



# BFA-Net survey results

## Introduction

The [Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture Network \(BFA-Net\)](#) is an email-based discussion group run by the Secretariat of FAO's [Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture](#) to provide an informal forum for the discussion of matters related to the management of biodiversity for food and agriculture. Prior to the launch of BFA-Net, the Commission Secretariat conducted a survey of National Focal Points for the Commission and National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in order to gauge levels of interest in the establishment of such a network and obtain views what kinds of content would be of particular interest.<sup>1</sup>

## Operation of the survey

The survey was conducted via Google Forms and consisted of obligatory yes/no or multiple-choice questions, accompanied by text boxes in which respondents could provide further comments if they wished.

An email was sent on 18 March 2021 to 310 National Focal Points, representing a total of 135 countries, inviting them to complete the survey. The invitation and the survey were provided in English, French and Spanish. The survey remained open until 12 April 2021.

## Results

Thirty National Focal Points (10 percent of those invited) representing 28 countries (21 percent of those invited) responded. The following results were obtained.

### Question 1

If FAO established an email-based discussion group to facilitate the exchange of information on biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA) and related ecosystem services, how useful would this network be for your activities and for those of other stakeholders involved in the management of BFA?

Summary of responses

Number of responses	
Very useful	14
Useful	13
Not very useful but interesting	3
Not useful at all	0

<sup>1</sup> National Focal Points for the Commission are persons nominated by governments to liaise with the Secretary of the Commission. National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture are persons nominated by governments to liaise with the Secretary of the Commission on matters relating to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. The latest list of National Focal Points for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is available here: <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/overview/nfp/en/>



#### Comments provided<sup>2</sup>

“Is a very helpful information exchange platform. Currently, there is a need to consolidate activities due to the range of issues related to the preservation of biodiversity and unfavorable climate change. The existence of the platform accelerates the agreement of the necessary actions.”

“In particular, I believe it could help bridging the conceptual divide that exists between sectors that both depend on the conservation and sustainable use of BFA, but from different points of departure.”

“The people who come from developed country will make more comment and dominate the group.”

“A part of the mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture in [our country] is to conduct and promote activities that manage, conserve and sustainably utilize our genetic resources. It would be good to understand the scope of these activities and garner information from lessons learned from other countries.”

“It would be good if the discussions include a pathway to manage confiscated animals and plants at port quarantine facilities.”

“Le réseau sera utile dans la mesure les points focaux pourront rester connectés entre eux et avec la commission. Les PF pourront partager des informations, des expériences, des rapports et leurs activités.”

“No solo por correo electrónico sino usar todas las redes sociales.”

“Es necesario generar un espacio de articulación sobre el estado de la biodiversidad, que permita intercambiar información de manera ágil.”

#### Question 2

Do you agree that the scope of the discussion forum should broadly correspond to that of [The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture](#), i.e. all biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, but with a particular emphasis on associated biodiversity (the biodiversity present in and around food and agricultural production systems that underpins the supply of harvested products, via ecosystem services such as pollination, pest control and the formation and maintenance of healthy soils), wild (non-domesticated) foods and the links between different types biodiversity for food and agriculture and their management (e.g. between the management of plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources)?

#### Summary of responses

Number of responses	
Yes	27
No	3

#### Comments from those responding “No”

“I think for many countries, biodiversity of non-food species is equally relevant as well. [For example, in our country] a mechanism for managing traded species (CITES and non-CITES) across borders has been very relevant as well.”

“Ce forum permettrait d’avoir seulement l’avis de certain spécialistes sur l’état de la biodiversité pour l’alimentation et l’agriculture.”

“Il est aussi important en addition à la portée du rapport sur l’état de la biodiversité pour l’alimentation et l’agriculture de faire le lien étroit avec d’autres points d’entrée comme par exemple l’agroécologie.”

<sup>2</sup> Comments are presented as received in their original language.



### Question 3

As a potential future participant in BFA-Net, please indicate which types of messages you would like to see distributed via the network.

Summary of responses

	High priority	Medium priority	Low priority
(Number of responses)			
Requests for advice or comments on BFA-management and policy issues	19	8	3
Sharing of experiences (problems, success stories, best practices, etc.) in BFA management.	22	8	0
Information on research topics and projects	19	11	0
Information on recent publications	18	11	1
Information on forthcoming events	17	13	0
Information on job vacancies	5	9	16

Response provided under “Other”

“Information sur les structures qui ont une vocation de financement des activités liées à la biodiversité ainsi que le partage d’information sur les appels à projets Biodiversité (très utile).”

### Question 4

Are you aware of existing email-based discussion groups aiming to facilitate the exchange of information on the management of BFA?

Summary of responses

	Number of responses
Yes	2
No	28

Response provided under “If yes, please name them”

“SDC Agriculture and Food security Network (Focus Area on Agroecology) <https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security>”

For further information on BFA-Net: <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/topics/biodiversity/bfa-net/en/>

Contact: SOW-BFA@fao.org