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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 5.2 of the Provisional Agenda

Twentieth Regular Session

Rome, 24–28 March 2025

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TAKING ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
TAKING ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

Meeting report

Los Baños, the Philippines
27 – 29 February 2024

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I. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The Regional Workshop on Taking Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific was convened in Los Baños, the Philippines, from 27 to 29 February 2024. The workshop was co-organized by the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP) and the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia) through the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) Bee Program. The meeting was held in the premises of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA). The list of participants is given in *Appendix IV*.

2. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacity of the Commission's National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (NFPs BFA) in the region in implementing the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (FA BFA), which was endorsed by the Commission and the FAO Council in 2021 in response to the report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.¹ The workshop also served as an opportunity for NFPs BFA to share best practices and lessons learned related to the implementation of the FA BFA in their respective countries.

3. Ms Cleofas Cervanica, Professor Emeritus at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, welcomed participants on behalf of the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines, Mr Jose V. Camacho Jr., who sent his apologies for not being able to attend the opening of the workshop owing to other commitments.

4. Mr Lionel Dabbadie, FAO Representative in the Philippines, opened the meeting. He pointed out that with Australia, China, Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea, the Asia-Pacific region included seven out of the 17 so-called megadiverse countries and was, thus, exceptionally rich in biodiversity. He noted, however, that as in all regions of the world – and as highlighted in FAO's report on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and the IPBES report on biodiversity and ecosystem services published in 2019² – biodiversity in the region is declining. Mr Dabbadie stressed that the Commission's NFPs BFA play a key role in the implementation of the FA BFA. He invited them to coordinate closely with sectoral focal points for plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources to ensure coherent and consistent implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action for these sectors. He thanked the University of the Philippines, SEARCA and Apimondia for partnering with FAO in the organization of the workshop.

5. Ms Megan Denver, President of the Apimondia Scientific Commission on Beekeeping for Rural Development, welcomed participants on behalf of Apimondia and expressed her hope that the cooperation between FAO and Apimondia in the organization of the regional workshops on biodiversity for food and agriculture would contribute to increased awareness of the importance of pollinators.

6. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission, welcomed participants and thanked Apimondia and the University of the Philippines for co-hosting the workshop. He stressed that the outcomes of the workshop would be brought to the attention of the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, established by the Commission at its last session, and to the Commission.

II. INTRODUCTION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

7. Biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA), i.e. the biodiversity that in one way or another contributes to agriculture and food production, is indispensable to food security, nutrition and health, sustainable development and the supply of many vital ecosystem services. The Commission has

¹ FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. J. Bélanger & D. Pilling, eds. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome.

² IPBES. 2019. *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. E. S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Díaz & H. T. Ngo, eds. IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3831673>

provided, and continues to provide, guidance on the sustainable use and conservation of components of BFA through various, mainly sector-specific, instruments and decisions, including the sectoral Global Plans of Action.³ FAO monitors the implementation of these instruments and reports back to the Commission on the status of their implementation and the status of the respective sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA). However, there is a need to manage the various components of GRFA in a more systematic and integrated way and go beyond sector-specific strategies. Reversing the ongoing loss of BFA, ensuring its conservation and improving its sustainable use require holistic and cross-sectoral approaches that include actions at genetic, species and ecosystem levels. Such approaches need to account for the fact that well-managed agricultural production systems can produce a range of ecosystem services that have positive effects on the environment and on human well-being. The FA BFA aims to create a contextual framework for the coherent and consistent implementation of the Commission's sectoral Global Plans of Action and for the sustainable use and conservation of BFA, including associated biodiversity and wild foods, as a basis for food security, nutrition and health, sustainable food and agriculture, and poverty reduction and livelihoods.

8. The workshop was divided into five sessions. Session I featured presentations on agrobiodiversity and food security, the ecosystem approach to BFA, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the FA BFA.⁴ Session II addressed the status of BFA and its management in different Asian and the Pacific countries. Sessions III to V addressed the region's gaps and needs with regard to the three strategic priority areas (SPAs) of the FA BFA: Characterization, assessment and monitoring of BFA (SPA 1); Management of BFA (SPA 2); and Institutional frameworks for BFA (SPA 3). Session V also addressed the implementation of the FA BFA through regional cooperation.

III. SETTING THE SCENE: BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – THE GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

9. Ms Monica Kobayashi, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), introduced the session by giving an overview of relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.⁵ Mr Leskien gave a presentation on the FA BFA. Ms Nur Azura Binti Adam, Deputy Director for Programs, SEARCA, gave a presentation on the linkages between biodiversity and food security. Ms Megan Denver gave a presentation on the case for an ecosystem approach to the management of pollinators.

IV. THE STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

10. Mr Arvin C. Diesmos, Senior Director, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, introduced the session with a presentation on the status of biodiversity, including BFA, in the ASEAN region. Mr Rex Victor O. Cruz, Professor Emeritus, University of the Philippines, Los Baños, illustrated the different roles of biodiversity in climate change adaptation.

11. NFPs BFA and designated representatives gave presentations on the status of BFA in their respective countries, including information on country activities related to the various strategic priorities of the FA BFA.

V. CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS

12. Two presentations opened the Session on SPA 1 (Characterization, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture). Ms Jurgenne Primavera, Chief Mangrove

³ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/policies/global-instruments/en>

⁴ FAO. 2022. *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

⁵ CBD/COP/DEC/15/4.

Scientific Advisor, Zoological Society of London, presented the important role of mangroves, the threats they face, and opportunities for their management and conservation. Mr Wilfredo Roehl Y. Licuanan, Full Professor of the Biology Department and University Fellow of De La Salle University, the Philippines, reported on the status of coral reefs in the ASEAN region and efforts to survey and monitor them.

13. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to the national implementation of SPA 1 (Characterization, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture). The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 1 of *Appendix II*.

VI. MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

14. Mr Rene N. Rollon, Professor, Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, University of the Philippines Diliman, the Philippines, gave a presentation on aspects of the conservation of coastal ecosystems and mitigation of global warming through blue carbon. Ms Orawan Duangphakdee, President, Apimondia Regional Commission for Asia, and Director, Native Honeybee and Pollinator Research Center, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburri, Thailand, along with Ms Cervancia, gave a presentation on pollinator diversity in Asia and the Pacific and practices for protecting pollinators in agroecosystems. Ms Julie Bélanger, Technical Officer, FAO, gave a presentation on biodiversity-friendly practices, including on FAO's activities in assisting countries to select and implement such practices.

15. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to the national implementation of SPA 2 (Management of biodiversity for food and agriculture). The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 2 of *Appendix II*.

VII. CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION TO IMPLEMENT THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

16. Mr Frédéric Castell, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO, presented the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors⁶ and the action plan⁷ for its implementation as an example of how biodiversity can be mainstreamed across a public institution in the area of food and agriculture.

17. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to SPA 3 (Institutional frameworks for biodiversity for food and agriculture) and cooperation at national and regional levels, including capacity building, strengthening of legal, policy and incentive frameworks, and cooperation and funding. The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 3 of *Appendix II*.

VIII. CLOSING

18. Mr Dan Leskien thanked the UPLB Bee Program and SEARCA for hosting the workshop. He thanked all the speakers and participants for their enthusiasm and active engagement during the workshop and expressed his gratitude to Apimondia for having co-organized the event. He also thanked the Government of Germany for the generous support that had made the workshop possible.

⁶ FAO. 2020. *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en>

⁷ FAO. 2021. *2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5515en>

APPENDIX I

**AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL WORKSKOP ON TAKING ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

DAY 1: 27 February 2024	
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
OPENING	
09:30 – 10:00	Jose V. Camacho, Jr., Chancellor, University of the Philippines Los Baños Lionel Dabbadie, FAO Representative in the Philippines Megan Denver, Scientific Commission Beekeeping for Rural Development, Apimondia
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee break
SESSION I	SETTING THE SCENE: BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE - THE GLOBAL POLICY LANDSCAPE
10:15 – 11:15	<i>The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</i> Monica Kobayashi, Programme Officer, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity <i>The Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i> Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture <i>Linking agrobiodiversity and food security</i> Nur Azura Adam, Deputy Director, Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study in Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) <i>Pollinators – the case for an ecosystem approach to biodiversity for food and agriculture</i> Megan Denver, Scientific Commission Beekeeping for Rural Development, Apimondia
11:15 – 12:00	<i>Discussion</i>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch
SESSION II	THE STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
13:30 – 14:00	<i>Status of biodiversity in the ASEAN region</i> Arvin C. Diesmos, Director of the Biodiversity Information Management Center, ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB) <i>Role of biodiversity in adapting to and sustaining life amidst climate change challenges</i> Rex Victor O. Cruz, Professor Emeritus, University of the Philippines Los Baños

14:00 – 14:30	<i>Discussion</i>
14:30 – 15:30	<i>Reports by National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and designated ad hoc representatives</i> SPA 1: Characterization, assessment, and monitoring of BFA SPA 2: Management of BFA SPA 3: Institutional frameworks for BFA
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	<i>Reports by National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and designated ad hoc representatives (continued)</i> SPA 1: Characterization, assessment and monitoring of BFA SPA 2: Management of BFA SPA 3: Institutional frameworks for BFA

DAY 2: 28 February 2023	
SESSION III	CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Mangroves: opportunities, threats, management, and conservation</i> Jurgenne Primavera, Chief Mangrove Scientific Advisor, Zoological Society of London <i>Status of coral reefs in the ASEAN Region</i> Wilfredo Y. Licuanan, Professor, De La Salle University, Philippines
09:00 – 09:30	<i>Discussion</i>
09:30 – 11:00	WORKING GROUPS – SESSION III: Characterization, assessment and monitoring of biodiversity for food and agriculture – gaps and needs WG I South and Southwest Asia (SSWA) WG II South East Asia (SEA) WG III Oceania
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:00	Session III: Reports from the working groups <i>Discussion</i>
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch

SESSION IV	MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
13:30 – 14:30	<p><i>Conservation of coastal ecosystems and mitigation of global warming through blue carbon</i> Rene N. Rollon, Professor, Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology, UP Diliman, Philippines</p> <p><i>Pollinator diversity in Asia and the Pacific and practices to protect pollinators in agroecosystems</i> Orawan Duangphakdee, President, Apimondia Regional Commission for Asia, and Director, Native Honeybee and Pollinator Research Center, KMUTT, Thailand and Cleofas Cervancia, Professor Emeritus, University of the Philippines Los Baños, Philippines</p> <p><i>Biodiversity-friendly practices</i> Julie Bélanger, Technical Officer, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, FAO</p>
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Discussion</i>
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 17:00	<p>WORKING GROUPS – SESSION IV: Management of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>WG I -South and Southwest Asia (SSWA) WG II - South East Asia (SEA) WG III – Oceania</p>
17:00 – 18:00	<p>Session IV Reports from the working groups</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>

DAY 3: 29 February 2023	
SESSION V	CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION TO IMPLEMENT THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
08:00 – 08:30	<p><i>Mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors: the example of the FAO Strategy</i> Frederic Castell, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO</p>
08:30 – 09:00	<i>Discussion</i>
09:00 – 10:30	<p>WORKING GROUPS – SESSION V: Management of biodiversity for food and agriculture</p> <p>WG I -South and Southwest Asia WG II - South East Asia WG III – Oceania</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break

10:45 – 11:45	Session V Reports from the working groups <i>Discussion</i>
11:40 – 12:00	Closing
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch

APPENDIX II

MAIN GAPS AND NEEDS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

The following sections summarize and consolidate inputs and comments received from the subregional working groups.

SECTION 1: CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS

Main gaps and needs in Asia and the Pacific

- Fragmentation of information systems and databases relevant to BFA.
- Inadequate communication and coordination between relevant stakeholders regarding BFA.
- Limited access to scientific and traditional knowledge.
- Lack or inadequacy of conservation strategies for important BFA; for example, species under threat, coral reefs and pollinators are not covered.
- Insufficient mechanisms for collaboration and sharing information on BFA among institutions and stakeholders.
- Lack or insufficiency of relevant technical capacities.
- Lack or insufficiency of resources.
- Lack of monitoring mechanisms.
- Lack or shortage of experts, in particular taxonomists, and lack of taxonomic studies.
- Low public awareness and lack of mainstreaming of biodiversity-friendly agriculture.
- Weak integration of biodiversity-friendly agriculture into local development plans and programmes.
- Insufficient regional collaboration on characterization, assessment and monitoring.

Action needed to address the main gaps and needs

- Strengthen technical capacity.
- Improve infrastructure.
- Increase resource allocation.
- Establish or strengthen regional collaboration.
- Establish standardized monitoring systems.
- Develop the capacity of policymakers, local government units, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Strengthen research and development on BFA and biodiversity management.
- Increase technology transfer.
- Introduce specific courses and stand-alone programmes on agrobiodiversity/BFA.
- Integrate biodiversity into national and local development plans.

Action to be taken by FAO and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to help address the gaps and needs

- Facilitate/support regional/country projects on characterization, assessment and monitoring of BFA.
- Hold workshops/offer training and capacity building to strengthen regional collaboration.
- Raise awareness of the importance of taxonomy and other relevant disciplines.
- Support/provide funding for documentation and improvement of best practices.

Need for indicators for monitoring the status of associated biodiversity (e.g. soil organisms and pollinators) and relevant regulating and supporting ecosystem services to complement the existing monitoring schemes for plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources

- There is a need to establish indicators for components of BFA for which no indicators have yet been established.

- There is a need for indicators for the use of traditional knowledge and practices.

SECTION 2: MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Main gaps and needs with regard to the implementation and upscaling of biodiversity-friendly practices in the Asia–Pacific region

- Limited knowledge of and experience with best practices such as those associated with sustainable farming.
 - Biodiversity-friendly practices may include:
 - climate-smart agriculture, sustainable farming systems, improvements to soil health, regenerative agriculture, organic/biological farming;
 - reduced pesticide use;
 - promotion of organic pesticides or safer alternatives;
 - minimization of soil tillage;
 - green manure, mulching;
 - cultivation of suitable forest and fruit species on land/farm boundaries, along streams and between plots on the farm;
 - agroforestry;
 - protection of conservation areas; and
 - protection of marine species.
- Lack of exchange of information and experiences with biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Insufficient resources for, and lack of research and development on, the upscaling of best practices.
- Lack of adequate knowledge sharing regarding best practices.
- Lack of proper incentive schemes for biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Weak enforcement of regulations and poor management of BFA-related ecosystem services.
- Lack of regional policy prioritizing biodiversity mainstreaming.
- Lack of NFPs BFA in many countries,
- Lack of financial resources specifically allocated to agrobiodiversity/BFA.

Actions needed to address the needs and gaps

- Improve education and awareness raising on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for food and nutrition.
- Change the mind-set of farmers.
- Upskill and build the capacity of extension officers.
- Establish demonstration farms for education and awareness raising among farmers and communities.
- Develop guidelines for sustainable farming practices (SFPs).
- Create incentives for farmers to adopt SFPs.
- Improve beekeeping knowledge and infrastructure.
- Promote greater transparency and improve stakeholder collaboration, communication and coordination in decision-making.
- Improve education and awareness raising on the importance of managing marine ecosystems (e.g. coral reefs and mangroves) for BFA, recreational use and ecosystem services.
- Document and share best practices at national and regional levels, and strengthen research and development.
- Increase the availability of resources for implementing best practices.
- Establish proper certification, standards and advocacy programmes.
- Strengthen the enforcement of regulations.
- Establish incentive schemes for BFA-friendly practices.
- Develop regional policy frameworks that incentivize agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use, strengthen landscape biodiversity, stimulate research and innovation, and

improve capacity building, education and awareness raising aimed at promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and improving agriculture, nutrition, food sufficiency and resilience.

- Develop a database for BFA.
- Develop an integrated approach to enhancing agrobiodiversity at the regional level to stimulate regional research and innovation and create greater awareness of agrobiodiversity.

Action to be taken by FAO and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to help countries/stakeholders to implement biodiversity-friendly practices

- Provide or increase technical and financial assistance.
- Assist countries in the development of targets and indicators for monitoring the implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices.
- Assist countries to secure resources for upscaling and implementing best practices in the management of BFA.
- Facilitate the development of a regional agrobiodiversity platform policy framework and/or road map.
- Support the development of knowledge-management infrastructure.

Need for targets and indicators to monitor the implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices by countries

- Establish targets and indicators to monitor changes in farming practices, such as a reductions in the use of hazardous pesticides and inorganic fertilizers, and increases in the use of green manure and mulching.
- Focus targets and indicators on farmers adopting sustainable farming practices.

SECTION 3: CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION TO IMPLEMENT THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Main challenges that need to be addressed to create institutional frameworks, including economic measures, enabling the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture (genetic resources, associated biodiversity, relevant ecosystem services)

- Lack of, or lack of effective, enforcement of cross-sectoral policy and legislative frameworks that use a holistic approach to integrate challenges and considerations across agriculture, the environment, public health and education. Such frameworks would include knowledge generation, promotion of best practices, and integration of biodiversity conservation into sectoral and institutional practices, strategies and policies.
- Insufficient implementation of fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resource, as envisioned in the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Absence of focal/lead agencies responsible for overseeing policies relevant to BFA.
- Lack of communication between responsible ministries and authorities.
- Insufficient economic valuation of BFA and ecosystem services.
- Lack of incentive mechanisms.
- Lack of linkages between academic/research institutions and policy/decision-makers.
- Lack of implementation of national biosafety frameworks and global frameworks such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and lack of use of scientific tools for assessing and managing technical, environmental and socio-economic risks in this field.
- Lack of availability of financial resources for the effective conservation and sustainable use of BFA. Many protected areas are not functioning as effectively as originally intended, in part because of a lack of resources for maintaining them and/or enforcing relevant legal frameworks.

- Lack or weakness of measures for improving the environmental status of conservation areas and of landscape-scale approaches.
- Lack of adequate capacity building (at national, provincial and local levels) aimed at avoiding/reducing land degradation and facilitating restoration.
- Legal inconsistencies and weak management/enforcement.
- Lack, or lack of enforcement, of evidence-based policies, investment plans, programmes and governance mechanisms for promoting productive and sustainable agriculture in a cross-sectoral, integrated and participatory manner.
- Limited availability and often scattered nature of the data needed for sound policy development and decision-making.

Actions to be taken by FAO and/or the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to help countries/stakeholders create enabling frameworks

- Conduct needs assessments and provide country-specific or regional-level capacity development.
- Regularly monitor implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets related to BFA.
- Facilitate the development of regional policy frameworks on BFA.
- Develop the capacity of policymakers, implementors and stakeholders.
- Promote coordinated action, including inventory and monitoring, across all sectors of food and agriculture to improve the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels.
- Facilitate access and benefit-sharing for BFA and associated traditional knowledge, including by promoting the use of the ABS Elements⁸ to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of GRFA.
- Provide resources and guidance on various topics related to BFA and the FA BFA, including through assessments, news and publications.
- Promote conservation and sustainable use, including by mapping, documenting and upscaling biodiversity-friendly practices, including those developed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Support development and implementation of policies that promote the conservation and sustainable use of BFA.
- Developing guidelines for mainstreaming BFA

Possible priorities for USD 300 000 projects addressing national or regional implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

National (or regional) project should focus on:

- characterization, assessment and monitoring of BFA to improve the availability of, and access to, information on BFA;
- collection of germplasm from important species;
- management of BFA, including by promoting sustainable use, integrated management approaches, and improvements to conservation and restoration;
- conservation and sustainable use of pollinators, soil microorganisms and marine biodiversity
- establishment of institutional frameworks/strategies for BFA at national and/or regional levels, such as the Pacific Action Plan on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (2024–2030), to:
 - build capacity through awareness raising, research, education and training;
 - strengthen legal, policy and incentive frameworks; and
 - improve cooperation and funding;
- review of the mandates of regional organizations dealing with food security to ensure they include the sustainable use and conservation of BFA;

⁸ FAO. 2019. *ABS Elements: Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture – with explanatory notes*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA5088EN/>

- capacity-building workshops; and
- harmonized regional information systems.

Possible selection criteria for project proposals addressing the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture

- Relevance to food security, climate resilience and sustainable livelihoods.
- Availability of a report on the country's state of biodiversity for food and agriculture.
- Sustainability beyond project expiry.
- Alignment with national plan and priorities.
- Relevance to national/regional priorities and contribution to existing agreed frameworks and policies.
- Presence of facilities for *ex situ* conservation.
- Level of importance of relevant sites (for selection of target sites).
- Involvement of communities.
- Regional projects should be of benefit to all countries/stakeholders involved.
- Project monitoring and evaluation should be required.

APPENDIX III

SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE FAO SURVEY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Introduction

Prior to the workshop Taking Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific, a 27-question survey was circulated to all National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (NFPs BFA) and designated representatives in the region. The survey aimed to generate an overview of activities in the region and facilitate the preparation of brief country reports during the workshop.

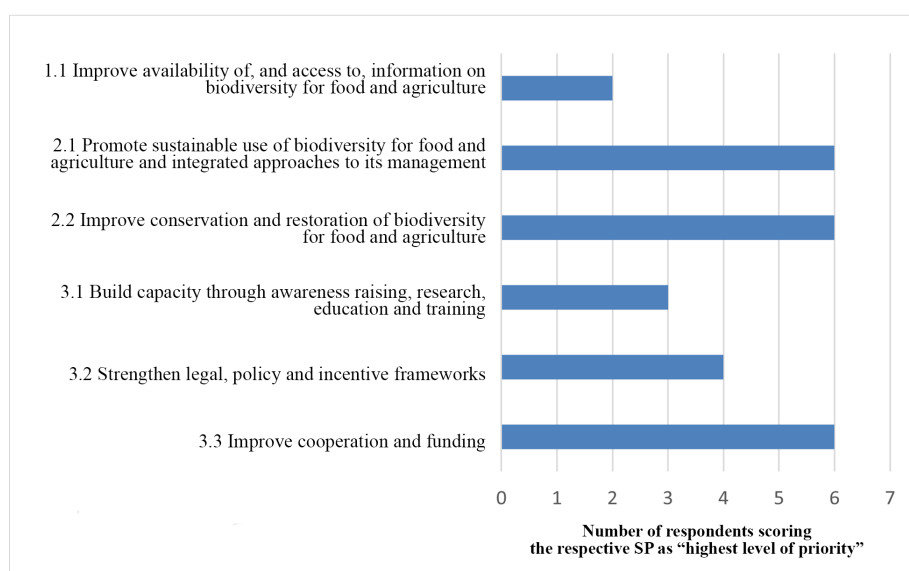
Nine responses were received within the deadline set by the workshop organizers, and these responses provide the basis for this summary.

Identification of knowledge gaps and training needs

The survey sought to identify which of the six strategic priorities of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (FA BFA) respondents considered to be of highest priority for training on, or expert assistance with, national implementation. Respondents were asked to provide a priority score for each strategic priority. Half of the 54 ratings (i.e. nine respondents rating six strategic priorities) placed the respective strategic priorities in the highest priority category. A further 13 classed them as high priorities and 11 classed them as medium-high priorities. The remaining three classed them as medium-low priorities. These generally high scores may imply that the NFPs BFA and designated representatives consider that the strategic priorities listed in the FA BFA remain up to date and relevant to their agendas.

The three strategic priorities that were most frequently placed in the highest priority category (six times in each case) were Strategic Priority 2.1 (Promote sustainable use of BFA and integrated approaches to its management), 2.2 (Improve conservation and restoration of BFA) and 3.3 (Improve cooperation and funding) (Figure 1).

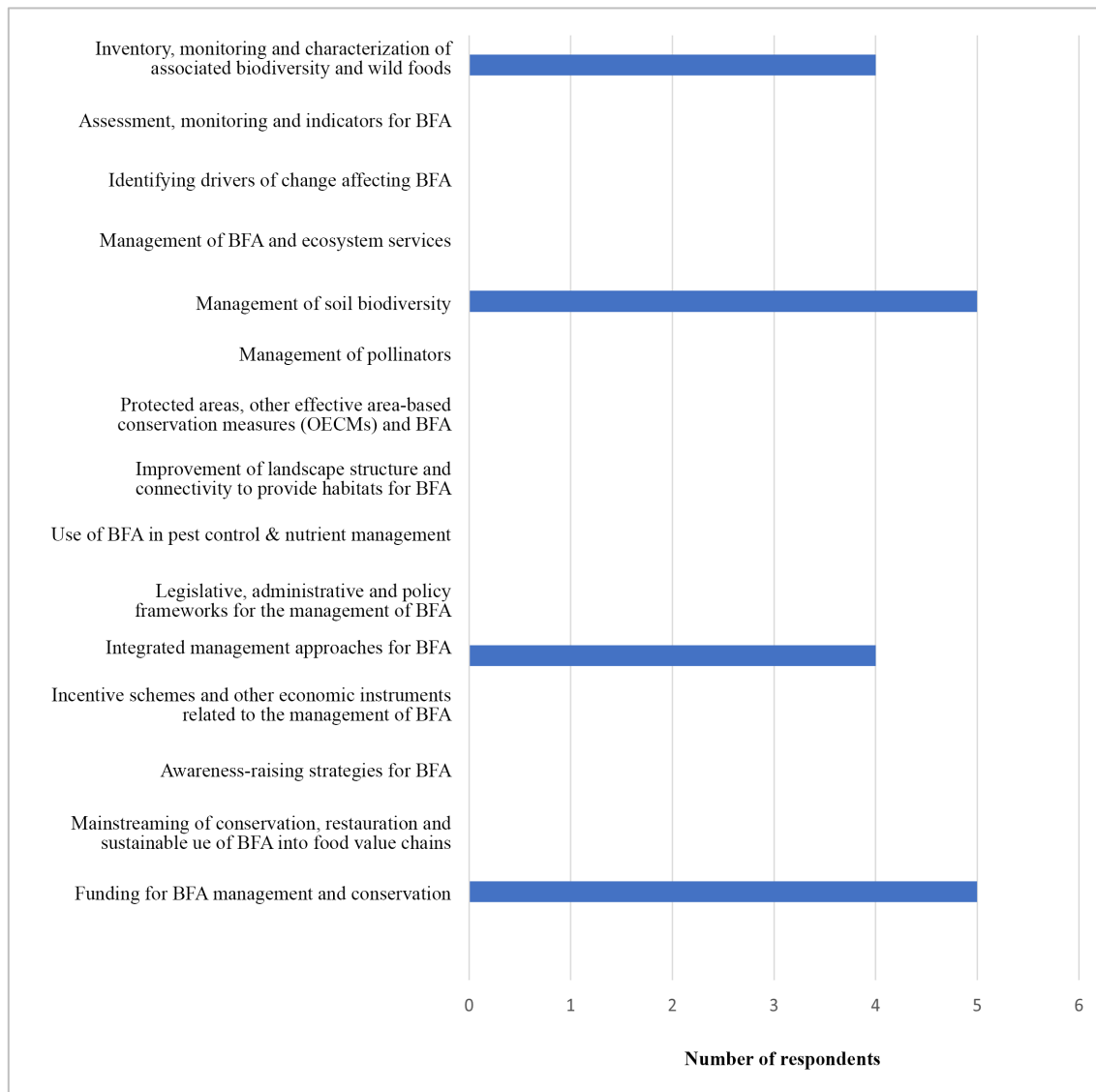
Figure 1. Priority knowledge gaps and needs (strategic priorities)



Notes: Respondents were asked "For which of the following SPs do you consider that training/expert inputs would be particularly useful to assist you with national implementation?". They were presented with a list of the six strategic priorities (SPs) of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and requested to assign a priority level to each (Highest level of priority, High priority, Medium-high priority, Medium-low priority, Low priority, Lowest level of priority). The same priority level could be assigned to more than one SP.

Respondents were further presented with a list of 16 topics and asked to mark four for which they considered that knowledge enhancement would be particularly useful. Figure 2 shows the top four responses.

Figure 2. Priority knowledge gaps and needs (specific topics)

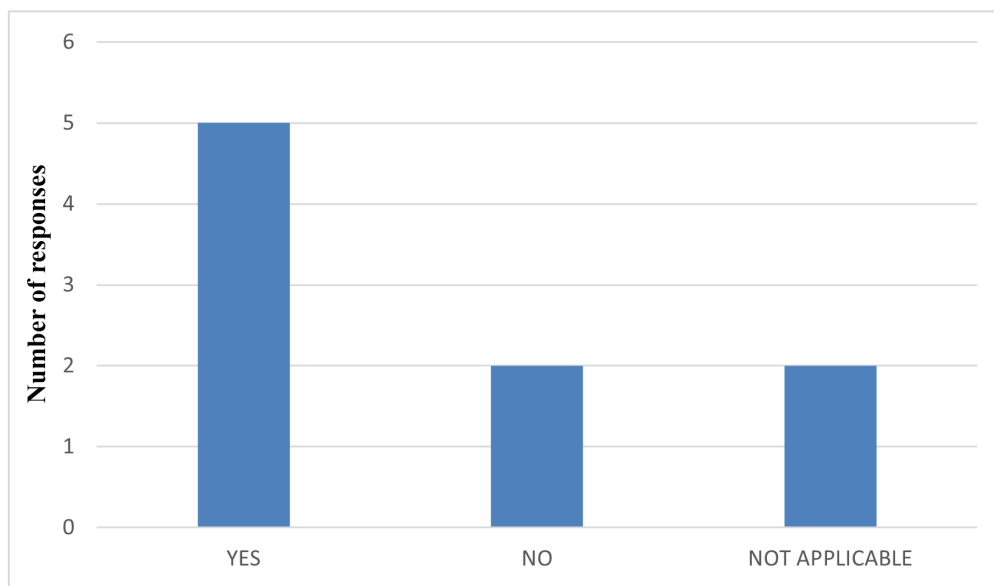


Notes: Respondents were presented with a list of 16 topics and asked to mark four for which they considered that knowledge enhancement would be particularly useful.

Status of national implementation

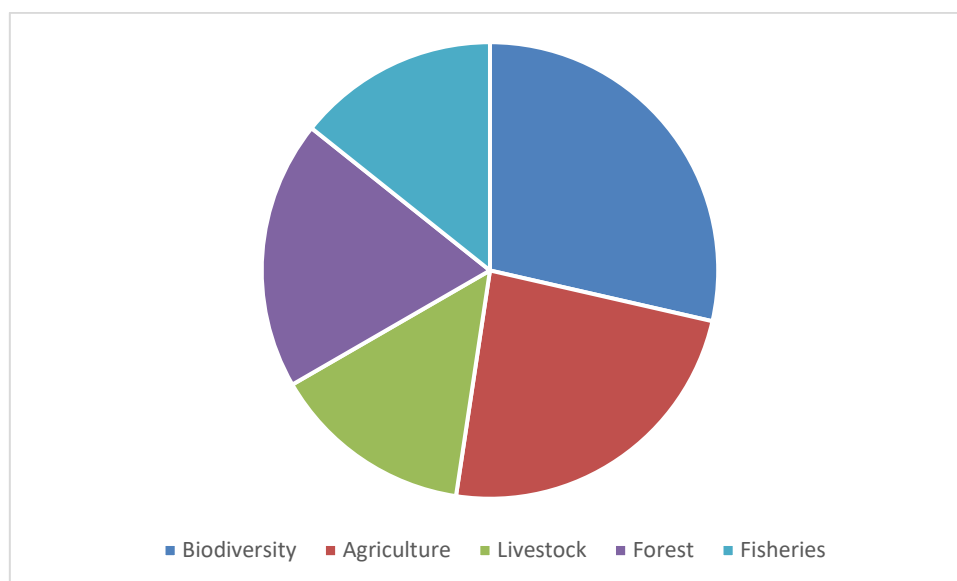
The first question in this section of the survey asked respondents to indicate whether there were national frameworks in their respective countries for the assessment and monitoring of associated biodiversity and wild foods. Five respondents indicated that such frameworks exist, while two indicated that they do not exist (Figure 3). Respondents were also asked to provide their views on policy and legal frameworks and to indicate under which umbrellas (i.e. within which broader policy frameworks) BFA-related policies have been established. The responses indicate that most BFA-related instruments fall within biodiversity and agricultural policy frameworks, closely followed by forest policies (Figure 4).

Figure 3: Presence or absence of national frameworks for the assessment and monitoring of associated BFA



Notes: Respondents were asked the following question: “Are there national frameworks on evaluation and monitoring of BFAs in particular associated biodiversity and wild foods in your country?” and given a list of options.

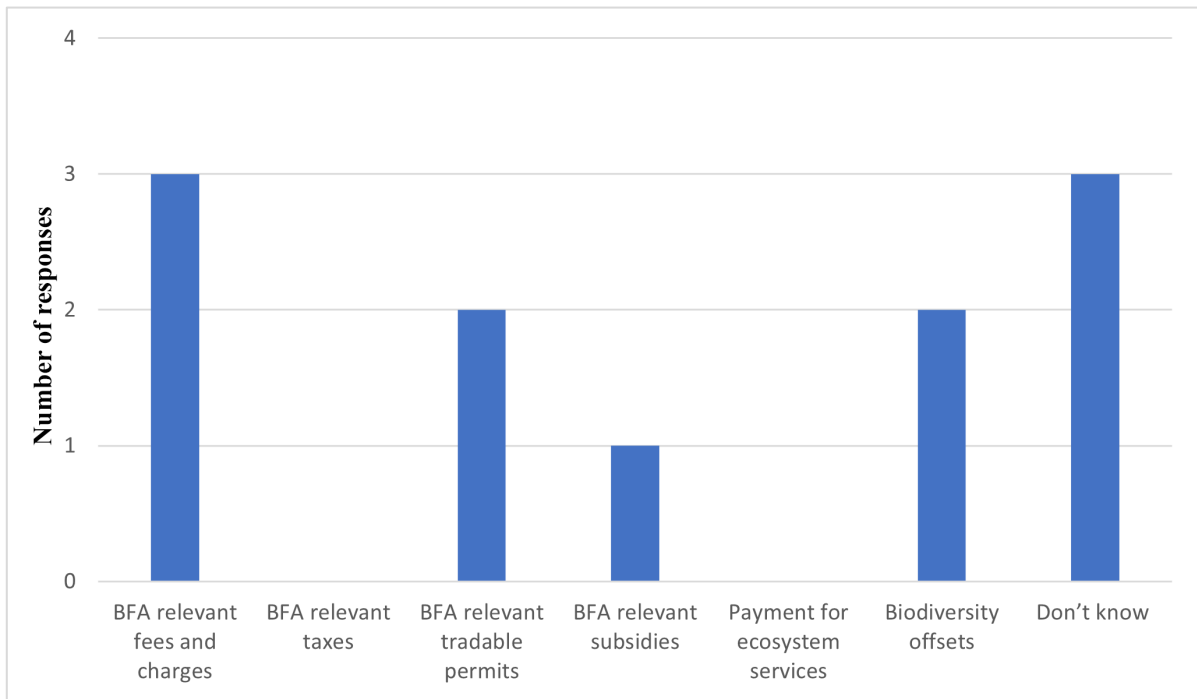
Figure 4. Frameworks within which policies addressing BFA are located



Notes: Respondents were asked the following question: “If policy and legal frameworks for BFA exist in your country, where are they located?” and given a list of options. More than one option could be chosen. The pie chart indicates the share of each option among the total responses.

Figure 5 shows how respondents answered a question about whether various types of economic instruments are used to promote the sustainable management of BFA in their respective countries. Three respondents explicitly answered “Don’t know”. The remaining six indicated that one or more of the options was in use, with BFA-relevant fees and charges being the most-frequently reported (three respondents).

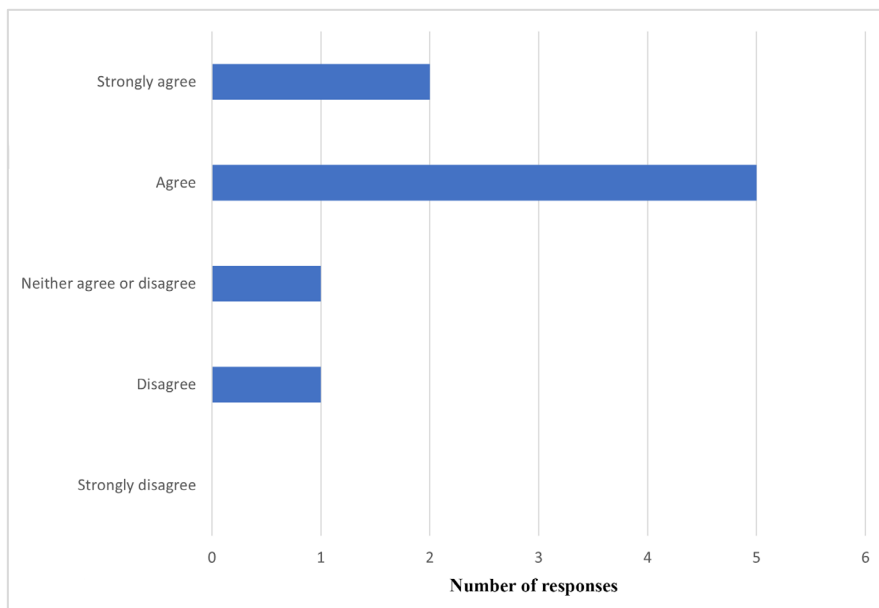
Figure 5. Level of use of economic instruments to promote sustainable management of BFA



Notes: Respondents were asked “Which of the following economic instruments are used to promote the sustainable management of BFA in your country?” and given a list of options. More than one option could be chosen.

Two respondents indicated that they strongly agreed with the statement “BFA-related policies and instruments are coordinated among each other in my country”, five that they agreed, one that they disagreed and one that they neither agreed nor disagreed (Figure 6).

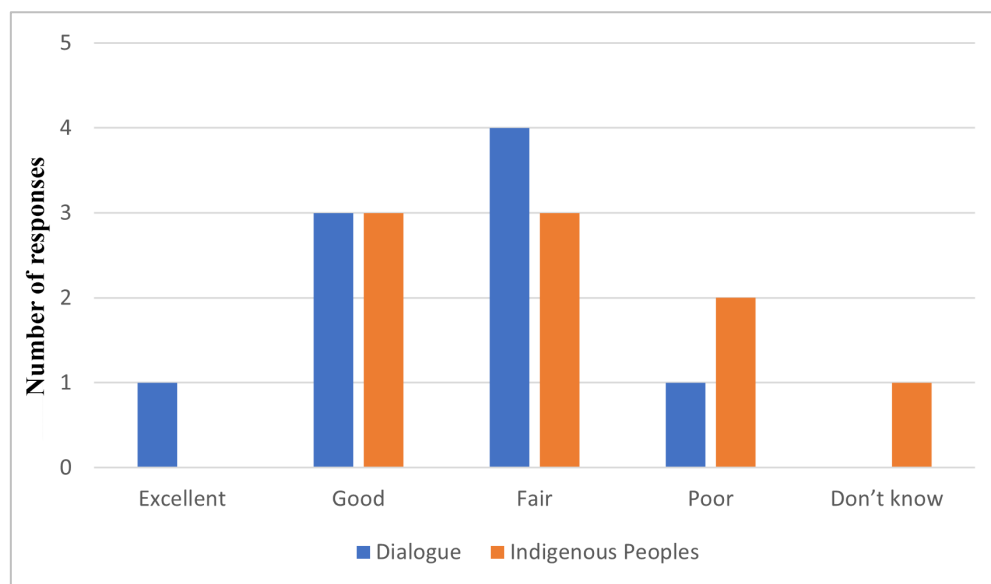
Figure 6. Status of BFA-related policies and other instruments



Notes: Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following statement: “BFA-related policies and instruments are coordinated among each other in my country?”.

In response to a question about the state of BFA-related cross-sectoral interagency dialogue in their respective countries – a critical factor in the adequate implementation of activities in a multidisciplinary sector such as BFA – four respondents indicated that the level of dialogue was fair, three that it was good, one that it was poor and one that it was excellent (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Status of BFA-related cross-sectoral interagency dialogue and status of involvement of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers in decision-making



Notes: Blue bars: respondents were asked “How would you describe the level of BFA-related cross-sectoral/interagency dialogue in your country?” and given the following options: Excellent; Good; Fair; Poor; Don’t know. The bars indicate the number of responses in each category. Red bars: respondents were asked “How would you describe the integration and participation of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers in decision-making processes in the food and agriculture sector in your country?”.

In response to a question about the integration and participation of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers in decision-making process in the food and agriculture sector in their respective countries, three respondents indicated that it was fair, three that it was good, two that it was poor and one that they did not know (Figure 7).

**APPENDIX IV
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