



Special Event:

Food security and genetic diversity

Friday, 16 January 2015, 09:00-17:00 hours
Red Room, FAO HQ, Rome, Italy

Although global food production has increased in the past decades, over 800 million people are still chronically hungry. Access to food is currently the greatest obstacle, but future challenges include a growing world population, which is expected to reach nine billion by 2050. In terms of food availability, global food production will need to rise by about 60%. This needs to be done in a sustainable way.

Food production depends largely on biodiversity and on the services provided by ecosystems. The genetic diversity for food and agriculture, including wild relatives of genetic resources, is a fundamental resource for the continued improvement of varieties and breeds, needed to cope with changes. Genetic diversity contributes to the different dimensions of food security: (1) food availability, (2) access to food, (3) food utilization and (4) stability of the other three dimensions over time; and is crucial for achieving food security and nutrition for all.

For over 30 years, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has provided a unique intergovernmental forum to reach global consensus on policies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, fostering the conservation and sustainable use of the whole portfolio of biodiversity for a world without hunger.

The objectives of the Special Event are to raise awareness on the importance and contribution of genetic resources to food security and its different dimensions, and share experiences regarding the impacts of, as well as, challenges and opportunities in integrating biodiversity and genetic resources into national food security and nutrition objectives.

The Special Event will offer an excellent opportunity for Commission delegates, policy makers and experts to discuss and exchange information and knowledge regarding linkages between the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture and the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. It will also allow exploring opportunities to strengthen and improve these linkages and to engage in a dialogue on genetic resources and food security.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in: English, French and Spanish
The event will be live streamed at www.fao.org/webcast

Programme

- 08:30 **Registration**
- 09:00-09:30 **Introduction**
Ms Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Coordinator Natural Resources, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division, Strategic Objective 1 Coordinator, FAO
- 9:30-10:30 **SESSION 1. FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT**

The current status of genetic diversity and biodiversity considerations in the Sustainable Development Goals
Mr Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Director-General, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development, FAO

Food security and nutrition in a multi-stakeholder framework
H.E. Gerda Verburg, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the UN organisations in Rome & Chair, Committee on World Food Security

Questions and discussion
- 10:30-12:00 **SESSION 2. GENETIC RESOURCES AND FOOD SECURITY**

Genetic resources and food security: the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Ms Linda Collette, Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Genetic resources and food security: the Convention on Biological Diversity
Mr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Contribution of genetic resources to food security and nutrition: sectoral aspects
 - Plant genetic resources: Mr Stefano Diulgheroff, FAO
 - Animal genetic resources: Ms Irene Hoffmann, FAO
 - Forest genetic resources: Mr Albert Nikiema, FAO
 - Aquatic genetic resources: Mr Devin Bartley, FAO
 - Genetic resources and nutrition: Ms Ruth Charrondiere, FAO
Questions and discussion
- 12:00–14:00 **Lunch break**

14:00–16:00 **SESSION 3. SHARING EXPERIENCES**

Integration of genetic diversity into food security and nutrition objectives: national perspectives

- H.E. Mary S. Mubi, Ambassador, Senior Principal Director in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Government of Zimbabwe
- Mr Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Bangladesh
- Mr Ibrahim El-Dukheri, Director General, Agricultural Research Corporation, Sudan
- Mr Filipe Quissanque, Secretary of State for Food Security, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Guinea-Bissau

Importance of genetic diversity to address food security: stakeholders perspective

- Mr Marciano Silva, Small Farmers' Movement of Brazil, Via Campesina, Brazil
- Mr Daniel Gad, World Farmer Organization, Ethiopia
- Mr Frank van Ooijen, Director Communication and Sustainability, FrieslandCampina Institute for Dairy Nutrition

Questions and discussion

16:00–16:50 **SESSION 4. THE WAY FORWARD**

Panelists:

- H.E. Mary Mubi
- H.E. Gerda Verburg
- Mr Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
- Ms Linda Collette

16:50–17:00 **Closing remarks**

Ms Maria-Helena Semedo