



equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the use of 64 of the world's most important crops – 35 food crops and 29 forage crops.

The Commission has a long history of contributing to the debate on access and benefit-sharing. It is committed to ensuring that the special needs of biological diversity for food and agriculture are adequately reflected in international policy-making. The issue of access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture is included in the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work.

approach in its Multi-Year Programme of Work covering all relevant sectors.

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Biotechnology

The Commission has a key interest in technical and policy developments regarding biotechnologies as they relate to genetic resources for food and agriculture. FAO undertook an overview survey of biotechnology issues and trends for the Commission in order to identify those relevant to FAO and the Commission, and to determine what remains to be done in terms of policy and technical assistance. A review of the application and integration of biotechnologies in the conservation and utilization of genetic resources is another milestone of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work.

Targets and indicators

The Commission is working with FAO experts and members of the scientific community on determining indicators and targets that could best be used to characterize and monitor genetic diversity in terms of what is being gained and lost. The development of targets and indicators will make it possible to measure the effectiveness of programmes set up to slow down genetic erosion and improve conservation.

Ecosystem approach

The ecosystem approach is widely used to ensure that ecosystems are maintained in a sustainable manner. This means protecting their goods and services as well as maintaining their biodiversity. By promoting *in situ* conservation and sustainable farming systems, the ecosystem approach contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. As the ecosystem approach has been particularly effective in efforts to achieve sustainable forest management, sustainable fisheries, and is being applied to specific aspects of agriculture, the Commission has included the ecosystem