## Catarina Crisóstomo<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Ciências Agrárias e Ambientais, Faculdade de Agricultura, Universidade de Milão, 20133 Milão, Itália, catarina.crisostomo@unimi.it.

## **Abstract**

Organic agriculture can play a strategic role in improving food security in developing countries. This production model grants access to high quality, diversified and culturally appropriate food, which is locally produced, in sufficient quantities, based on the enhancement of agricultural and functional biodiversity, the establishment of natural ecological processes and the sustainable and efficient use of resources. Thus, meeting current and future food needs is ensured through local food systems that do not depend on external inputs and do not compromise the ability of natural and productive systems to regenerate themselves, but rather contribute to environmental preservation and climate stability. Furthermore, it delivers an integral solution, as it provides increased dignity and income to farmers, while reducing rural exodus and improving rural livelihoods.

**Keywords:** agroecology, food security, sustainability;