

Workshop 4
Oral presentation
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Mycology in sustainable development: the case of *Pleurotus nebrodensis* (Pleurotaceae) from Sicily (southern Italy)

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Fungi play an essential role in enabling and attaining sustainable development. Indicative examples of sustainable use of fungi are the pine mushroom industry [*Tricholoma magnivelare* (Peck) Redhead, *T. matsutake* (S. Ito & S. Imai) Singer] in Canada and United States (de Geus & al., 1992; Redhead, 1997), harvesting of wild edible mushrooms in México (Bandala & al., 1997), cultivation of edible fungi as an alternative source of food in tropical regions (Calvo-Bado, 1994; Vázquez & al., 1997), valorization of mycorrhizae for the restoration of marginal and derelict land (Allen & al., 1997; Varela & al. 1994) and exploitation of fungi in the biocontrol of weeds, pests and diseases of cultivated plants (Dorworth, 1995; Ruiz-Duenas & Martinez, 1996; Barreto & Evans, 1997). The case of *Pleurotus nebrodensis* (Inzenga) QuéL., a rare and declining edible mushroom from Sicily, and its cultivation methodology recently developed to safeguard this valuable natural genetic resource and to provide an additional source of income for local farmers are here reported.