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COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

Agrobiodiversity and Gender equality

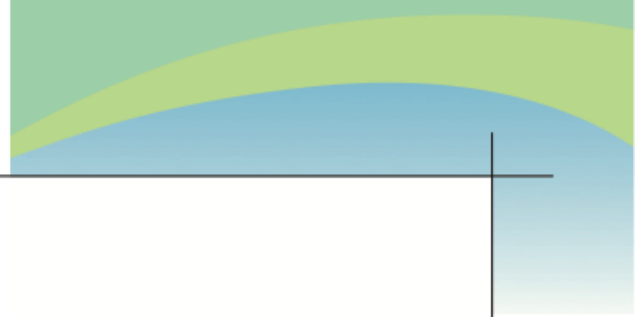
Expert Workshop on developing recommendations for a gender-responsive
Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

11-12 April 2019 UN-Women Headquarters, New York City, USA



THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S
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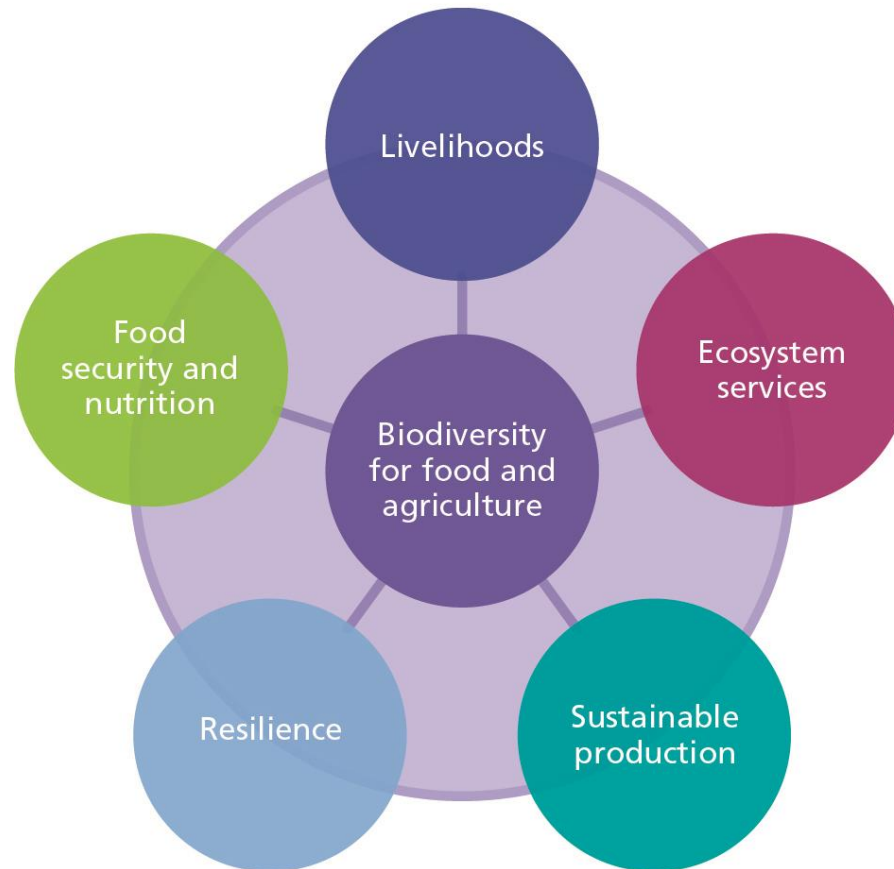
Szilvia Lehel, FAO & Chanda Goodrich Gurung, ICIMOD



Biodiversity for food and agriculture is the variety of life at genetic, species and ecosystem levels that contributes to agriculture and food production.



1. Biodiversity is essential to food and agriculture





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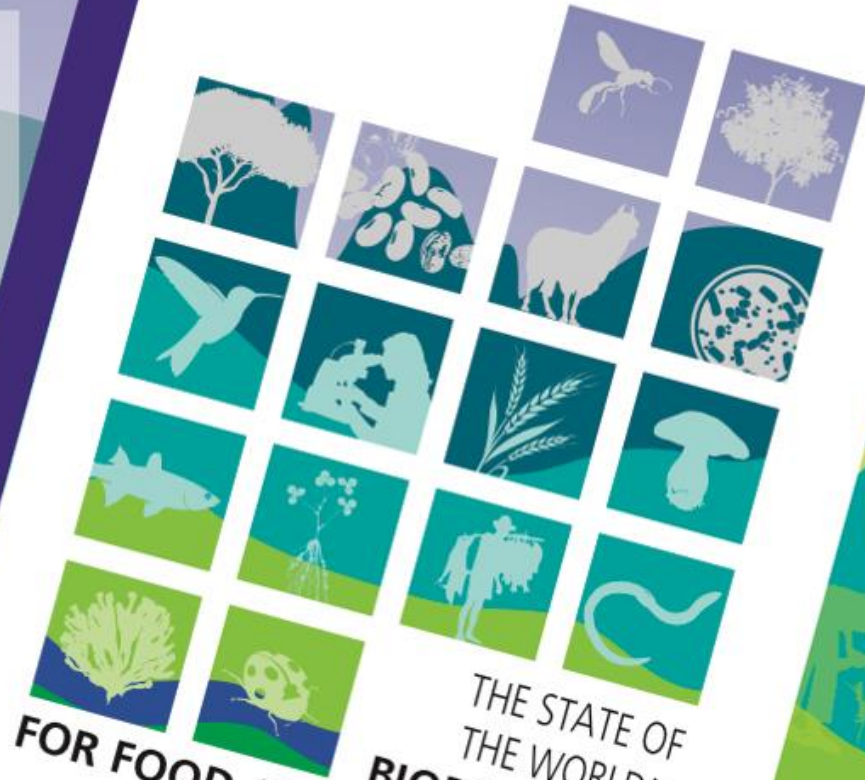
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<http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/topics/biodiversity/sowbfa/en>



2. Biodiversity for food and agriculture is declining





3. Multiple interacting drivers of change are affecting biodiversity for food and agriculture

Drivers of change		Reported effect on biodiversity for food and agriculture
Economic and social	Population growth and urbanization	--
	Markets and trade	-
	Changing economic, sociopolitical and cultural factors	+ / -
Environmental drivers	Climate change	--
	Natural disasters	--
	Pests, diseases, invasive alien species	--
Drivers at production system level	Changes in land and water use and management	--
	Pollution and external inputs	--
	Overexploitation and overharvesting	--
Other	Advances and innovations in science and technology	+
	Policies	++



The gender-environment / agrobiodiversity nexus

- Individual environmental *behaviour* is gendered
- Men and women have different *relationships* to agrobiodiversity
- Environmental degradation has a different *impact* on men and women

Gender-differentiated perspective takes into account:

- **women's responsibility for the environment**
 - **their knowledge stemming from their experience**
 - **their competence in every-day life**
- Investigate the “**shaping power**” possessed by men AND women



Business case for gender equality

About **70% of rural women in South Asia** and more than **60% in Africa are farmers**, there is a strong feminisation of the agriculture sector worldwide

Gender gap in productivity between men and women's plots reaches up to 25%

→ Closing **the gender gap** in the access to productive resources, services and inputs could **reduce the number of hungry people in the world about 150 million people (SOFA 2011)**

Observed linkages : **Tenure security and incentives to conserve resources**

- In Ghana women with less secure tenure are less likely to leave land fallow to restore **soil fertility**
- In Ethiopia Women plot managers with more secure tenure were observed more likely to **plant trees** and adopt climate-smart agricultural practices, such as **conservation agriculture**



Gendered observations :

Women farmers, livestock keepers, fishers and forest dwellers often play vital –sometimes overlooked – roles in the use and conservation of **Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (BFA)**

→ They gather wild plants for food, **medicinal** use, fuelwood and other purposes, act as herbalists, tend home gardens, select, manage and store **seeds**, manage crops, trees and small **livestock**, domesticate plants, participate in small-scale **fisheries** and aquaculture, and store, preserve and process foods after harvesting

→ Land tenure arrangements and organisational structures of different user groups (by gender, age, class, ethnicity and occupation) and **the uneven power relations** in the **access** to and control over land, **animal and plant resources** directly **influence** the **capacities and incentives of men and women to conserve agro-biodiversity**

→ Unsustainable management practices and changes in land and water use threaten livelihoods, with impacts on common-property resources for fuelwood, fodder and wild foods, resources upon which women are often disproportionately dependent

→ Important consider is **the labour demands**: locally adapted species, varieties and breeds of crops, livestock, trees or fish can be less demanding in terms of labour than exotic varieties, thus more appealing/ accessible for women

→ Crucial that researchers and breeders work together with male and female farmers to develop modern varieties and breeds that respond to their needs and priorities **beyond yield and resistance**



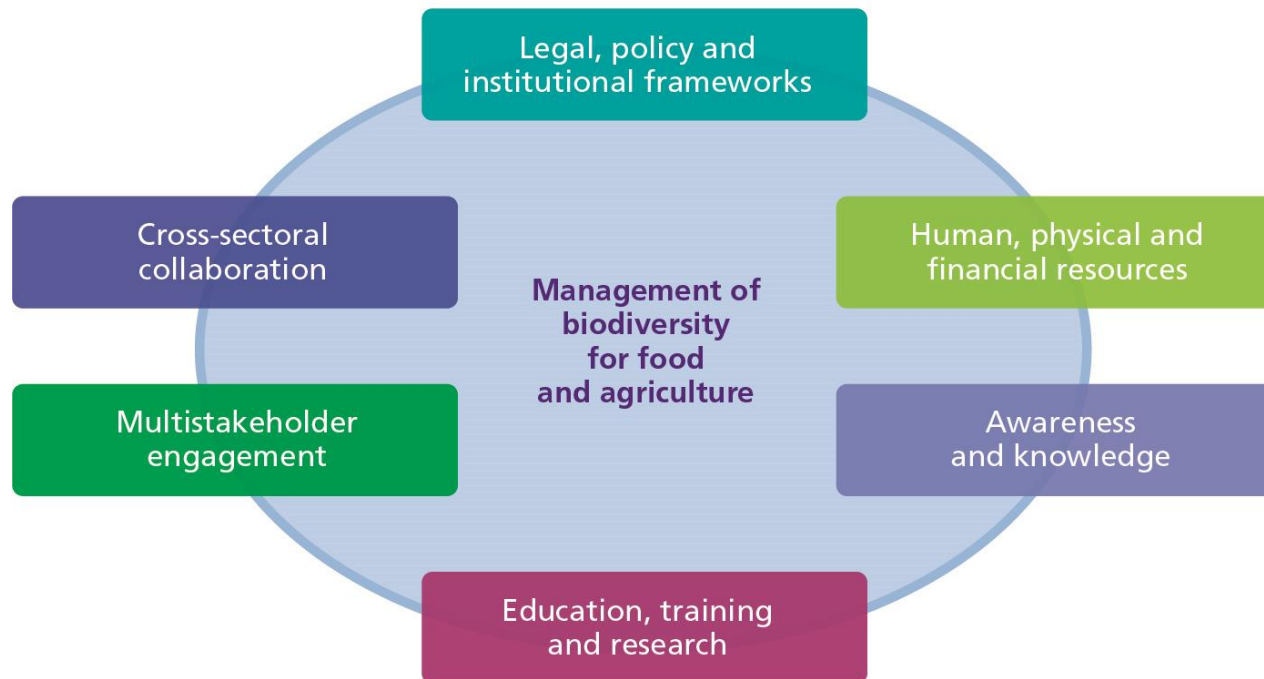
The use of many biodiversity-friendly practices is reported to be increasing

Management practices and approaches	Production systems (PS)												Proportion of countries reporting the PS that report any trends (%)
	Livestock grassland-based systems	Livestock landless systems	Naturally regenerated forests	Planted forests	Self-recruiting capture fisheries	Culture-based fisheries	Fed aquaculture	Non-fed aquaculture	Irrigated crop systems (rice)	Irrigated crop systems (other)	Rainfed crop systems	Mixed systems	
Landscape management	↗	↗	↗	↗					↗	↗	↗	↗	0-9
Ecosystem approach to fisheries					↗	↗	↗						10-19
Restoration	↗		↗	↗	↗				↗	↗	↗	↗	20-29
Diversification	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗		↗	↗	↗	↗	30-39
Home gardens	↗	↔	↗	↗					↗	↗	↗	↗	0-9
Agroforestry	↗	↗	↗	↗					↗	↗	↗	↗	10-19

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Enabling frameworks for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture





Needs and priorities regard to strengthening women's roles in the management BFA include:

- providing **education** on conservation and sustainable use tailored to women's specific needs;
- improving **women's access to markets** to increase economic returns from the sustainable use and conservation of BFA;
- improving women's **access to assets**, especially land and external inputs, including access to credit;
- improving the integration of women into relevant **decision-making processes** at all levels



Address knowledge and data gaps



Support uptake of **gender-responsive biodiversity-friendly** management practices in all sectors



Tackle constraints to the establishment of effective and **inclusive** *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation programmes



Improve cross-sectoral **collaboration** and multistakeholder engagement and cooperation in the management of BFA



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Thank you!