



# **Sustainable food systems contributing to the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services**

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# Present food and agricultural systems pose threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services (ES)

Agriculture is associated with **all five** primary threats to biodiversity:

- climate change,
- habitat change,
- invasive alien species,
- nutrient loading and pollution,
- and unsustainable overexploitation of natural resources.



# Present food and agricultural systems pose threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services

Farming is also a major driver of agrobiodiversity loss, **narrowing the genetic diversity** of the plants and animals on which we rely for food and nutrition





# Policies working against biodiv @ ES

- ❖ Subsidies on chemical fertilizers or synthetic pesticides (still very common)
- ❖ Subsidies encouraging large scale, high yielding monocultures.
- ❖ Agricultural research oriented towards management of high input monocultures
- ❖ Unfavorable regulations on farm-made and organic fertilizers, plant protection products and
- ❖ Allowance of GMO crops



# Food systems can work for biodiversity and ecosystem services – we need solutions!

Solutions rely on major shifts in

- policy



- behaviours



- practice



- knowledge



# **How sustainable food systems contribute to biodiversity and ecosystem services**

# Sustainable agriculture working for biodiversity

Ecosystems can be sustained by:

- providing food and shelter for wild species and thus increasing them in number and variety,
- supporting agro-biodiversity,
- maintaining healthy soils and soil fauna.





# Sustainable agriculture working for biodiversity

Ecosystems can be sustained by:

- reducing the risk of water pollution,
- cutting the demand for synthetic inputs, thereby reducing use pressure on natural habitats by the energy industry, and
- nourishing ecosystems and ensuring that they are not cleared to further extend the agricultural frontier





# **Policy options to encourage the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services in food systems**

# Some forms of policy support that encourage the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Favor agricultural research and extension on sustainable methods, agro-forestry, etc.
- Area payment subsidies for sustainable production such as agri-env schemes
- Policies discouraging the use of unnecessary packaging
- Incentives to prevent food waste and encourage food recycling
- Public procurement prioritizing food supply coming from sustainable production and smallholders
- Prohibition of agro-chemical use in biodiverse sensitive areas
- Support the development and use of organic inputs (e.g. on-farm plant preparations, vermicompost, etc.).
- Subsidize certification to biodiversity-friendly standards

# Support to research & extension in sust ag (e.g. Tunisia)



Farmer field schools in sust ag



Experimental station from the  
CTAB (Technical center for  
organic agriculture)





# Support sustainable input development and use instead of agrochemicals (e.g. The Philippines)

*Vermicompost facility built by one of the Local Government Units in The Philippines*



Between 2011 and 2016, the government:

- ❖ established, maintained and upgraded 746 organic input product facilities.
- ❖ distributed more than 1.1 MT of organic fertilizers and other inputs and 4.4 million pcs of Bio Control Agents.
- ❖ Worms given to thousands of households to start on-farm vermicompost.

# Subsidies for agri-environmental practices (EU)

Many biodiversity-friendly practices can be encouraged, e.g.:

- Preserving extensively managed grasslands
- Agroforestry
- Preserving hedges, woodlands, ponds, etc. on the farm
- Non-use of chemical pesticides, no/low-use of chemical fertilizers
- Permanent ground cover under perennial crops



**Participatory Guarantee  
Systems (PGS): market  
mechanisms that promote  
sustainable food systems**



# PGS Definition

Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) are locally focused quality assurance systems.

They certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

-- Official IFOAM PGS Definition --

# How PGS contributes to sustainable and fair food systems



## Participatory Guarantee Systems

... ensure that the smallest farmers can have access to organic markets

... ensure the integrity of organic products in a cost effective, transparent way

... facilitate local production and consumption of organic food

Therefore a perfect fit for producers in the Global South.



# The Basic PGS elements

1. Shared vision
2. Participation
3. Transparency
4. Learning process
5. Horizontality
6. Trust – “integrity based approach”





# Farming for Biodiversity



## Achievements:

- 338 proven solutions that work for agriculture and biodiversity surfaced
- 500 million global media impressions – coverage by BBC, Reuters, Deutsche Welle and nationally important outlets
- Scaling successful solutions in eight countries throughout 2018: Kenya, Mexico, Ecuador, Nepal, Ethiopia, Vietnam, Benin, Peru
  - Reaching 100.000s in rural communities worldwide through locally led campaigns

**THANK YOU!**

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