



# Deafal

Delegazione Europea per l'Agricoltura Familiare  
in Asia, Africa e America Latina

## Profile & Mission

Deafal (European Delegation for Family Farming in Asia, Africa and Latin America) is a non-profit non-governmental organization for development cooperation, recognized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Deafal is an independent, non-denominational and apolitical association. Established in Milan in 2000, Deafal works in Italy, Asia, Africa and Latin America to support smallholder farmers and empower local communities.

Deafal operates to achieve an integrated development and a sustainable food production system in order to eradicate hunger and poverty worldwide.

Deafal fields of intervention are:

- Food security and food sovereignty;
- Regenerative and Organic Agriculture (ROA) and family agriculture;
- environmental and biodiversity preservation;
- environmental and global citizenship education.



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## Projects abroad

### Brazil

The origin of Deafal ONG has to be found in Brazil, connected with the "Programa Brasil Rural" (later "Brasil Equo") and the distribution of agricultural products. The Program was promoted by Fondazione Lyndolpho Silva Foundation (named after the of the Brazilian farmer and workers Union founder).

#### Other activities:

- Festival "SANA" of Bologna in 1999 and 2006: organization of a delegation from Brazil;
- Deafal signed the memorandum of understanding with Federal governmental Institutions and Brazilian local institutions, with the aim of supporting associations of smallholder farmers, indigenous people and Quilombos (people of African origins);
- International cooperation projects and technical assistance;
- analysis on the anacardium (cajù), for a sustainable production and distribution system (2004);
- Research project on anacardium for animal feeding (2007);
- feasibility study in Amazonia for the commercialization of natural products in the Amazon rainforest (urucum, camu-camu, honey and propolis);
- "Povos das Terras" project: activities for the improvement of micro-enterprises in Silves, Amazon rainforest, and for a sustainable tourism in partnership with the local communities of dell'Ilha de Deus, particularly in the area of the "Magrove Urban Park", in Recife, Pernambuco.

At the moment, Deafal ONG, in partnership with GVC, is working in the project "Food security and energy sovereignty: strengthening the peri-urban familiar agriculture in Mozambique and Brazil" (2014-2015).

### Mexico

In 2004 to 2009 Deafal represented the Renamur (Red nacional de Mujeres Rurales Mexico) in Italy.

With Renamur Mexico Deafal collaborated in the field of micro-credit and worked with IICA for a sustainable development and the professional training of people.

From 2006 Deafal realized the following projects:



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- 2006: “Messico etico e solidale” (*Ethical and sustainable Mexico*) co-financed by the Cariplo Foundation, the project was aimed to improve marketing and trading skills of women handicraft producers.
- 2007-2009: “Mujeres Rurales per uno sviluppo sostenibile in Messico” (*Women for sustainable development in Mexico*), co-financed by the Lombardia Region, Cariplo Foundation and Mexican Institutional Authorities (Indesol, Sedesol, Sagarpa, Finanziaria Rural).
- 2009-2011: “Acqua, Terra e Tradizioni. Per un'alimentazione sana e per la tutela della biodiversità” (*Water, land and traditions. For an healthy feeding and the protection of the biodiversity*), co-financed by the Lombardia Region and implemented in the Oaxaca states and Morelos in collaboration with local association CNECyM (Centro Nacional para la Educación en Ciencia y Matemáticas).
- 2010-2011: “R.ED.ES. Reti Internazionali d'Educazione Ambientale per un'Economia Sostenibile” (*International networks on environmental education for a sustainable economy*), cofinanced by Cariplo Foundation and implemented by the CITA (Centro de Inovación en Tecnologías Alternativas A.C.) and CNECyM.

## Mozambique

Deafal has implemented several interventions in the Maputo Province, in Mozambique, in collaboration with GVC (Italian NGO), with the farmers' trade union UNAC and with Pala Wassokoti Association.

Activities implemented:

- Consultations on the high production performance and the opening and management of cooperatives for Pala Wassokoti Association (2010).
- Feasibility study on the sustainability of the processing factory for Pala Wassokoti Association (2011).
- “Agroecology in Mozambique” (2012-2014), co-financed by the Cariplo Foundation, Lombardia Region and Tavola Valdese, the project was aimed to implement experimental organic farms and to strength management and marketing skills of Pala Wassokoti Association.

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## Kenya

- Collaboration for “Wavuvi” project (2012) in partnership with CAST (Italian NGO) with the objective of increasing the production of artisanal fisheries in Kilifi District.

## Lebanon

- in collaboration with GVC: feasibility study for the improvement of water resource management and methods of cultivation of the farmers of the cooperative Dardara, in the plain of Marjayoun-Khiam in South of Lebanon.

## Rwanda

- “Oro solidale” (Fair Gold, 2009), financed by the Municipality of Milano, a feasibility study in Rwanda (Municipio of Rusizi and Nyamasheke) to build a new control system for a fair gold chain and to facilitate the training for local orpailleurs.

## Togo

- “AGROTOGO: fostering the agricultural cooperative in Kassenà” (2014-2015): training on Regenerative and Organic Agriculture and on business planning.

## Other countries

- Peru (Pucquio area): study on traditional uses of medicinal plants;
- Argentina (Misiones area): crop diversification and production;
- Central African Republic (Bouar province): build schools and wells;
- Kenya (Nairobi slum of Kybera): youth training in sports activities and IT.



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## Activities in Italy

Deafal carries out Global Citizenship Education programs and environmental education projects.

In these areas have implemented the following projects:

- 2011: “Terra è Libertà” (*“Earth is Freedom”*), led by Acea a non-profit organization funded by the Foundation Cariplo., urban farming in Milan.
- 2012: “Effetto Terra” (*“Earth Impact”*), led by Acea Onlus and co-financed by the Nord Milano Community Foundation, aimed to improve urban farming techniques.
- 2011-2012: “Agroecologia e Sostenibilità Ambientale in Lombardia” (*Agro ecology and Environmental Sustainability in Lombardia*), co-funded by Cariplo Foundation.
- 2012-2013: “WE-RE: Risposte creative per costruire comunità sostenibili” (*WE-RE: Creative solutions to build sustainable communities*), led by the Cooperative ACCESSO and co-funded by Cariplo Foundation, aimed of promoting new patterns of consumption and self-production.
- 2013: “Gestione delle risorse idriche in agricoltura” (*Management of water resources for agriculture*), led by the Association and The C.A.S.E and co-financed by the Water Right Foundation.
- 2013-2014: “Agroecologia in Mozambico” (*“Agroecology in Mozambique”*) experience exchange between Italian and Mozambican producers and photo exhibition on Agro-ecological experiences in Mexico, Mozambique and Italy.

## Technical training and assistance in the agricultural sector

In Mexico Deafal has started a fruitful collaboration with a group of experts on organic farming, specialized in regenerative agriculture, part of this group the Colombian agronomist Jairo Restrepo Rivera.

In October 2010, starting from these experiences and in the interests of international cooperation development as a process of exchange of good practices between countries, Deafal has created two theoretical and practical seminars on organic agriculture in Italy held by Jairo Restrepo Rivera for Italian producers and technicians.

The success of these first two events has increased by farmers requests for new seminars. The training activities on Regenerative and Organic Agriculture (ROA) were continued consistently in different Italian regions (Lombardy, Marche, Lazio, Puglia,



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Tuscany, Veneto, Campania, and Trentino) with both the participation of international experts, both directly held by qualified personnel of Deafal.

Meanwhile, some farms started to require the assistance of technical personnel from Deafal for the application of appropriate methodologies on ROA. Currently there are about 20 farms across the country who are applying the ROA principles and techniques.

In 2013 Deafal trained 15 political refugees from North Africa, in collaboration to the Italian NGO GUS, on ROA and business planning.

From 2007 Deafal has produced various academic materials on issues of organic agriculture and environmental sustainability, including:

- Manual on composting
- Handbook on Environmental Technology for sustainable water management
- Manual on making crafts from recycled materials
- Handbook on preparations of organic fertilizers
- Two informative videos and educational activity guiding technician in organic agriculture

In 2013 was created a web page to foster the cooperation among organic farmers and operators : [www.agricolturaorganica.org](http://www.agricolturaorganica.org) .

## Memberships and Partnerships

- has been a partner with non-profit associations (ACEA, Accesso, Altropallone, Conges and Cast) for Global Citizenship Education programmes.
- has been a partner of training courses for volunteers or prospective volunteers and co-financed by Ciessevi and the training sector of Province of Milan;
- Collaborated with AceA for the campaign “Acqua Bene Comune” (*Water Common Good*);
- is a member of the Italian Committee for the Family Farming Year sponsored by CISA (Italian Committee for Food Sovereignty);
- is a member of “EXPO dei Popoli”, the NGOs network for Food Security toward EXPO 2015.