



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

COMMISSION ON  
GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE

# Connecting the dots: Biodiversity, Food and Agriculture

Towards biodiversity-friendly agri-food systems

15 July 2023

SPECIAL EVENT

40

1983-2023



## CONNECTING THE DOTS

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) and in the follow-up to the historic agreement on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF), the Commission, in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (International Treaty) will hold a special event preceding the Commission's 19th Regular Session (17-21 July 2023). The event will be held on 15 July 2023 at FAO Headquarters (Plenary) in Rome, Italy.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Commission's Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors raise important questions.

- What are the distinctive roles, objectives, commonalities and differences of the three instruments?
- How can responsible ministries, organizations and relevant stakeholders collaborate to implement the different instruments in a coherent, mutually supportive way?
- How can the FAO, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Commission and the International Treaty jointly support countries in implementing and monitoring the implementation of these instruments?
- What role is there for connecting the dots and accelerating the implementation of the instruments through FAO's technical work on fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, plant production and protection, animal production and health and nutrition?

The special event will connect the dots: address synergies, linkages and opportunities for collaboration between the different instruments and the key stakeholders behind them; discuss the role of genetic resources and other components of biodiversity for food and agriculture for the transformation of agrifood systems to make them more efficient, more inclusive, more resilient and more sustainable, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and promote the Four Betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind; and consider the mainstreaming of integrated approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture across the food and agriculture sector.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in:  
Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish and Russian

To watch the special event via webcast please [click here](#)

## AGENDA

10h00–10h20 OPENING

**Maria Helena Semedo**, *Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations*

10h20–12h00 CONNECTING THE DOTS: KUNMING-MONTREAL, ROME

*Facilitator: Kaveh Zahedi, Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO*

### THE ROLE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

**David Cooper**, *Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity*

### THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Yasmína El Bahloul**, *Chairperson, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

### THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Desterio Nyamongo**, *Director, Genetic Research Institute, Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization, Kenya* and **Jens Weibull**, *Senior Officer, Swedish Board of Agriculture, Sweden*

### THE FAO STRATEGY ON MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY ACROSS AGRICULTURAL SECTORS

**Julie Bélanger**, *Natural Resources Officer, Biodiversity Mainstreaming Unit, FAO*

### BIODIVERSITY, FOOD AND AGRICULTURE - A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

**Niels Louwaars**, *Managing Director, Plantum, Netherlands (Kingdom of the)*

### COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Normita Ignacio**, *Executive Director, Southeast Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment (SEARICE)*

### Discussion

12h00–13h00 CONNECTING THE DOTS: SECTORAL SOLUTIONS AND ACCELERATORS FOR GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

*Facilitator: Deidré Januarie, Chair, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

**Bonnie Furman**, *Agricultural Officer, Plant Production and Protection Division, FAO*

**Lifeng Li**, *Director, Land and Water Division, FAO*

**Lynnette Marie Neufeld**, *Director, Food and Nutrition Division, FAO*

**Thanawat Tiensin**, *Director, Animal Production and Health Division, FAO*

**Zhimin Wu**, *Director, Forestry Division, FAO*

**Xinhua Yuan**, *Deputy Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Division, FAO*

### Discussion

*Closing remarks: Kaveh Zahedi, Director, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO*