

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Italy

Post: Rome

FAS Italy Stimulates Biotech Discussion with Leading Italians

Report Categories:

CSSF Activity Evaluation

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Report Highlights:

FAS/Rome hosted Jack Bobo, Senior Advisor for Biotechnology, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs (EEB), U.S. Department of State, to discuss biotechnology, food security, climate change, and development issues related to agricultural science and technology with leading Italian and Foreign officials.

General Information:

FAS/ROME ORGANIZES BIOTECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION WITH LEADING ITALIAN OFFICIALS

FAS/Rome hosted Jack Bobo, Senior Advisor for Biotechnology, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs (EEB), U.S. Department of State. Mr. Bobo also serves as the Chief of the Department's Biotechnology and Textile Trade Policy Division, and works on trade policy, food security, climate change, and development issues related to agricultural science and technology, including agricultural biotechnology. He has global responsibilities and travels frequently to Asia, Africa, and Europe.

FAS/Rome organized a roundtable discussion at the U.S. Embassy in Rome on "The Impact of Climate Change on Food Production and the Role of Agriculture in Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change" for high level Italian government, agriculture, and industry officials to discuss food security, climate change, and biotechnology. The objective was to motivate a rational public discussion between the USG and key members of the Italian public and private sectors, as well as the Italian media.

Key messages included:

- Global population will grow to 9 billion in 2050 from 6 billion today.
- Food production must nearly double to meet demand.
- Climate change will decrease productivity by 27% by 2050, exacerbating the challenge.
- Agricultural technologies critical to meeting the challenge of adapting to climate change.
- Agriculture offers cost effective measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.



Mr. Jack Bobo speaking at the Roundtable discussion and with members of the FAS Rome team at U.S. Embassy.

Following the informative discussion, guests enjoyed a U.S. wine tasting reception, highlighting a selection of California's finest wines.

While in Rome, Mr. Bobo also spoke at the UN's Food and Agricultural organization (FAO) on "Food Security and Biotechnology." Mr. Bobo is responsible for developing and implementing U.S. trade policy related to new technologies and working with foreign governments to address regulatory barriers to U.S. agricultural exports. He works closely with officials from developing countries to support the development of bio-safety legislation and facilitate technology transfer to increase agricultural productivity, improve food security and respond to climate change through mitigation and adaptation.

Mr. Bobo also had the opportunity to meet and discuss biotechnology with his Excellency Bishop Marcello Sanchez Sorondo, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences at the Vatican.

Mr. Bobo gave an exclusive interview to Il Sole 24 Ore, a leading Italian business newspaper, entitled "Europe is Already Leader in the GMO Sector." In the interview, he stressed the important role that GMO's play in facing the challenges of food security and food productivity. *Il Sole 24 Ore – Agrisole*

Post used CSSF Funds to cover expenses associated with Mr. Bobo's visit to Rome.
Total expense - \$770.20.