



IMPROVING THE SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Biodiversity is the foundation of sustainable agricultural production and food security. Agrifood sectors – crop and livestock production, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry – manage significant parts of the world's land, freshwater and oceans. They depend on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides. However, they also affect biodiversity in both positive and negative ways, impacting livelihoods, food security and nutrition. The 2019 report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* demonstrated that many of the drivers that have negative impacts on biodiversity for food and agriculture, including overexploitation, overharvesting, pollution, overuse of external inputs and changes in land and water management, are at least partially, caused by inappropriate agricultural practices. While the report indicated that the use of a wide range of management practices and approaches regarded as favourable to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture is increasing, it also demonstrates that efforts to promote their adoption need to be considerably intensified. Many biodiversity-friendly practices are relatively complex and require good understanding of the local ecosystem. They can be knowledge-intensive and context-specific and may provide benefits only in the relatively long term. Many countries note major challenges in upscaling such practices, and the need to promote them through capacity development and by strengthening policy frameworks. The overall goal of the project was to improve the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture by supporting effective and timely action at national level.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project helped to facilitate the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (Framework for Action), the global policy response to *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* report. The Framework for Action was endorsed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) and the FAO Council in 2021. The added value and benefits of the project included increased awareness of the state of biodiversity for food and agriculture; improved capacity to act at national and regional levels for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture; and the preparation of voluntary guidelines to support country action on the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Countries participating in the pre-workshop survey and presenting the national status of biodiversity for food and agriculture during four regional workshops were enabled to develop, update and review relevant policies, strategies and programmes, with a view to implementing the Framework for Action. The regional workshops were held in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Near East and North Africa. The workshops provided an opportunity for participants to exchange information and experiences, and to discuss the gaps and needs that must be addressed to facilitate implementation of the Framework for Action.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget

USD 491 369

Duration

September 2020–June 2025

Resource Partners

Federal Government of Germany -
Federal Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH)

Partners

Federal Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH)

Beneficiaries

Producers; national governments

FAO Programme Priority Area(s)

Better Production (BP): 1; Better
Environment (BE): 3

IMPACT

The project contributed to the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 14 and 15 by improving the capacity to act on biodiversity for food and agriculture. The biodiversity focus of the project also contributed to increasing the environmental sustainability of agrifood systems.



ACTIVITIES

- Four regional workshops on “Taking Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture” were conducted.
- Draft voluntary guidelines for implementing the Framework for Action were developed and presented to the First Session of the Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the Commission, as well as at a side-event held on the occasion of the 20th Regular Session of the Commission and a webinar held in the first semester of 2025.
- Criteria for the selection of front-runner countries for a possible follow-up project were identified.
- An information session on implementing the Framework for Action (26 June 2025) gathered input to inform the finalization of the voluntary guidelines and discuss how they can best support the implementation of the Framework for Action and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in a mutually supportive and non-duplicative manner.



Project Title

Sustainable Use and Conservation of Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

Project Code

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Donor: GenR 2020-2

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