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The scientific research is mainly the result of a deep, intense, and honest dialogue. So, It Is a seed of freedom and peace.

Welcome to Rome. Welcome to CNR.

Today you are here to tell us how food safety is not only a fundamental element of the food supply chain but also a tool of fairness among nations. The topics of food safety, sustainability, and quality are certainly subject to different political positions, various needs related to food access, and the demands of a market whose requirements for speed and increasing economic returns slow down interventions in terms of consumer safety and health, favoring punitive actions over preventive measures.

Your role is not only to develop research but also to convey the idea that a safer food supply chain is not a cost but a lasting investment that leads to new market opportunities, especially for SMEs. A safe food supply chain also means attention to small producers regarding respect for their activity and recognition of fair compensation for their work. A safe supply chain is one where no person and no place is exploited, but every person and every place is cared for with attention and respect for production and rest times.

Today You are at the center of multidisciplinary public research in Italy.

I thank, also on behalf of our President, the organizers.

Let me conclude with a thought for my colleagues (researchers, technologists, technicians, and administrative staff) of CNR ISPA. I thank you because every day, despite everyday difficulties, you make the CNR a center of excellence also on the themes of safety, quality, and sustainability of the entire agri-food supply chain. Often your research work is reduced to reporting the FTE, the hours/person, but those hours spent in the laboratory, writing articles and projects, and training young researchers have an invaluable value in terms of increasing knowledge. Thank you all very much for coming, for organizing the event.

Thank you, Antonio, for the opportunity to address your hosts.

