
Aide memoire

Session	2 Setting the stage
Title of presentation	The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture
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Abstract

*The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*¹ provides an assessment of biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA) and its management worldwide, drawing on information provided in 91 country reports (prepared by over 1 300 contributors), 27 reports from international organizations and inputs from over 175 authors and reviewers. It describes:

- the many contributions that BFA makes to food security and nutrition,
- livelihoods, the resilience of production systems, the sustainable intensification
- of food production and the supply of multiple ecosystem services;
- the major drivers of change affecting BFA;
- the status and trends of various components of BFA;
- the state of management of BFA;
- the state of policies, institutions and capacities that support the sustainable use and conservation of BFA; and
- needs and challenges in the management of BFA.

Selected key messages from the report

- BFA is indispensable to food security, sustainable development and the supply of many vital ecosystem services.
- Multiple interacting drivers of change are affecting BFA.
- Many key components of BFA at genetic, species and ecosystem levels are in decline, and knowledge of associated biodiversity, in particular micro-organisms and invertebrates, and of its roles in the supply of ecosystem services needs to be improved.
- The use of many biodiversity-friendly practices, from landscape and ecosystem management, to production system-level practices, to *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation measures, is reported to be increasing.
- Enabling frameworks for the sustainable use and conservation of BFA urgently need to be established or strengthened.

Key discussion points and conclusions

- For the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, food security and food systems should play a prominent role – biodiversity plays a critical role for food security and nutrition, food systems depend on biodiversity and yet when improperly managed can cause significant loss of biodiversity.
- Improving the management of BFA and enhancing its contribution to ecosystem services call for better multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral and international cooperation.

¹ <http://www.fao.org/cgrfa/topics/biodiversity/en/>

- The sustainable use and conservation of BFA call for approaches in which genetic resources, species and ecosystems are managed in an integrated way in the context of production systems and their surroundings.
- The use of many biodiversity-friendly practices is reported to be increasing; such practices are relatively complex and require good understanding of the local ecosystem. They can be knowledge intensive, context specific and provide benefits only in the relatively long term. Many countries note major challenges in up-scaling such practices, and the need to promote them through capacity-development and strengthening policy frameworks.
- Research on food and agricultural systems needs to become more multidisciplinary, more participatory and more focused on interactions between different components of BFA.