MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE FOR IMPROVED HUMAN NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING

Objectives:

The Project is a multi-country, cross-sectoral initiative aimed at researching and promoting the conservation and sustainable use of underutilized, wild and cultivated food biodiversity in Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.

Objective: To strengthen the conservation and sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity through mainstreaming into national and global nutrition, food and livelihood security strategies and programmes, by:

- Providing evidence of the nutritional potential of biodiversity for food and nutrition and create an integrated knowledge base to build support for biodiversity conservation and enhanced well-being among relevant sectors, including agriculture, environment and public health in the four partner countries
- Enhancing policy frameworks and markets that support the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use across sectors.
- Providing tools, knowledge and best practices that are adopted and scaled up in development programs, value chains and local community initiatives

Contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goals

- SDG2 (2.2 and 2.1): Tackled food insecurity by including a broader range of neglected and underutilized species in diets and cultivation practices
- SDG3 (3.13): Used biodiversity to increase dietary diversity in schools, households and social programs aimed at improving public health and nutrition
- SDG4 (4.7): Increased research capacity to analyze biodiverse foods, developed farmer training and youth training programs on biodiversity for nutrition
- SDG5 (5.7 and 5.9): Developed markets and agri-business for biodiverse foods, in particular enhanced the capacity of women farmers to operate traditional food businesses
- SDG8 (8.3): Supported smallholder farmers by linking them to institutional and conventional markets, thereby enhancing rural development and strengthening local economies
- SDG12 (12.2): Strengthened the role of biodiversity in responsible consumption and production systems, ensuring that a diversity of foods is available and affordable
- SDG13 (13.1): Support the inclusion of climate change resilient crops in smallholder production systems
- SDG15 (15.4 and 15.5): Biodiversity for food and nutrition conserved and protected in four countries
- SDG17 (17.16): Improved dialogue around biodiversity for food and nutrition and strengthened multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of conservation

Contribution towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets

- Target 1 : Generated food composition data and other information on 195 neglected and underutilized species of nutrition importance, broadening global knowledge of biodiversity for food and nutrition
- Target 2 : Enhanced policy frameworks that support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and nutrition and mainstreamed into national policy and programs
- Target 4 : Increased the integration of biodiversity into food production practices, strengthened seed systems and domestication of neglected and underutilized species
- Target 5 : Supported the conservation of biodiversity for food and nutrition and the habitats in which it grows
- Target 7, 14 : Encouraged the use of neglected and underutilized species of nutrition importance in production landscapes to enhance climate resilience and ecosystem restoration
- Target 12, 13 : Used data collected on neglected and underutilized species of nutrition importance for more effective in-situ and ex-situ conservation
- Target 17 : Contributed to updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans in 4 countries
- Target 18 : Collected information on traditional knowledge and uses of neglected local species of nutrition importance
- Target 19 : Contribute to the global body of knowledge including databases such as FAO/INFOODS

Project's results:

- **Evidence**: Nutrition and food composition data was collected for 195 species, contributing to national food composition tables and the FAO/INFOODS database. Publications and online databases made this data, along with recipes and traditional knowledge, accessible to a wider audience.

- **Policy**: In addition to revising the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, BFN played a key role in policy achievements including two Biodiversity Ordinances in Brazil (no.163 and 284) and the first ever Biodiversity Conservation Policy in Kenya (Busia County, March 2018). These policies identify the value of biodiversity for agriculture and public health, and allocate resources to protect and promote prioritized species.

- **Awareness**: The project increased the value given to biodiversity by consumers and producers, while expanding market capacity. Examples of activities and outputs include trialing a farm-to-school direct procurement model, Sri Lankan women-led traditional food businesses, farmer business school, gastronomy events such as the Wild Herb Festival in Turkey, cooking workshops, nutritionist training, education and green job training initiatives, recipe books, an online learning course and mainstreaming biodiversity toolkit.

Fig. 1 Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka and Turkey are home to a large number of nutritious traditional and/or neglected native species that are threatened by environmental pressures or lack of use. Through the BFN platform the four countries are reviving interest in these neglected species by collecting and promoting information on their nutritional value.

Further Information:
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