

**Message from Ms. Jessica Fanzo, Ambassador, Food and Land Use Coalition,  
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University, and Editor-in-Chief of the Global Food Security Journal on the International  
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Biodiversity is one of the most important natural resources underlying healthy and thriving agriculture and food systems. It is the backbone of our society – without it, we would not have food, fiber, fuel, and the diversity, in all its facets, of the planet. Without this resource, we would not have the wide range of foods grown across landscapes that make up our dietary patterns. This biodiversity underlies every aspect of diets around the world, from their variety, quality, and flavor. The central question is how to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, now and in the future. While the abundance and variety of species around the globe is extraordinary, the loss and potential extinction rates of those species is devastating for the planet and humanity. This extinction puts the quality and diversity of global diets at serious risk with multiplier effects on human health. But there are opportunities and entry points to turn things around. First, although increases in productivity may have the unintended consequence of making highly processed nutrient-poor foods cheaper, investing in research and development specifically for nutrient-rich crops such as fruits and vegetables, legumes, and neglected foods could lead to improvements in nutrition. Second, by combining nutritional traits with environmental traits, such as tolerance to drought, wind and salinity, as well as to seasonal availability, food producers can begin to see the multiple benefits of their conservation and use. Third, biodiversity is firmly embedded within multiple goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We need to embrace these goals and work hard collectively to achieve their targets.

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