

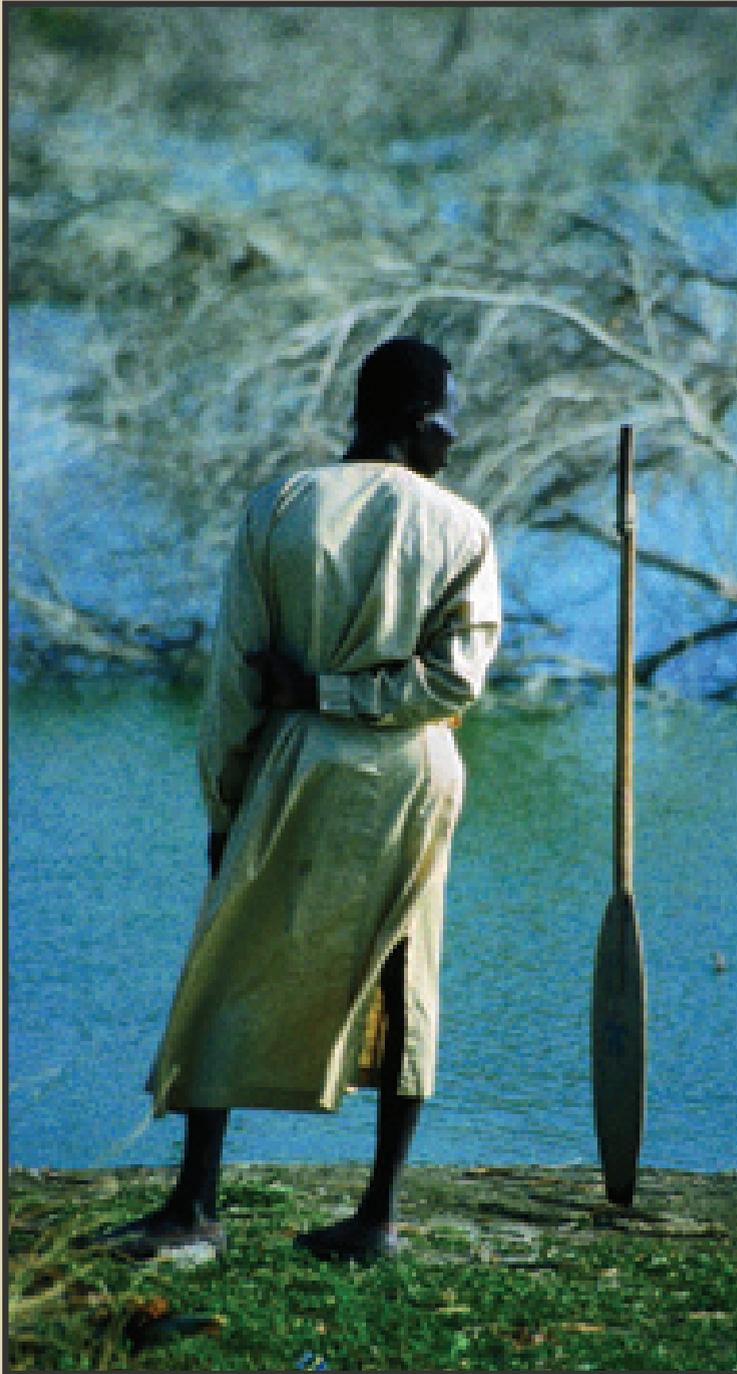
Since its foundation in 1945, the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** has worked to alleviate poverty and hunger through agricultural development, improved nutrition and food security.

Agriculture began around 10 000 years ago, when the first farmers and farming communities all over the world domesticated and developed the animal breeds and crops on which food security depends. Modern agricultural production stands on their shoulders, and utilizes the agricultural biodiversity that they developed in their farming systems. But this diversity (our farm animals and crops) cannot usually survive in the wild: it depends on human management within living farming systems. Farmers have a right to development and to a better life, but as their farming systems modernize, these crucial genetic resources risk being lost.

FAO promotes the sharing of experiences and awareness related to the role of people in conserving and sustainably using agricultural biodiversity. Building on the local knowledge and social organization of farmers is indispensable. The images in this book are a tribute to the knowledge and work of farmers and their care for the land.

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← OPEN FLAP TO SEE MAP OF LAKE CHAD



“History has recorded a period of complete disappearance of Lake Chad. Yet the ecosystem has regenerated itself and civilization continues to flourish.

The challenge today is to reverse the land and water degradation in the Lake Chad Basin ecosystem, by means of both modern methods and traditional skills, in order to support the sustainable exploitation of natural resources for the benefit of millions of people today and in the generations to come.

This book is a wake-up call for everyone to identify, document and transmit knowledge and practices that will enable the present and future inhabitants of the Lake Chad Basin to sustain and improve their living conditions.”

Engr Muhammad Sani Adamu
Executive Secretary
Lake Chad Basin Commission

The book contains over 350 photographs by Marzio Marzot, documented information on traditional food production systems, scientific details and notes from a journey through one of the world’s outstanding region: the Lake Chad Basin in Africa. It provides an insight into the life and customs of the local farmers, fishermen and pastoralists who foster, maintain and utilize biodiversity in their traditional agricultural systems, thereby deploying the knowledge and techniques that they have accumulated over many centuries.



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
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