CFS Policy Convergence Process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition

Comments from Bioversity

We think the recommendations in the HLPE report are quite comprehensive. However, in our view, some aspects should be more explicitly emphasized in the final recommendations deriving from the report.

In particular we think that:

Safeguarding species and intraspecific diversity in forest ecosystems, in forest landscapes and restored forests is crucial to enhance the direct provision of food and of ecosystem services. Intraspecific diversity, in particular, plays a critical role for adaptation to environmental changes and mitigation of climate change. Sustainable forest management should include measures to safeguard reservoirs of important biodiversity, should contribute to increasing population sizes of tree species that are relevant for food and nutrition.

Specifically, sustainable forest management should maintain and enhance tree genetic diversity to ensure forest cover connectivity in multifunctional landscapes where forests have a vital role in sustainable food production, food security and nutrition for many communities and have under-valued potential.

Appropriate research efforts, regulatory frameworks, incentives and financing mechanisms should be identified to foster restoration of diverse forest ecosystems, explicitly tackling the importance of species diversity, the selection and supply of adequate seed supply, favoring nutrition-sensitive forest restoration initiatives.

We hope that these aspects will be adequately addressed in the final recommendations.