



Statement by Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity
World Food Day

16 October 2024

“Right to foods for a better life and a better future”

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Food is a basic need and a fundamental human right.

Our world produces more than enough food for everyone on this planet. Yet over 2.8 billion people are unable to afford a healthy diet.

This scarcity paradox has its roots in food waste and distribution flaws that leave too many people, including children, hungry and malnourished.

While we continue to produce an abundance of food that goes to waste, the crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution continues to undermine the natural foundation without which agriculture would collapse.

Agrifood systems cannot function without biodiversity-dependent ecosystem services such as pollination, the regulation of soil organisms and protection against pests and diseases.

Ironically, the same agrifood systems harbor the drivers of ecosystem degradation.

Unless we change our ways, the food scarcity paradox will simply turn into food scarcity.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework—the KMGBF— recognizes the need to transform our agrifood systems, for the sake of people and nature.

The achievement of the SDGs –including the Goals related to food security –is hardwired into many targets of the KMGBF.

Living in harmony with nature – the Framework’s overall objective - can only happen with sustainable agrifood systems.

Smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, and women farmers are at the forefront of this endeavour. We must support them.

Governments are in the driver’s seat. But we can all sow the seeds of sustainability through zero-waste lifestyle choices, and biodiversity-minded investment decisions.

On World Food Day and every day, let us reflect on what is at stake and act accordingly.