

Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Project



Harnessing agricultural biodiversity to reduce hunger and malnutrition

Agricultural biodiversity, health and nutrition are vitally connected. The biological variety that exists among crops, animals and other organisms used for food and agriculture plays an important role in providing the diversity of nutrients needed for healthy growth and living. It can also provide a local solution to diet-related nutrition and health conditions, such as nutrient deficiencies and obesity, which are becoming a growing burden on already stretched health budgets and economies. Yet much of this diversity and traditional knowledge associated with it is disappearing.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the world's largest public funder of international environmental projects, is supporting the new *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use for Improved Nutrition and Well-Being** initiative led by Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Turkey. Bioversity International is coordinating the project with implementation support from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Working in the four partner countries the project addresses declining diversity by:

1. PROVIDING EVIDENCE - Demonstrating the nutritional value of agricultural biodiversity and the role it plays in promoting healthy diets and strengthening livelihoods.
2. INFLUENCING POLICIES - Using the evidence generated from the project to influence policies, programmes and markets that support the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity with nutrition potential for improved human nutrition and wellbeing.
3. RAISING AWARENESS - Developing tools, knowledge and best practices for scaling up the use of biodiversity for food and nutrition in development programmes, value chains and local community initiatives.

* Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) Project for short.



Photo: Lady handling mangaba fruits - Arquivo MMA - J. Vital Souto

Main beneficiaries

Individuals, households and communities, especially women and children, will benefit from:

- improved linkages to markets and the contribution this will make to their livelihoods
- increased resilience of their farming systems and the sustainable utilization of agricultural biodiversity

Main Global Environmental Benefits

- *In situ* conservation of targeted biodiversity species is practised on almost 500,000 hectares of landscape in project sites
- Sustainable management practices are used by communities over a similar area
- The knowledge associated with targeted biodiversity is documented and preserved
- Globally-significant habitats supporting nutritionally-rich biodiversity are conserved

Partners

Additional funding from the four countries, the CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health and support from the World Food Programme, the Earth Institute, Columbia University, Crops for the Future, the World Agroforestry Centre and AVRDC – The World Vegetable Center is being received to facilitate both implementation and scaling up of activities. National partners come from relevant ministries, the scientific community, non-government organizations, civil society and local communities.



COMPONENTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES	IMPACTS
1 Knowledge Base	- Assess the nutritional value of agrobiodiversity and traditional knowledge associated with it in the four partner countries - Develop national databases on the nutritional properties of local agrobiodiversity and associated traditional knowledge and link to relevant national and global nutritional databases - Assess the contribution of agrobiodiversity to food composition and consumption patterns	Outcome 1: The Agriculture, Environment and Public Health sectors adopt the integrated knowledge base on BFN to build support for biodiversity conservation and enhanced well-being	Enhance the well-being, livelihoods and food security of target beneficiaries in Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Turkey through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and nutrition and the identification of best practices for scaling-up
2 Policy and regulatory Frameworks	- Establish cross-sectoral national policy platforms that take into account the importance of agrobiodiversity for nutrition, health and education programmes - Develop national and international policy guidelines and recommendations that promote the mainstreaming of agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use into nutrition, health and education programmes - Develop new markets and value chains for agrobiodiversity with high nutritional potential	Outcome 2: Enhanced policy and regulatory frameworks support the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use across sectors	
3 Awareness and Outscaling	- Identify and promote best practices for mobilizing biodiversity to improve dietary diversity - Enhance the capacity of producers, processors, users and researchers to deploy and benefit from nutritionally-relevant biodiversity - Carry out national information campaigns that foster greater appreciation of biodiversity as a resource for development and wellbeing - Develop guidelines for improved use of nutritionally-rich foods from biodiversity with global significance, including processing, food safety measures, and recipes adapted to modern lifestyles based on traditional food systems - Upscale and disseminate tools and methods for mainstreaming biodiversity into food and nutrition strategies	Outcome 3: Tools, knowledge and best practices adopted and scaled up in development programmes, value chain, and local community initiatives	

For more information

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