

FAO'S REPORT ON SELECTED ACTIVITIES HELD DURING THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY

FAO contributed to a number of national and international processes and matters, including global ones such as the preparation of the third Global Biodiversity Outlook.

The support of FAO also relies on its sub-regional multi-disciplinary team from Regional and Country offices.

The main FAO contributions could be grouped into three main areas, these are:

- a) Increasing the awareness on biodiversity for food and agriculture at all levels, from policy to the youth;
- b) Publishing main reports and publications with a specific focus on biodiversity and its relation to food and agriculture;
- c) Organizing experts meetings and workshops to analyze specific issues related to biodiversity and food security and nutrition.

Increasing awareness on biodiversity for food and agriculture

- FAO renewed its website on biodiversity¹, now entitled "Biodiversity for a world without hunger";
- In partnership with a number of other entities such as CBD, Bioversity and international youth organizations such as the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has developed a series of educational activities and resources related to biodiversity to raise awareness between children and youth on biodiversity issues and encourage them to take action in protecting and using these important resources wisely.
- A number of specific resources have been developed including a youth guide, a biodiversity challenge badge, resource materials and an international drawing competition. In addition a number of children's labs and other events are being organized throughout the year; these include International Biodiversity Week and World Food Day.
- Talk show on *Biodiversity Sustainable Food for All: The Mediterranean Diet, an Example of Sustainable Diet*. 21 May 2010 in Rome, Parco della Musica, as part of the Biodiversity week organized by FAO, Bioversity International, INRAN, CIISCAM, CIHEAM-IAMB.
- Awareness raising and information exchange on the Animal Genetic Resources discussion network DAD-Net (about 1600 subscribers):
 - new publication available on-line: Adding Value to Livestock Diversity - Marketing to promote local breeds and improve livelihoods
 - Pastoralism toolkit available on-line

¹ <http://www.fao.org/biodiversity/>

- Notification 2010-032 - The International Year of Biodiversity Video
- Notification 2010-046 - Fact sheets for the International Year of Biodiversity – 2010
- call for papers - special issue of BIODIVERSITY entitled "Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation"
- Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 is released! - Press Release: New vision required to stave off dramatic biodiversity loss, says UN report
- Press Release: "Biodiversity: the foundation of human well-being and global prosperity/Celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity"
- Information on : Switzerland has issued a special stamp to honor the international year of biodiversity 2010
- Letter from Carlos Seré, ILRI Director General - International Day for Biological Diversity
- International Year of Biological Diversity - International delegation requests German parliamentarians to give legal recognition to Livestock Keepers' Rights
- Year of Biodiversity and Pashto program at P TV Bolan Pakistan
- Animal Genetic Resources 47 – issue of the journal available online
- Implementing the Global Plan of Action - posters prepared by National Coordinators and international organizations
- Contribution to Pastoralism toolkit (<http://www.cbd.int/development/training/guides/>) and distribution of copies (150 in French, 200 in English; 100 in Arabic) to Animal Genetic Resources network
- Poster exhibition highlighting the successes of countries and international NGOs in implementing the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. More than 40 National Coordinators and international NGOs contributed to this initiative. The posters were exhibited during 6th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (24-26 November 2010) in FAO, Rome, Italy²

Selected reports and publications

- *The Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*³. The report documents the current status of plant genetic resources diversity, conservation and use, as well as the extent and role of national, regional and international efforts that underpin the contributions of PGRFA to food security. It highlights the most significant changes that have occurred in the sector since 1996, when the first report on The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was produced by FAO, as well as the gaps and needs that remain for setting future priorities. The report was launched in October by the Director General.

² See also: <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/Posters.html>

³ For more information see <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/seeds-pgr/sow/sow2/en/>

- *The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA 2010)*⁴. The assessment presents the current status of the world's forest resources and their changes over time, basing on data that countries provide to FAO in response to a common questionnaire;
- *Gardens of Biodiversity: conservation of genetic resources and their use in traditional food production systems by small farmers of the Southern Caucasus*⁵. FAO. 2010 a fully illustrated book presenting the importance of maintaining the genetic resources of the Southern Caucasus and integrating state-of-the-art information and technologies with the traditional practices that proved to be so efficient in the past. It focuses on Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia
- *Biodiversity for food and agriculture: contributing to food security and sustainability in a changing world*⁶. Report of the outcomes of an Expert Workshop held by FAO and the Platform on Agrobiodiversity Research in April 2010.
- LPP, LIFE Network, IUCN–WISP and FAO. 2010. Adding value to livestock diversity – Marketing to promote local breeds and improve livelihoods. FAO Animal Production and Health Paper. No. 168. Rome⁷
- Animal Genetic Resources 47 - a special issue of FAO journal dedicated to the Year of Biodiversity containing a range of invited papers related to the four strategic priority areas of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources⁸
- The Bioenergy Environmental Impact Analysis (BIAS): Analytical Framework. Paper number 46 within the series: Environment and Natural Resources Working Paper⁹
- *Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Crop Intensification in Lesotho*¹⁰. A case study from Lesotho, directed to national decision makers, presenting how Conservation Agriculture (CA) is successfully being practiced in Africa.
- *“Green manure/cover crops and crop rotation in Conservation Agriculture on small farms. A reference material for extensionists, professors, agronomy students, technicians in general, and for farmers themselves to facilitate the adoption and diffusion of No-Tillage, the use of green manures, and the practice of crop rotation on small farms.*
- *An international consultation on integrated crop-livestock systems for development. The way forward for sustainable production intensification.* Presenting a new kind of sustainable intensified agriculture based on CA that often include trees grown as hedge rows to control grazing and provide habitats and fuel, or include trees as strip crops with annual crops rotated in adjacent strips.

⁴ For more information see <http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/en/>

⁵ For more information see <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/core-themes/theme/spi/gbasc/en/>

⁶ Available at http://agrobiodiversityplatform.org/files/2011/04/PAR-FAO-book_lr.pdf

⁷ Available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1283e/i1283e00.htm> currently in print in French and Spanish

⁸ available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1823t/i1823t00.htm>

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayIssue?iid=7644636>

⁹ Available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/am303e/am303e00.pdf>

¹⁰ Available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1650e/i1650e00.pdf>

Selected meetings on biodiversity for food and agriculture

- *Biodiversity for food and agriculture: contributing to food security and sustainability in a changing world*¹¹. The Workshop explored the different challenges that confront agriculture and the options that exist or could be developed and that would be needed to feed the world, cope with climate change and capitalize on synergies between agriculture and the environment.
- *International Seminar on the role of Agriculture Biodiversity in addressing hunger and climate change*, Spain September 2010. Convened in the International Year of Biodiversity and as a contribution to the celebrations of the World Food Day, it has focused on the role of agricultural biodiversity for food security, to fight hunger and to buffer the effects of climate changes. The final Declaration has been presented at the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on Biodiversity.
- Biodiversity in Sustainable Diets. Technical Workshop organized by FAO in collaboration with Bioersity International, FAO Headquarters-Rome 31 May – 1 June 2010.
- International Scientific Symposium on "Biodiversity and Sustainable Diets - United Against Hunger", organized by FAO and Bioersity International, in collaboration with CBD Secretariat, Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition, INFOODS, IUNS, FENS, INRAN, CIHEAM-IAMB and Italian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. FAO Headquarters-Rome, 3-5 November 2010
- *Promoting responsible use and conservation of aquatic biodiversity for sustainable development*. Thematic session held at the Global Conference on Aquaculture in Phuket, Thailand 22-25 September 2010, to examine how to use experiences of progress and knowledge in aquatic biodiversity for food and agriculture to meet future global challenges in a sustainable way.
- *Regional workshop on Responsible Introduction of Aquatic Species in Central Asia and the Caucasus Region*. Held on 2-4 November 2010 as part of the "Regional study on fish introductions in Central Asia and the Caucasus", the workshop is part of the process leading to a Technical Paper for Governments in Central Asia and the Caucasus on the impact of fish introductions and transfers.

¹¹ For more information see <http://agrobiodiversityplatform.org/par/2011/04/08/biodiversity-for-food-and-agriculture-contributing-to-food-security-and-sustainability-in-a-changing-world/>