Biodiversity in Food Systems Transitions

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Post-2020: An Era of Change

- Disruptions faced in the past two years have exposed us the fragility of our food systems:
  - Inequity in food access and distribution
  - Imbalance in production, processing and consumption
  - Non-sustainable practices

- The UN Food Systems Summit 2021:
  - People-based summit
  - Transforming food systems
  - Inclusion of biodiversity and environmental concerns as pathways for transformation
  - 5 Action Tracks for transformation
Threats to Biodiversity and Food and Nutrition Security

• Little diversity in production systems:
  • About 120 species of crops are cultivated for human consumption – 9 crops supply up to 75% of total production
  • Aquaculture production priorities – salmon (marine); carp, tilapia and catfish (freshwater)
• Little diversity and poor management threaten the systems – potential of collapse
Call to Action: Increase Dietary Diversity and Consumer Demand

• Diversification of diets and consumer demand are needed
  • Include low-trophic, high-biomass species e.g. pelagic small fish species, mollusks, seaweed
• Increase diversification of food products in the market
  • Culturally acceptable, nutritious and safe
  • Easily accessible
• Increase consumer demand through knowledge and awareness raising
Call to Action: Integrated Resource Management Strategies

- Understand the synergies between food, land and water systems for transformation
  - Develop management protocols
  - Explore integrated use of systems e.g. rice field fisheries, mangrove fisheries
- Adopt innovative resources for species and biodiversity protection
  - Community fish refuges
  - Pond polyculture with small indigenous fish species
Call to Action: Bridging Knowledge with Technology

- Creating linkages between traditional knowledge with modern technology
  - Knowledge dissemination using digital tools
  - Traditional practices used in production and conservation
- Engaging diverse stakeholders as custodian and catalyst for action
  - Women
  - Indigenous Peoples
  - Youth
Diverse aquatic foods are essential to nourish people, nations and our planet, now and in the future.