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March, 23rd 2015
Santa Clara, Cuba

Dr. Luigi Pari
Consiglio per la Ricerca e Sperimentazione in Agricoltura
Unità di Ricerca per l'Ingegneria Agraria (CRA ING)
Via della Pascolare 16
00016 Monterotondo

Dear Dr. Pari,

I have read with pleasure the research results of the Project that you are coordinating, named "SUSCACE", by downloading from the web site <http://ing.entecra/biomasse> the interesting scientific publications related to it. I have especially appreciated the technological innovations developed regarding Short Rotation Forestry (SRF) mechanization.

In Cuba we are facing similar problems to those faced by Italy in the "SUSCACE" Project concerning the harvesting of an invasive woody crop named Marabú (*Dischrostachys cinerea*).

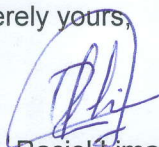
This species has widely invaded Cuban arable lands, consequently, putting into risk national food production. As a result of this, we need to develop mechanical systems capable to fight this invasion. Furthermore, at the same time the objective is to obtain valuable products for commercial purposes (timber, fire wood, fodder, seeds, etc) from this species.

I am therefore asking the possibility to apply the scientific results obtained in Italy to the Cuban reality, adapting the machineries that you developed for SRF mechanizations to our pedoclimatic conditions.

It could be very useful if you could activate an exchanging table. The purpose would be to allow the Italian agricultural machinery enterprises to know the high potential of these biomass resources, not only for energy production, but also for fodder and bioproducts.

Then, with this letter we give our consent to work together on project proposals related to this topic and others related to agricultural development. In addition, we would appreciate a lot your collaboration in finding external funding to organize a workshop study tour in Italy during the spring 2015 to discuss all those interesting matters and to gain expertise on this area of a representation of our staff (4-6 scientists and other representatives from the agroforestry sector).

Sincerely yours,


Dr. C. Raciell Lima Orozco
Director of CIAP


Dr. C. Andres Castro Alegria
Rector

