



# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/5/11  
24 February 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
Fifth meeting  
Nairobi, 15-26 May 2000  
Item 16.2 of the provisional agenda\*

AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: REVIEW OF PHASE I OF THE PROGRAMME  
OF WORK AND ADOPTION OF A MULTI-YEAR WORK PROGRAMME

## Note by the Executive Secretary

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Parties considered agricultural biological diversity in depth at its third meeting, held in Buenos Aires in 1996, and through decision III/11, established a work programme on agricultural biodiversity. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties called for case-studies on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and requested that an assessment of ongoing activities and instruments be carried out as a basis for the further elaboration of the programme of work. It also encouraged Parties to develop national strategies, programmes and plans related to agricultural biodiversity, and provided policy guidance on their purpose. The decision also included a number of observations concerning cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other bodies, and on financing.

2. At its fourth meeting, held in Bratislava in 1998, the Conference of the Parties, through decision IV/6, provided additional guidance on a number of these matters and also, inter alia, requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider and assess whether there are any consequences for biological diversity from the development and use of new technology for the control of plant gene expression.

3. The present note has been prepared by the Executive Secretary to assist the Conference of the Parties in reviewing the implementation of decisions III/11 and IV/6 and in adopting the next phase of the programme of work. Section II of the note reviews progress made in the implementation of the first phase of the programme of work, including the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments, and the further elaboration of the programme of work by SBSTTA at its fifth meeting. The main findings of the assessment are set out in the annex to the present note. Section III reviews progress made in implementing other aspects of decisions III/11 and IV/6. Section IV examines the cross-cutting issues of cooperation with other bodies and financial matters.

\* UNEP/CBD/COP/5/1.

4. The Conference of Parties may wish to:

(a) Take note of the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/10) and its main findings (see section II B and the annex below);

(b) Consider SBSTTA recommendation V/9, as contained in annex I to the report on the work of its fifth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/3), including the proposed elements of the programme of work (see section II C below);

(c) Consider SBSTTA recommendation IV/5, on genetic use restriction technologies, as contained in annex I to the report on the work of its fourth meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/2) (see section III D below); and

(d) Review the implementation of other aspects of decisions III/11 and IV/6, and cross-cutting issues, and provide further guidance as appropriate (see sections III A-C and IV below).

## II. CASE-STUDIES, THE ASSESSMENT OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND INSTRUMENTS, AND FURTHER ELABORATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

### A. Case-studies

5. By paragraphs 10 and 11 of decision III/11, the Conference of Parties invited countries to share case-study experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and encouraged interested Parties and international agencies to conduct case-studies on two issues as identified by SBSTTA namely pollinators and soil micro-organisms of importance to agriculture. By paragraph 5 of its decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties expanded the focus on soil micro-organisms to include all soil biota. In paragraph 4 of the same decision, it invited Governments and organizations to conduct case-studies on different land-use options, with regard to the identification and promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, integrated landscape management of mosaics of agriculture and natural areas, as well as appropriate farming systems that will reduce possible negative impacts of agricultural practices on biological diversity and enhance the ecological functions provided by biological diversity to agriculture.

6. Governments and organizations have submitted a number of case-studies on pollinators and soil biota. The International Workshop on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators in Agriculture, with an Emphasis on Bees, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in October 1998, also considered a number of case-studies on pollinators and proposed a number of actions. Additionally, the Workshop on Sustaining Agricultural Biodiversity and Agro-Ecosystem Functions, held in Rome in December 1998, examined a number of case studies at landscape and farming-system level.

7. The case-studies on these three topics (pollinators, soil biota, and agricultural biodiversity at the landscape/farming-system levels), and the reports of the two workshops, have been disseminated through the clearing house mechanism (<http://www.biodiv.org/agro/casestudies.html>). Summaries of the case-studies are available to the Conference of the Parties as an information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/10). The workshop reports were made available at the fourth and fifth meetings of SBSTTA, and will also be

/...

available as background papers at fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Those case-studies that were received in time were drawn upon in the preparation of the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments on agricultural biological diversity (see section B below).

#### B. Assessment of ongoing activities and instruments

8. In its decision III/11, the Conference of Parties requested the Secretariat and FAO, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to conduct an assessment of ongoing activities and instruments at international and national levels based on case-studies and other contributions from Governments, and international and regional organizations. The assessment would assist the Conference of Parties, upon the advice and recommendations of SBSTTA, in setting priorities for its multi-year programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of efforts. The Conference of the Parties reiterated these requests in its decision IV/6. The assessment prepared by the Secretariat and FAO in response to these requests has been circulated as document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/10. The main conclusions derived from the assessment were included in a note by the Executive Secretary prepared in collaboration with FAO for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/10) as a basis for the identification of proposed elements for the further development of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. Those main findings are reproduced in the annex to the present note.

9. In paragraphs 9, 15 (a) and 15 (m) of decision III/11 and paragraph 6 of decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties, Governments and international organizations, in particular FAO, to provide inputs on the development and application of methodologies for assessments of agricultural biological diversity and tools for identification and monitoring. A preliminary assessment is contained in section III A of the assessment of ongoing activities. Further work is envisaged under the programme element 1 of the proposed programme of work recommended by SBSTTA for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (SBSTTA recommendation V/9, annex).

#### C. Further elaboration of the programme of work

10. As noted above, the Conference of the Parties, by decision III/11, requested an assessment of relevant ongoing activities and instruments on agricultural biological diversity to be reported back to it through SBSTTA. Together with issues and priorities identified by Parties, the assessment would serve as a basis for setting priorities for further work. Progress reports on these matters were considered by SBSTTA at its third meeting, and, on the basis of SBSTTA recommendation III/4, by the Conference of the Parties, at its fourth meeting.

11. By paragraph 7 of decision IV/6, the Conference of Parties requested SBSTTA to develop and provide to it at its fifth meeting, advice and recommendations for the further development of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity. To facilitate the work of SBSTTA in this regard, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with FAO, prepared the above-mentioned note for the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/10) identifying, inter alia, proposed elements for the further development of the programme of work, drawing upon the main findings of the assessment referred to in the section B above. Drafts of the document

/...

were reviewed by a liaison group of experts, drawn from international organizations working in relevant fields (see paragraph 27 below) and by a regionally balanced group of experts from the roster. The document was finalized in the light of the comments received.

12. At its fifth meeting, SBSTTA developed a draft programme of work, based on the aforementioned note by the Executive Secretary, and, by its recommendation V/9, recommended that Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting should endorse the programme elements annexed to the recommendation, urge that they be promoted and carried out by appropriate bodies, consider the need for arrangements to provide financial support, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, and request the Executive Secretary to invite FAO and other relevant organizations, in supporting the implementation of the programme of work, and to avoid duplication of activities.

13. SBSTTA also noted that the draft programme of work would not replace decision III/11, but facilitate its implementation.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF DECISIONS III/11 AND IV/6

#### A. Reorientation towards sustainable agriculture, and the ecosystem approach

14. Through decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties called for Parties, with the support of international and regional organizations, to promote:

(a) The transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions, in conformity with the ecosystem or integrated land use approach;

(b) The use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity; and

(c) The mobilization of farming communities, including indigenous and local communities, for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the agricultural sector with specific reference to gender roles.

15. Activities and instruments aimed at these objectives are reviewed in the above-mentioned assessment of ongoing activities. The programme of work recommended by SBSTTA, in particular programme elements 2 and 3, are aimed at achieving these objectives. The proposed work programme incorporates elements of the ecosystem approach consistent with SBSTTA recommendation V/10, on further conceptual elaboration of the ecosystem approach. Further consideration of the application of the ecosystem approach to agricultural biodiversity is provided in document UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/11.

#### B. Development of national strategies, programmes and action plans.

16. In paragraphs 15 and 16 of its decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties to develop national strategies, programmes and plans, and provided substantial guidance on their coverage and objectives. As noted in the assessment of ongoing activities, most Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have developed national biodiversity strategies and

/...

action plans. Some have reported separately on agricultural biodiversity. However, only a few countries have developed comprehensive strategies and action plans for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity. Overall, the nature, scope and quality of the information contained in national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other submissions more comprehensively address the main animal and plant genetic resources components of agricultural biodiversity and relatively less attention is paid to the biological support system and the different production systems and agro-ecosystems. The programme of work recommended by SBSTTA aims to strengthen national strategies, programmes and action plans.

17. Most countries that have submitted their first national reports to the Conference of the Parties include references to agricultural biological diversity (see: <http://www.biodiv.org/agro/casestudies.html>). Coverage of agricultural biological diversity in national reports is described in information document UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/10.

#### C. Matters related to genetic resources for food and agriculture

18. In decision II/15, the Conference of the Parties declared its support for the process engaged in the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) to adapt the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources in harmony with the Convention, in line with resolution 3 of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In paragraph 18 of its decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties, while noting that the various options for the legal status of a revised International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources (which include a voluntary agreement, binding instrument, or protocol to the Convention) had not been decided upon by FAO, affirmed its willingness to consider a decision by the FAO Conference that the International Undertaking should take the form of a protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity once the Undertaking has been revised in harmony with it. By paragraph 19 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also called for effective and speedy completion of the revision of the International Undertaking, and, in its decision IV/6, urged that momentum be maintained in these negotiations.

19. In paragraph 18 of decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties also requested FAO to inform it of the deliberations of CGRFA. Accordingly, a progress report on the revision of the International Undertaking, provided by FAO, will be circulated as an information document for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/12).

20. In paragraph 19 of decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties also:

- (i) welcomed the contribution that the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources, as adopted by the International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources, provides to the implementation of the Convention in the field of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- (ii) encouraged Parties actively to implement the Global Plan of Action, in accordance with their national capacities; and
- (iii) endorsed its priorities and policy recommendations.

The Conference of the Parties also recognized that several issues required further work in the context of the FAO Global System for the Conservation and Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. These issues were being addressed through the negotiations for the revision of the International Undertaking referred to above. Progress in implementation of the Global Plan of Action is considered in the assessment of ongoing

/...

activities and is reported in detail in background information provided by FAO (CGRFA-8/99/3).

21. In paragraph 20 of decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties stated that it appreciated the importance of the FAO Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources and strongly supported its further development. Since that time, CGRFA and its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture have continued to develop the Global Strategy.

#### D. Assessment of genetic use restriction technologies

22. By paragraph 11 of decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties, reiterating the precautionary approach, requested SBSTTA to consider and assess whether there are any consequences for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity from the development and use of new technology for the control of plant gene expression, such as that described in United States patent 5723765, and to elaborate scientifically based advice to the Conference of the Parties. It also urged Parties, Governments as well as civil society and public and private institutions to consider the precautionary approach in the application of the technology.

23. This matter was considered by SBSTTA at its fourth meeting, on the basis of a study (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/9/Rev.1, annex) prepared by a group of experts and peer-reviewed using the roster of experts. On the basis of this study, and deliberations at the meeting, SBSTTA adopted recommendation IV/5, which recommends that products incorporating genetic use restriction technologies should not be approved by Parties for field testing until appropriate scientific data can justify such testing, and for commercial use until appropriate, authorized and strictly controlled scientific assessments have been carried out. SBSTTA recommended that the Conference of the Parties continue work in this area under the umbrella of, and integrated into, the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, and invite FAO and its CGRFA and other organizations to study the matter and report to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. It also recommended that the Executive Secretary be requested to prepare a report on the status of genetic use restriction technologies for consideration by SBSTTA prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### E. Trade-related matters

24. In paragraph 24 of its decision III/11, the Conference of the Parties encouraged the World Trade Organization (WTO), in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to consider developing a better appreciation of the relationship between trade and agricultural biodiversity and, in this consideration, recommended collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary conveyed this request to the WTO and prepared a paper on the Convention on Biological Diversity and its relation to trade (WT/CTE/W/64) for the information of the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment. Subsequently, by paragraph 9 of its decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to apply for observer status in the WTO Committee on Agriculture for the purpose of representing the Convention in meetings whose agendas may influence implementation of decision III/11 and related decisions of the Conference of the Parties. While the Secretariat does have observer status with the WTO Committee on Trade and the Environment, the request for observer status with

/...

the WTO Committee on Agriculture is pending consideration by the relevant WTO bodies.

25. By paragraph 10 of decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to report to it on the impact of trade liberalization on the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity in consultation with relevant bodies, such as WTO. In line with this request, the Executive Secretary has written to the WTO secretariat, and work is under way in the Secretariat on preparing, in collaboration with FAO and WTO, a preliminary scoping of the issues concerned.

#### F. Other matters

26. By paragraph 23 of decision III/11, the Conference of Parties encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/FAO process for an international binding instrument for the application of the prior informed consent procedure on hazardous chemical substances, including pesticides. This process was successfully concluded in 1998 with the adoption of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

### IV. CROSS-CUTTING MATTERS

#### A. Cooperation with other bodies.

27. Through its decisions II/15, II/16, III/11 and IV/6, the Conference of Parties has welcomed the continuing role of FAO in contributing to the objectives of the Convention in the area of agricultural biological diversity. As invited by the Conference of the Parties, FAO has worked with the Secretariat of the Convention in preparing the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments and has also assisted in the preparation of the draft programme of work to be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting. Other organizations that have assisted the Convention Secretariat in the development of the work programme on agricultural biological diversity include: the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) (on behalf of the system-wide genetic resources programme (SGRP) of the research centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the World Resources Institute (WRI), the Tropical Soils Biology and Fertility Programme (TSBF), the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), and the Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI). Other members of the Ecosystem Conservation Group (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)) were also invited to review the draft programme of work. As noted above, the Convention Secretariat is also increasing collaboration with WTO. By recommendation V/9, SBSTTA recommended expanding cooperation by inviting other organizations (such as UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, regional development banks, the CGIAR centres and other international agricultural research centres, and IUCN).

B. Financial matters

28. Through paragraphs 21 and 22 of decision III/11 and paragraph 12 of decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties has drawn the attention of Parties and international funding agencies, including the financial mechanism, to the need to support capacity-building in the development and implementation of the work programme on agricultural biological diversity, and SBSTTA, in its recommendation V/9, recommends that the Conference of the Parties considers the need for arrangements to provide financial support, in accordance with Article 21 of the Convention, for activities and capacity-building for the implementation of the programme of work. In paragraph 13 of decision IV/6, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the efforts being made by the financial mechanism in the development of its operational policy framework on agricultural biological diversity and urged the early completion of this framework, fully in line with decision III/11, so as to provide effective implementation support to Parties and Governments in agricultural ecosystems. The new GEF operational framework on agricultural biological diversity is at an advanced state of development and is expected to be completed and approved following the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.



## Annex

### MAIN FINDINGS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND INSTRUMENTS.

#### A. Genetic resources for food and agriculture

1. Although "agricultural biodiversity" is a term that has come into wide use only relatively recently, the assessment shows that work on certain components of agricultural biodiversity is well established, primarily in the various sectors concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, where many of the necessary institutional arrangements for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of crop, forest, farm animal and fish genetic resources, are in place or planned. These include:

(a) International agreements (such as the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources 1/);

(b) Global country-driven assessments and information systems (such as the periodical reports on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, the planned corresponding report on animal genetic resources and the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS));

(c) Globally agreed plans of action (such as the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food And Agriculture), which provide frameworks for national plans and activities;

(d) A global intergovernmental forum with 160 member countries and the participation of all stakeholder groups (the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)). 2/

2. Nevertheless, ongoing assessment and priority-setting processes indicate that substantial work is still required even in these areas. The strategies and plans of action agreed upon and adopted by countries, or under development for each of the sub-sectors (crop, forest, farm animal and fish), specify priority needs for research, capacity-building, public awareness, as well as policy development and legislation. Implementation of these strategies and plans of action is a major challenge that requires adequate financial resources and appropriate institutional strengthening at all levels: local, national and international. Particular gaps concern below-ground diversity, and wild and under-utilized species of interest to food and agriculture.

---

1/ The International Undertaking is currently under revision, in harmony with the Convention.

2/ The mandate of CGRFA, broadened by the FAO Conference in 1995, includes "subject to approval by the governing bodies of FAO, as appropriate, to respond to requests from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in specific areas of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture, including the provision of information and other services to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies (...)". CGRFA has subsidiary intergovernmental technical working groups for plant and animal genetic resources.

3. Cross-cutting issues that emerge from the plans and processes concerned with genetic resources for food and agriculture include the need to facilitate the involvement of multiple stakeholders and the need to provide for proper planning and coordination. Broad-based national programmes are essential in this regard.

4. For many of the sub-sectors, there are gaps in the development of indicators of agricultural biological diversity and its loss. There is also a need to define production environments in such a way as to aid comparison between the sub-sectors and allow consideration of the use of genetic resources in production systems on a more holistic or integrated basis, taking into account linkages between components of agricultural biodiversity.

B. Components of agricultural biodiversity that provide ecological services

5. In many areas of agriculture, there has been ongoing work that would now be considered as contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity but has only recently been explicitly recognized as such. Integrated pest management, for example involves the field-level management, by farmers, of beneficial and detrimental insects and other components of agricultural biodiversity. Polyculture of freshwater fishes improves nutrient use and reduces input requirements. Some soil management practices, such as minimum tillage, are aimed at improving soil structure and function, largely as a result of increased soil biodiversity.

6. These three areas alone provide many case-studies that demonstrate the value of the functional services provided by agricultural biodiversity to agricultural production. However, there are no comprehensive assessments of these ecological functions and ecosystem services, and specialized mechanisms for developing appropriate policies and programmes are not well developed. On the other hand, there has been substantial progress in implementation at a practical level, and some of the methodologies developed for education and capacity-building might be applied to the management of other components of agricultural biodiversity.

7. Similarly, there has been a substantial amount of work at the level of farming systems, for example, on integrated agroforestry, mixed crop-fish farming and farming-system development, but rarely has this been integrated with other levels of agricultural biodiversity.

8. Agricultural practices often impact on habitats outside of production areas, through, for example, the abstraction of water, and run-off and leaching of excess fertilizers and pesticides. Moreover, the expansion of cultivated areas encroaches on such areas.<sup>3/</sup> The biological diversity of these habitats is often of direct interest to food and agriculture. Uncultivated areas, for example, may provide refuges for useful insects, or harbour wild relatives of crop varieties. There has been little assessment of the value of the goods and services provided by the biological diversity of these areas, however, and few programmes directly address this matter

9. There is also much information about abiotic resources that provide the basis for agriculture (soil, water, land cover and use, climatic and agro-

---

<sup>3/</sup> See decision III/11, annex 1.

ecological zones), and there are many programmes that address natural-resources management and sustainable agriculture, such as watershed and valley-bottom management.

10. The assessment indicates that there is an increasing realization of the importance of agricultural biodiversity in ecosystems. As defined in the Convention, an ecosystem is a dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environments, interacting as a functional unit. Agro-ecosystems need to be considered at several levels or scales, for instance: a field, crop, herd or pond; a farming or land-use system; a watershed; or an agro-ecological zone. In any particular case, the scale should be determined by the issue or problem to be addressed. As agricultural biodiversity also varies in time, there is also a need to consider seasonal, annual and perennial variations. However, there is no such thing as an a priori "optimum" level and mixture of agricultural biodiversity in an agro-ecosystem; the desirable configuration is determined by prevailing local natural and - equally importantly - socio-economic circumstances.

C. Coordination of planning and development of national strategies for agricultural biodiversity

11. A concerted and coordinated effort addressing the various components of agricultural biodiversity depends upon a coherent framework to guide national strategies and actions for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity, as well as dynamic processes that ensures country-level flexibility and updating of regional and international priorities and actions.

12. The agricultural sector is very complex and there are many different stakeholders that need to be involved in the planning and development process. These stakeholders include farmers and other producers, scientists and technicians, policy makers in the diverse sectors within government and parastatal institutions, international and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and consumers. Transparent consultative processes are required to allow exchange of ideas and concerns, negotiation and, as required, conflict resolution between different stakeholders. Effective feedback mechanisms between farmers and researchers and the technical and policy levels are crucial in the identification of issues and priorities, the design of appropriate strategies and actions, and the monitoring and evaluation of the performance and impacts of programmes and actions.

13. The assessment reinforces the need to mainstream agricultural-biodiversity considerations in national strategies, programmes and action plans for food, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and the need to integrate such considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national environmental action plans.

-----