INTRODUCTION

The hard environmental and climatic conditions in the Sahel affect life choices of younger generations, whose number increases especially in large cities, with increasing levels of discomfort and lack of adequate education and governance.

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Partners: CISAO – University of Turin, Italy; CRESA- Abdou Moumouni University of Niamey, Niger; LERNSE - Polytechnic University of Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso; IUSTA – National Higher Institute of Sciences and Techniques of Abéché, Chad.

Associates: Regione Piemonte and Terre Solidali Onlus.

Main objectives: food security promotion, extreme hunger and poverty reduction.

Specific objectives: enhancement of higher education systems; improvement and sustainable management of natural resources, animal and vegetal productions, with environment and biodiversity preservation; institution of North-South and South-South networks. (www.russade.eu)

It is important to provide a preservation and a better access to basic natural resources, such as soil, water, food in order to improve job opportunities and consequently the quality of life at all levels of the population. At the same time it is essential to spread awareness and knowledge of the vulnerability of natural resources, of the risk of their damage or irreversible loss, both for natural hazards and for the interaction with human unsustainable activities.

An interdisciplinary Master course on “Food Security and Environmental Durability” was implemented, taking care of integrating the issues of different modules in the technical and application fields of the rural development.

CONCLUSIONS

The spread of awareness that the essential geo-resources for food production are limited and vulnerable is a valuable tool for fighting poverty and hunger, one of the priorities of the Millennium Development Goals for Sahelian countries.

It is expected to give the best diffusion to the achieved results and to develop the potential local applications publishing various reports on the appropriate magazines as on the involved universities websites.