



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



Ministry of Forests  
and Environment

## International conference on agrobiodiversity

*Sharing best practice in nature-based solutions from forest and farm producer organizations*



## Technical report: Key messages and lessons learnt



## Brief introduction

The Agrobiodiversity Conference held in Pokhara, Nepal from 9-12 April 2024, brought together 180 in person participants from 32 countries – including many representatives of forest and farm producers' organizations (FFPOs) and Indigenous People and Local Community (IP and LC) groups from both national and regional and global organizations. The conference entails: (i) A share fare and four field visits that allowed peer-to-peer learning and exchange based on evidence-based practices observed in the field; (ii) An inaugural session which set the scene with relevant introductory remarks and statements from policy makers and leaders of relevant global/regional support programmes that set the scene for effective knowledge sharing, discussions and learnings; and (iii) Six (6) technical sessions that engaged stakeholders in diving deep into diverse themes relevant to FFPO-led agrobiodiversity followed by a closing session which emphasised key messages, action points and commitments. Through the technical sessions (comprising presentations, panel question and answer sessions and working groups covering the relevant themes or topics), the participants gained knowledge and learnt lessons including recommendations in the following areas:

1. The meaning and importance of agrobiodiversity;
2. Policies initiatives in international and national contexts that shape agroecology approaches for protection and management agrobiodiversity for better or worse;
3. Traditional knowledge of agroforestry systems and practices facilitates the exchange of knowledge and scalable lesson for maintaining agrobiodiversity;
4. Seed and farm management techniques and innovations to sustain agrobiodiversity;
5. Enterprise innovations that encourage diversification in what is planted; and
6. Nature finance – improving flows to FFPOs and IPLCs;

The participants also learnt about the significant role of alliances in advancing agrobiodiversity globally.

## Objectives achieved

Overall, the participants shared innovative traditional and scientific knowledge on how FFPOs and IPLC organizations can advance agroecological practices, agrobiodiverse planting materials and climate smart business and finance models that enrich nature and nutrition. The gathering the representatives from FFPOs and IPLC groups, governments, local and international civil society organizations and other stakeholders from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe helped to enhance peer learning through South-South and triangular cooperation and stimulated upscaling of good practices across a global network of FFPOs facilitated by the FFF. FFPOs from the Global South, particularly Asia, Africa and Latin America had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and discuss common challenges in maintaining agrobiodiversity, which can enable them to adapt their own models from lessons learned to the benefit of their members' livelihoods. The conference also prepared the ground to strengthen the collaboration and synergy of FFPOs with governmental institutions, the private sector, finance institutions and other relevant stakeholders to promote agrobiodiversity linked to forest and farm value chains. Finally, it generated a body of knowledge developed and owned by FFPOs, which will constitute a technical paper

(forthcoming).

## Summary of outcomes and call to action

Outcomes from the conference include a **call to action** globally in line with the following 10 key points:

1. **Agrobiodiversity conservation is essential to humanities' future**, and agroecological approaches that halt and reverse the drastic decline in animal and plant species and varieties used must become the mainstay of global agriculture if we are to achieve global food security in an increasingly variable climate.
2. **Smallholder farmers, indigenous people and local communities are the current custodians of much of the world's remaining agrobiodiversity** – and their agroecological knowledge, seed systems, farming practices, diversified enterprises and finance systems demand respect, rights-based approaches, and direct financial support in response to global conventions on climate, biodiversity and desertification.
3. **Agroecology practiced by smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples and local communities integrates ecological resilience, social responsibility and economic efficiency** – and these stakeholders must therefore become primary actors in crafting laws and policies that are responsive to those integrated needs.
4. **Traditional knowledge is very important in sustaining diverse food culture and plant and animal cultivation**, and the unity and love required to foster collective action, so traditional knowledge on nutrition, health, and cultivation needs to be respected and promoted.
5. **Seed systems that protect agrobiodiversity require a pluralistic approach**: in situ farmers seed banks and genetic resources that protect ever evolving landraces, with support from ex situ seed storage systems, and under an enabling policy environment that prioritizes the former but also involves every key stakeholder in the process.
6. **Agrobiodiversity-supporting enterprises can be developed from contextually specific yet integrated forest and farm landscapes**, that offer varied options for subsistence and commercial sale of food, fiber, fuel, fertilizer, medicines, cosmetics, tourism etc. – and require support for building regional aggregation and marketing units with trusted internal governance, internal investment funds, quality best practice production manuals, support services for lower-tier member groups, and linkages to pioneering impact-investment support partners while also promoting lesser-known crops and products whose sale can incentivize diversification in what is produced.
7. **Financial donors need to do better than get 0.3% (circa US\$ 2 billion) of international climate and nature finance to FFPOs and IP and LC groups**, and national finance processes around Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) need to channel funding more directly to local groups, including linking more creatively to internally mobilized smallholder finance, savings and loan groups and financial

cooperatives that are currently funding US\$ 368 billion per year of necessary climate adaptation – much of which involve agrobiodiversity conservation.

8. **A new political agenda is needed that favours the promotion of chemical free, and nature friendly agroecology-based farming systems** over chemically enhanced monocultures that provide temporarily cheap food but at the long-term expense of future food security.
9. **Support is required for ongoing knowledge exchanges on agrobiodiversity across countries** such that new evidence of agroecological success can be used to to push for policy reforms (around diversified nutrition and food system transformation with a push for funding and financing to increase its accessibility).
10. **Greater use must be made of existing knowledge hubs (such as Li-Bird) networks, groups, alliances, both nationally and internationally that promote agroecology** – strengthening members be they individual or even countries (such as the agroecology coalition that has 49 country members) and using programmes and projects to scale up and scale out

## Additional information: presentations, recordings, background and outreach reports

Day/Date	Session topic	Time (NPT)	Presentations (PPTs)	Photos	Recording
<b>Day 1 (Tuesday, 09 April)</b>	Opening session	09:00 - 11:15		<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h6iUWKL_L-3UZaCU86P4HWLVyKYrSwc7?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1h6iUWKL_L-3UZaCU86P4HWLVyKYrSwc7?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jF09lhQdntv0x8W_vDNXgJy6fmOLIdeM/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/12jF09lhQdntv0x8W_vDNXgJy6fmOLIdeM/view?usp=sharing</a>
	<b>Session 1:</b> Agrobiodiversity – What it is and why it matters	11:30- 13:00	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1prxiVDQkOI3TYCN0qPfmXZ062yilGp1Z?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1prxiVDQkOI3TYCN0qPfmXZ062yilGp1Z?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wdAcweyQWhXoXB7XeY38_inM2xLhtwrr?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wdAcweyQWhXoXB7XeY38_inM2xLhtwrr?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/189kvllW0CjOYqKV9p9S2OuCpR6Nztsu-/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/189kvllW0CjOYqKV9p9S2OuCpR6Nztsu-/view?usp=drive_link</a>
	<b>Session 2:</b> How policies shape agroecology approaches that help to protect and manage agrobiodiversity for better or worse	14:00-19:30	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OHE5q4UEmddoXsbDvU63H9TcETQp9drK?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OHE5q4UEmddoXsbDvU63H9TcETQp9drK?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1li8dld9Vo3TMomC43zjQfl3DcgC3B-V?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1li8dld9Vo3TMomC43zjQfl3DcgC3B-V?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x5-gMdSoQvSZiWwAzPm3MYq583ZRnh4/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x5-gMdSoQvSZiWwAzPm3MYq583ZRnh4/view?usp=drive_link</a>
<b>Day 2 (Wednesday, 10 April)</b>	Field visit and excursion	08:30-17:00		<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kl_b-NLCY9P01FJWMMU9TYwGWpVVpMkzv?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kl_b-NLCY9P01FJWMMU9TYwGWpVVpMkzv?usp=sharing</a>	
<b>Day 3 (Thursday, 11 April)</b>	<b>Session 3:</b> Traditional knowledge of agroforestry systems and knowledge exchange practices that	09:00-11:30	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H3AVAHiJlI0okPVI0j7oakHqkzUqi-gh?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H3AVAHiJlI0okPVI0j7oakHqkzUqi-gh?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1buZn8zyanPIVuxuRlqYSckmT-KLOeQ50?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1buZn8zyanPIVuxuRlqYSckmT-KLOeQ50?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K_u1ly1A2ajxEdWgonOfW9cbw1fUSvQ/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K_u1ly1A2ajxEdWgonOfW9cbw1fUSvQ/view?usp=sharing</a>

	maintain agrobiodiversity				
	<b>Session 4:</b> Seed and Farm Management Techniques and Innovations to Sustain Agrobiodiversity	11:30-13:00	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15d mLdrurzRbGi5cAEMA HjSu0lFnmWC7?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15d mLdrurzRbGi5cAEMA HjSu0lFnmWC7?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JHflwff5VCgTzd mLRS9Z-2VRtlxIkOsA?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JHflwff5VCgTzd mLRS9Z-2VRtlxIkOsA?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NX7AWgS7zkEe8pIDRd_X7VJvY2akeXLe/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NX7AWgS7zkEe8pIDRd_X7VJvY2akeXLe/view?usp=drive_link</a>
	<b>Session 5:</b> Enterprise innovations that encourage diversification in what is planted	14:00-15:30	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gk_5dZlXCil6_y-zKJsz4t_Ri17l0U7X?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gk_5dZlXCil6_y-zKJsz4t_Ri17l0U7X?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BfXKvz6hkCtreT ak5SIO9Cfk8T-un1c2?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1BfXKvz6hkCtreT ak5SIO9Cfk8T-un1c2?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-jyIFRCb8hd4BrGUBRW4E9MA2iZzYn7W/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-jyIFRCb8hd4BrGUBRW4E9MA2iZzYn7W/view?usp=sharing</a>
	<b>Session 6:</b> Nature finance – improving flows to FFPOs and IPLCs	16:00-17:30	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_kZd8nrYMH8Lt8QP_8jP0Z6f15uhcPy?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_kZd8nrYMH8Lt8QP_8jP0Z6f15uhcPy?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DMMSBZqBOOK JAxeOHw-o54omuWAJnrg3?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DMMSBZqBOOK JAxeOHw-o54omuWAJnrg3?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i2jvKA FztZvuXkDF_VQczyIah4ntk2tX/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1i2jvKA FztZvuXkDF_VQczyIah4ntk2tX/view?usp=drive_link</a>
<b>Day 4 (Friday, 12 April)</b>	Closing session	11:30-12:00		<a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KfZ_iSqZ7kMpAy534beJbBksiuix_HOF?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KfZ_iSqZ7kMpAy534beJbBksiuix_HOF?usp=sharing</a>	<a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EKZ9IEliHDenOZVBFgLgsjJ8CfHpMi8P/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EKZ9IEliHDenOZVBFgLgsjJ8CfHpMi8P/view?usp=sharing</a>  <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/10G4zvzbfZ8cu0ZqGih8jK-Z6HTgiYERd/view?usp=drive_link">https://drive.google.com/file/d/10G4zvzbfZ8cu0ZqGih8jK-Z6HTgiYERd/view?usp=drive_link</a>

**Further information**

- I. More information on the Conference on Forest and Farm Facility website: <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/news-and-events/agrobiodiversity-conference/en/>
- II. Press release (FAO Forestry): <https://www.fao.org/forestry/newsroom/news-detail/international-conference-on-agrobiodiversity-begins-in-nepal/en>
- III. Audio interviews: <https://comdevasia.org/for-newsletter/international-conference-on-agrobiodiversity-set-on-april-9-12/>
- IV. The conference website as a repository for conference outcomes: <https://agrobiodiversity.libird.org/>
- V. Background report: <https://www.ied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2024-02/22251iied.pdf>
- VI. Link to interviews: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AN0ehD1ezr51Zet5hkvGwQrZ2p5qPuvQ/view?usp=sharing>
- VII. National press releases:
  - a. <https://onlineradionepal.gov.np/2024/04/09/480480.html>
  - b. <https://nagariknews.nagariknetwork.com/social-affairs/1432420-1712655711.html>
  - c. <https://everestawai.com/2024/04/09/88425/>
  - d. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5dYNolq25I>
  - e. <https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2017/12/645894>
  - f. <https://pokharaclick.com/2024/04/09/37261/>
  - g. <https://www.ratopati.com/story/420970/pokhara>

h. <https://everestawaj.com/2024/04/09/88425/>

i. <https://gorkhapatraonline.com/news/103183>