
Aide memoire

<i>Session</i>	Session 1
<i>Title of presentation</i>	Sustainable agriculture and advancing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
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Abstract

Agriculture depends on biodiversity in various ways and at multiple scales. However, modern agricultural development, overall, has resulted in significant natural resource exploitation, with extensive adverse impacts on biodiversity and on ecosystem functions and services, and this trend is no longer tolerable. Meeting global food demands in a sustainable way is achievable, but it will require significant transformational change: producing more food with increased nutritional value, while increasing resource use efficiency and limiting expansion into natural areas in order to reduce pressures on the environment and avoid negative impacts on biodiversity; shifting consumption patterns towards more sustainable and healthy diets; and significantly reducing food losses and waste. At the level of production, recognized responses centre on the concept of sustainable ecological intensification that involves conserving and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services across agricultural landscapes. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted at CBD COP-10 as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and relevant needs regarding agriculture are well captured. Sustainability of agricultural systems is specifically addressed under Aichi Biodiversity Target 7 and the need to conserve genetic diversity, under Target 13 as well as the need to reduce pollution under Target 8, including from excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides, and the need to prevent and control invasive alien species in Target 9. Most other targets are significantly influenced by outcomes in agriculture. A mid-term review of progress towards these targets showed that for the majority, progress so far is insufficient and it highlighted the importance of addressing food systems for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 to succeed. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets together with the strategies of lead agencies on agriculture and agricultural biodiversity form key mutually supportive actions to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in multiple areas including food security, nutrition, poverty reduction, disaster risk reduction, environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.

Despite the emerging scientific, and to some extent political, global and regional consensus on appropriate strategies, and that, by-and-large, solutions for sustainability are already known, significant socioeconomic constraints exist, particularly at national level. The Trondheim conference presents an opportunity to explore how these constraints can be removed.

Key considerations

- Farmers and pastoralists already contribute much to biodiversity conservation, including the conservation of agrobiodiversity and maintenance of habitat for other species on-farm.
- Sustainable agriculture is crucial for human well-being, and in particular small scale farming is crucial to poverty reduction and food security.
- Agriculture depends on biodiversity and, at the same time, unsustainable agriculture is the main threat to terrestrial, freshwater and coastal biodiversity.
- Agricultural systems need to produce more and more nutritious food to meet rising demands. However, this needs to be done through resource use efficiency gains and in a way that minimizes the impacts on biodiversity.

- Many of the solutions to achieve sustainable production, including harnessing available efficiency gains, involve restoring ecosystem services in farming landscapes. This creates significant synergies between biodiversity conservation and sustainable farming systems.
- The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets represent a globally agreed agenda regarding biodiversity and cover some key general needs regarding agriculture quite well.
- The biodiversity-agriculture nexus is at the heart of the alignment of several sustainable development agendas, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, FAO's Strategic Framework 2010-2019, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Key discussion points and conclusions

- Agriculture and food systems have a major role in supporting biodiversity and enhancing the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Biodiversity is a basis for supporting agriculture and food systems to increase resilience, adaptation, productivity, food security and nutrition.
- Adequate attention should be given at national level to sustainability in agriculture, including the role of biodiversity and the potential for sustainable ecological intensification.

Key question/s that you would pose at the roundtable discussions

- What are the key constraints to achieving sustainability and actions to overcome them?
- How can conflicts of interest between different stakeholder groups be addressed?
- What actions are needed to better reflect biodiversity considerations in the management of agricultural systems?
- For each:
 - What role can governments play in bringing about these actions?
 - Who are the main actors that need to be involved in these actions?
 - What role can these actors play in bringing about these actions?
- What outcomes of COP-13 would make a difference?