council (CNR)b of Italy which was previously signed by its President, Luigi Nicolais.

The ceremony of signature took place during the “Workshop on Bio and Agro-technology under Climate Change” held in Mexico City, on November 9 - 10th 2015, organized by the Department of Bio-Agrofood (DISBA) of CNR and the Italian Embassy in Mexico.

“This instrument reflects the interest of both countries for strengthening cooperation in matters of scientific and technological research, in this case in forestry”, highlighted Jorge Rescala Pérez, CONAFOR’s Director General.

Alessandro Busacca, Ambassador of Italy in Mexico, and Francesco Loreto, Director of the Department on Biology, Agriculture and Food Sciences of CNR, witnessed the signature of the memorandum. The objective of this instrument is to strengthen cooperation in scientific and technological research, as well as promoting and supporting cooperation among qualified scientists of the two countries.

The two themes identified for immediate cooperation are **Genetic improvement** through development of technologies for in vitro establishment and micro-propagation of forest species; and **Bioenergy** aimed to promote generation of renewable energy from forest biomass.

Other cooperation areas identified between the Parties include:

* Sustainable use of forest resources.
* Biological and biotechnological basis of forest productivity.
* Protection of forests against global changes.
* Wood and wood-based products.

Rescala Pérez noted that attention of the forestry sector is a priority for the Government of Mexico, and in this task, international cooperation has an important role to strengthen foster innovation and technological development.

Francesco Loreto emphasizes the importance of scientific collaboration between Italy and Mexico in these areas and thanks the Italian Embassy in Mexico for its support and, in advance, for future support in the development of joint activity.

Thanks to the signature of this memorandum of understanding it will be possible to request support from the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) for Italian and Mexican researchers to conduct research stays on the aforementioned issues in the framework of the Agreement on Scientific and technologic Cooperation currently in force between Italy and Mexico and of the outcomes of the Joint Sub-Commission on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the two countries, which met in March 2015 in Mexico City.

a National Forestry Commission (**CONAFOR**) is a Mexican public agency with the objective to develop, facilitate and promote productive, conservation and restoration activities in forestry, as well as participate in formulation of plans, programs, and implementation of policy for forest development sustainable.

b The **National Research Council** (**CNR**) is an Italian public agency, encompassing a network of 115 multidisciplinary research institutes, which promotes, spreads and improves research activities and applications for scientific, technological, economic and social development of Italy.