THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INCLUDE

- climate change
- loss of natural habitats
- environmental degradation
- effects of increasing population pressure
- change in consumer demand
- development and use of a few species, varieties and breeds

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- improve policy and legal frameworks
- integrate biodiversity into the development agenda and strengthen conservation and sustainable use
- facilitate access to genetic resources and their related knowledge

Biodiversity for food and agriculture is the diversity of plants, animals and micro-organisms at genetic, species and ecosystem levels, present in and around crop, livestock, forest and aquatic production systems. It is essential to livelihoods and food security and to the supply of ecosystem services. Many of its key components are in decline.

- The global area of many types of ecosystems of importance to food and agriculture is declining: wetlands (estimated decrease of over 70% in inland and 60% in coastal wetlands since 1900), mangroves (estimated 20% decrease between 1980 and 2005), coral reefs, seagrasses (estimated 29% decrease over a century) and forests (continuing decline, although rate of loss decreased by 50% in recent decades).

- 82% of the nearly 400 000 species of plants currently identified provide more than 95% of the human food supply from livestock.

AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES

- 3.2 billion people obtain at least 20% of their intake of animal protein from fish
- The top 10 captured species-related species groups account for 28% of marine capture fisheries production
- 10 species make up 50% of aquaculture production
- It is estimated that there are over 160 000 species of fish, and aquatic molluscs, crustaceans and plants, of which only 1.1% are currently fished or harvested, and 0.3% are currently farmed

MICRO-ORGANISMS and INVERTEBRATES

- 1.8 million tonnes of honey are produced annually and there are 90 million beehives in the world
- 35% of the world’s total crop production by volume comes from species that are, at least in part, pollinated by animals
- Approximately 80% of global pollination services are carried out by around 2% of pollinator species

SOILS BIODIVERSITY

- Over 99% of bacteria and protist species remain unknown

ECOSYSTEMS OF IMPORTANCE TO FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

- They are essential in many food and agro-industrial processes

THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE INCLUDE

- Effects of increasing population pressure
- Change in consumer demand
- Development and use of a few species, varieties and breeds
- Effects of increasing crop production per ha

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission provides the only permanent forum for governments to discuss and negotiate matters specifically relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture. The main objectives of the Commission are to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations.

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Data presented in this infographic are compiled from various sources and have various reference years. For more information contact CGRFA@fao.org