



You are cordially invited to the
LAUNCH OF THE PUBLICATION

GARDENS OF BIODIVERSITY

Conservation of genetic resources and their use in traditional food production systems by small farmers of the Southern Caucasus

Iran Room, B116
29 November 2010, 13:30-14:30

Speakers

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Mammad Zulfugarov

Alternate Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to FAO

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Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the FAO, IFAD and WFP

The International Year of Biodiversity 2010 represents a milestone in efforts to raise global awareness of agricultural biodiversity and its critical role in ensuring world food security. One of FAO's major contributions to the International Year is a new publication, *Gardens of Biodiversity*, which describes the conservation of genetic resources and their use in traditional food production systems by small farmers of the Southern Caucasus. The publication underscores the importance of the genetic resources of the region, which is the centre of origin and diversity of many species and varieties that underpin global food production today. By offering an in-depth perspective on Southern Caucasus biodiversity, the publication complements the recently published *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. It shows how the region's wealth of biodiversity is preserved in *ex situ* collections that need continuous support and maintenance, and also maintained alive *in situ* by small holder farmers in their gardens and production systems.

Gardens of Biodiversity highlights the role of genetic resources and small holder in sustainable food production. It will serve as a "wake-up call" to the international community to recognize the urgent need to identify, utilize and maintain both genetic resources and related agricultural practices.

Participants from member countries will be given a complimentary copy of the publication.

For further information on the publication please visit www.fao.org/agriculture/gardens_of_biodiversity

