



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AND SOUND PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT IN AGRICULTURE FOR MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS IMPLEMENTATION



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Biodiversity is the basis of agriculture. It includes all plants and animals that provide food, feed, fuel and fiber, as well as the far less visible organisms, such as fungi, bacteria and insects essential to sustain agricultural production systems.

Many key components of biodiversity for food and agriculture are in decline. This trend is caused by many factors, such as land and water use changes, overexploitation, climate change and pollution, including agrochemical pollution. Inappropriate application of pesticides poses a severe threat to organisms living in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, including beneficial insects in

agricultural fields, such as pollinators and natural enemies of pests.

To tackle these challenges, African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) participate in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), relevant to sound pesticide and biodiversity management. Funded by the European Union, the third phase of the Capacity Building Programme related to MEAs in ACP countries, known as ACP MEAs 3, builds institutional and technical capacity to facilitate and enhance the effective implementation of these legally-binding agreements that significantly contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda.

## FAO CAPACITY-BUILDING INTERVENTIONS

In this third phase, the programme will continue its efforts on improving the management of pesticides applied in agricultural production. It will support countries in developing an institutional and policy environment conducive to the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity in agriculture. ACP MEAs 3 will also facilitate the transition to more sustainable, resilient and productive systems by promoting the application of ecologically sustainable practices and approaches.

### Objectives

The ACP MEAs 3 programme has the overall goal to promote environmental sustainability in ACP countries by strengthening environmental governance and the implementation of MEAs.

To achieve this goal, the programme aims at:

- Strengthening the compliance with and enforcement of MEAs related to biodiversity and hazardous chemicals and waste.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity and the sound management of chemicals and waste in agricultural policies and programmes.

- Strengthening extension services to enhance and scale-up the application of ecosystem-based practices and approaches in the field.
- Supporting farmers to transition towards more environmentally sustainable and resilient agricultural production systems.
- Enhancing regional collaboration and dissemination of best policies and practices across ACP countries.
- Strengthening synergies and increased collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the chemical conventions to enhance their effectiveness.

### Partnerships

The ACP MEAs programme is a joint partnership between:

- the European Union;
- the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States;
- UN Environment Programme and;
- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The programme is implemented through collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and the Secretariats of the target conventions.



## CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY AGENDA

ACP MEAs 3 will significantly contribute to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is expected to be adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 15) on Biological Diversity in 2021.

The programme will in particular contribute to:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity and sound pesticide management into national agricultural policies, programmes and strategies.

- Promoting the adoption of ecosystem-based approaches in agriculture for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, climate resilience and combatting desertification.
- Widely sharing and transferring evidence-based best practices related to the application of ecosystem-based practices that support the management of biodiversity in agriculture.
- Preparing ACP countries for MEA COP meetings.

## PROGRAMME RESULTS TO DATE

During the previous two phases, the programme strengthened the institutionalization of MEAs at national and regional level by enhancing capacities of national bodies, regional institutions, and fostering collaboration between them.

As a major result, ACP MEAs contributed to reducing the risks of pesticides to human health and the environment, promoting environmental sustainability in agriculture and slowing down biodiversity loss in ACP countries.

A few milestones include:

- At regional level, development of guidelines to harmonize pesticide registration, technical guidance documents to mainstream ecosystem services and biodiversity in agriculture and strategies addressing highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs).
- Development and dissemination of education and training material/tools, including the agrobiodiversity training manual for farmer groups in East Africa; the Pesticide Registration Toolkit for pesticide registrars worldwide; and the Postgraduate Diploma in Pesticide Risk Management (University of Cape Town).

- Capacity-building on pesticide regulation and the implementation of the three chemical conventions for over 3 200 beneficiaries (governmental officers, civil society, private sector, farmer associations and rural and mining communities) from 35 countries.
- Advances in pesticide risk reduction include the disposal of over 1 100 tonnes of obsolete pesticides from Africa and the Caribbean; and the identification of HHPs in ten ACP countries with risk mitigation actions undertaken by five countries.



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