



BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: TAKING STOCK FOR THE FUTURE

Special Information Seminar
13 April 2013
Red Room

Biodiversity for food and agriculture is among the earth's most important resources. Crops, farm animals, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates - thousands of species and their genetic variability make up the web of biodiversity in ecosystems that the world's food and agriculture production depends on.

In 2007, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture decided to assess the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture with a view to launch the first ever report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* in 2017. This information seminar offers government representatives, scientists, policy makers, civil society and other stakeholders the opportunity to exchange views on the status and contributions of biodiversity to food and nutrition security, human well-being and sustainability, and on the challenges to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

The participants will also reflect on the value of biodiversity for food and agriculture in all its different forms, including the often neglected components of biodiversity for food and agriculture, in providing benefits for society at large. This includes exploring the combined contribution of components, interactions, synergies and tradeoffs between them.

The seminar will also address challenges related to the preparation of the first ever *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (SoW-BFA) and its follow-up.

Interpretation will be available from and to: English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

PROGRAMME

9:00 – 10:00 **Registration**

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcome and introduction**

Part 1. The state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture

10:15 – 13:00

Biodiversity for food and agriculture and the global environmental challenges

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

The economic value of biodiversity with special reference to biodiversity for food and agriculture

Pavan Sukhdev, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Biodiversity for food and agriculture, ecosystems and human livelihood

Maryam Rahmanian, Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment

The value of knowledge and the importance of global assessments

Robert Watson, Professor of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia

Questions and discussion

Part 2. The contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture: taking stock

15:00 – 17:00

Highlights of the different components of biodiversity for food and agriculture – specificities, challenges and achievements:

- Animal genetic resources (*Irene Hoffmann – FAO*)
- Plant genetic resources (*César Tapia – Ecuadorian Agricultural Research Center INIAP*)
- Forest genetic resources (*Lolona Ramamonjisoa – Chair ITWG FGR*)
- Aquatic genetic resources (*Devin Bartley – FAO*)

Integrating information on biodiversity for food and agriculture: Opportunities and challenges

Ashley Du Val, FAO

Biodiversity, Ecosystem services and indicators

Matt Walpole, Head of Science, Economics, Policy and Partnerships UNEP-WCMC

Questions and discussion

Part 3. Challenges and opportunities for biodiversity for food and agriculture and the production of the SoW-BFA

17:00 – 18:00

Questions and roundtable discussion

Closing remarks