



BRIDGING AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION

The initiative

Bioversity International is leading a 2-year initiative to gather and present a body of robust scientific evidence that will demonstrate the urgent need for collaboration between the agriculture and conservation agendas. It will bring together thought leaders from different disciplines and backgrounds to facilitate research, exchange knowledge and promote new debate to support a new paradigm in agriculture and sustainable development.

Agriculture and conservation must come together to ensure a food secure future for both rural and urban communities, and for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Goals of the 2-year initiative

- Create a visionary global and multi-year initiative to link biodiversity conservation and agricultural production in the fight against poverty
- Forge a deep debate in the conservation and agriculture agendas, creating a coalition of like-minded actors for a new discourse and action on conservation and agriculture
- Synthesize and make available world class scientific evidence to ensure that key players are equipped to act to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable food production and ecosystem service delivery in a way that is meaningful to smallholder farming communities
- Lead a cutting edge research programme within Bioversity International, that contributes the evidence for mobilizing biodiversity conservation for poverty alleviation and food security
- Offer useful, credible and new knowledge and tools to conservation and development actors, related to the sustainable conservation of biodiversity in agriculture and to actual conservation practices in biodiversity hotspots
- Develop practical partnerships with the farming and conservation community, for the use and conservation of biodiversity across natural and agricultural landscapes.





Farmer using grafting techniques in Thailand

Key Event – Meeting of Thought Leaders and Global Influencers

12th July 2013,

Rio de Janeiro

Chair:

Izabella Teixeira, Minister of the Environment, Brazil

Objectives:

To engage a coalition of visionary leaders from both the private and the public spheres to provide intellectual, influential and financial capital for the initiative. To harness the shared commitment, perspectives and networks of significant global players in conservation, sustainable development, smallholder agriculture. To learn together how to enshrine sustainable use and biodiversity conservation objectives into commercial food production and distribution systems.

Outcome:

A groundswell of commitment and understanding at the highest level to support collaboration between the agriculture and conservation agendas. Thought leaders' collective voice will raise awareness and galvanize global action.

Output:

A common cause declaration and high-impact policy brief on the value and need for agriculture based on agro ecological practices, with an accompanying policy piece to be published in a leading journal.

Activities

- Lead a multi-institutional synthesis of evidence to support the interdependence between biodiversity conservation and sustainable agriculture that focuses on the key ecosystem services upon which agriculture is dependent (pollination, pest control and other support services for production) and the agricultural practices that support biodiversity conservation
- Map and establish partnerships with a range of other initiatives to explore the dynamic nature of changing landscapes and biodiversity conservation by rural communities
- In collaboration with our partners, improve agroecological decision-making tools that provide farmers, conservationists, and landscape managers with a dynamic portfolio of options to meet conservation and production goals
- Move beyond papers as primary knowledge products to other, higher impact forms of knowledge sharing and tool development, such as decision-making tools for land managers and use of interactive, high technology tools
- Communicate evidence in relevant formats, to make the science behind the value of agricultural biodiversity readily accessible, useful and relevant to policy and decision-makers.

Outputs

- A published synthesis of knowledge and evidence in diverse formats, such as a collection of concise policy briefs in multimedia formats, that are relevant to policymakers, the conservation community, food agencies, and major donors
- A high-end scientific paper defining a new paradigm of agriculture, that wholly integrates biodiversity conservation, and other scientific papers in high-impact journals, such as Nature and Science magazines
- Knowledge products, such as recommendations of how to optimize the common interests of agriculture and conservation, tools to guide incentive systems for supporting ecosystem service-based approaches to agriculture and conservation, including access to incentive systems for such services
- Communications to connect knowledge to key actors, creating a dynamic dialogue. For instance, leading symposia at international meetings, targeted online outreach, media outreach (for instance, The New York Times, The Times, The Economist), Science and Nature Policy Forum pieces, dynamic social media, digital communications, etc.

Science Working Group

Bioversity International has now also established links to leading researchers and conservationists to set up a Science Working Group which will plan the synthesis and the detail for policy papers, knowledge products and journal articles. This will also help to ensure coordination and collaboration between several international initiatives on integrated landscape research. Bioversity plans to convene the first week-long meeting of 12 -15 individuals in Europe in 2013.

Spring 2013 – Montpellier, France

Objectives:

To bring together leading international representatives from academia, conservation, development groups and the business community with a wide range of experience. The group will define the research programme that will provide a world-class synthesis of current evidence that is credible, robust and new. Under the guidance of the Science Working Group, there will be an emphasis on translating this evidence into concrete and innovative knowledge products, and tools to guide incentive systems will support ecosystem service-based approaches to agriculture and conservation.

Outcome:

Key players in international policy and practice circles are equipped to act to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable food production and ecosystem service delivery in a way that is meaningful to smallholder farming communities.

Bioversity International's leadership and distinct contribution

Bioversity International is the leading research-for-development organization working with partners worldwide to use and conserve agricultural and tree biodiversity for improved livelihoods, nutrition, sustainability and productive and resilient ecosystems.

Through this initiative Bioversity aims to develop a model of agriculture that maximises both agricultural sustainability and productivity and conservation objectives, emphasising the bilateral relationship between agriculture and conservation. This new model will look for solutions to pressing global issues of food insecurity, biodiversity loss and climate change, using biodiversity within agricultural ecosystems themselves as a method to increase resilience.



Bioversity International is a member of the CGIAR Consortium. CGIAR is a global research partnership for a food secure future.

Bioversity International is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in the US and as a registered charity in the UK (no. 1131854)

www.bioversityinternational.org



Researching the domestication of ackee in Benin