

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday 27 February 2019
2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

Background Document for Agenda Item 4:

Secretariat briefing on a new framework for valuing and measuring what matters in agriculture and food systems.

This document serves as the background document for Agenda Item 4: Secretariat briefing on a new framework for valuing and measuring what matters in agriculture and food systems.

Secretariat briefing on a new framework for valuing and measuring what matters in agriculture and food systems.

1. From 25-27 February 2019 in Nairobi, UN Environment hosted a TEEBAgriFood Symposium, convening nearly 100 stakeholders, partners and experts involved in various TEEB work streams, linked together by the cross-cutting theme of applying the TEEBAgriFood Evaluation Framework in different country contexts to assess the impacts of various agri-food systems and policy interventions. Representatives attended from, presented on, and/or contributed to case studies in Brazil, China, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Senegal, Tanzania and Thailand. The event will be an opportunity for different projects to share experiences and lessons learned, and also sit in working groups to address specific project activities and deliverables.
2. The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB¹) is a global initiative focused on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity including the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. TEEB's objective is making nature's values visible in decision-making. It aims to achieve this goal by following a structured approach to valuation that helps decision-makers recognize the wide range of benefits provided by ecosystems and biodiversity, demonstrate their values in economic terms and, where appropriate, capture those values in decision-making.
3. The 'TEEB for Agriculture and Food' (TEEBAgriFood²) study seeks to review the economic interdependencies between human (economic and social) systems, agriculture and food systems, and biodiversity and ecosystems. In doing so, it addresses the economic invisibility of many of these links while exploring how biodiversity and key ecosystem services deliver benefits to the agriculture sector and also beyond, itself being a key contributor to human health, livelihoods and well-being.
4. The first major output of TEEBAgriFood is a 'Scientific and Economic Foundations' report³, which addresses the core theoretical issues and controversies underpinning the evaluation of the nexus between the agri-food sector, biodiversity and ecosystem services and externalities including human health impacts from agriculture on a global scale. As part of this research, authors have developed an Evaluation Framework⁴ that provides broad categories of all interactions that may exist within a given 'eco-agri-food system'.
5. Since the launch of the report in June 2018, the focus of the TEEBAgriFood community of practice has been on shifting from analysis to action by "pilot-testing" several applications of the Framework. The following Framework-testing studies are underway:
 - a. *Soybean/cattle food systems in Brazilian Amazon*: A comparison of externalities faced and relative costs of abatement at different scales of cattle raising and assessment of impact of policy instruments on transition to sustainable livestock intensification or low-input crop production
 - b. *Wheat systems in northern India*: Comparison of impacts and externalities between (a) conventional and organic wheat production, and (b) between a prevailing policy context of many subsidies vs. direct transfer payments to farmers through the new unique identity automated system in India.

¹ www.teebweb.org

² www.teebweb.org/agrifood

³ www.teebweb.org/agrifood/home/scientific-and-economic-foundations-report

⁴ www.teebweb.org/agrifood/home/evaluation-framework/

- c. *Livestock (poultry, dairy and pastoralism) in Tanzania*
 - d. *Conventional vs. organic rice value chains in Senegal*
 - e. *Agroforestry systems in Ghana (cacao) and Ethiopia (coffee)*
 - f. *Colombia, Thailand, Kenya and Tanzania: Mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use into agricultural landscapes and seascapes.* These may include large-scale and small-scale food production systems and traditional agroforestry systems. Through participative scenario development at landscape level, TEEB would assess the impacts of various land use decisions on ecosystem services and biodiversity. Country focus areas include:
 - i. Colombia (Putumayo department, deforestation pressures, indigenous peoples)
 - ii. Kenya (deforestation pressures on the Greater Mau Forest Ecosystem)
 - iii. Tanzania (TBC: land use change between pasture, crops, and plantation forests in the Southern Highlands area)
 - iv. Thailand (organic versus conventional rice production in the northern region)
 - g. *Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Malaysia and Thailand: The core project goal is to stimulate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service provisioning for agricultural landscapes for the seven countries in scope. This project aims to protect biodiversity and contribute to a more sustainable agriculture and food sector in seven EU partner countries. The project launched in January 2019 so individual country areas of policy focus are still to be developed, though will include: agricultural extension, peer-to-peer learning, macro accounting, sustainability standards and certification, payments for ecosystem services, UN-REDD, interventions in the banking sector, reforms to taxes and subsidies, and land tenure reform.*
6. The work is supported by the following donors: European Commission; Germany (BMU) International Climate Initiative; Global Alliance for the Future of Food.