



**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  
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Meeting report

Santiago, Chile  
11–13 September 2023

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## I. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

1. The Regional Workshop on Taking Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santiago, Chile, from 11 to 13 September 2023. The workshop was co-organized by the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO RLC) and the International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations (Apimondia). The list of participants is given in *Appendix IV* to this report.
2. Ms Eve Crowley, FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean and FAO Representative in Chile, opened the meeting. Ms Crowley welcomed participants and stressed the importance of biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA) for the region's agriculture, food security, nutrition and resilience.
3. Mr Jeff Pettis, President of Apimondia, welcomed participants, thanked them for attending the meeting and stressed the importance of Apimondia's collaboration with FAO on BFA, a topic of great interest to both parties.
4. Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission, welcomed participants, thanked FAO RLC for hosting the meeting and supporting its organization and thanked Apimondia for its collaboration in the organization of the series of regional workshops on BFA. He stressed that the outcomes of the regional workshops would be brought to the attention of the first session of the Ad Hoc Expert Team on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, which the Commission established at its last session in July 2023.

## II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORKSHOP

5. The workshop was divided into six sessions. Session I involved presentations on BFA, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Commission's *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (FA BFA).<sup>1</sup> Session II addressed the status of BFA and its management in the region. 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 IV addressed national implementation of the FA BFA and regional cooperation in this regard.

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

6. Mr Breno Freitas, Federal University of Ceará, Brazil, gave a presentation on *Pollinators – the case for an ecosystem approach to biodiversity for food and agriculture*, and Mr Lucas Garibaldi, National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Institute of Natural Resources, Agroecology and Rural Development (IRNAD-UNRN-CONICET), Argentina, gave a presentation on *Integrating agroecological production in biodiversity policies*. Ms Monica Kobayashi, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), gave an overview of relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Mr Dan Leskien presented the FA BFA.

## IV. THE STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

7. National Focal Points on BFA (NFPs BFA) and designated representatives gave presentations on the status of BFA in their countries, including country activities related to the various strategic priorities of the FA BFA. The Commission Secretariat presented the results of the survey that had been circulated to NFPs BFA and designated representatives prior to the regional workshop. The results are summarized in *Appendix III* to this report.

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<sup>1</sup> 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>

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

8. 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**

9. Mr Sergio Zalba, FAO RLC, gave a presentation on *Invasive alien species, a challenge for agriculture, forestry and conservation of biodiversity*. Mr John Parnell, FAO, gave a presentation highlighting the importance of soil biodiversity for food and agriculture. Ms Alicia Gallardo, FAO RLC, gave a presentation on the *One Health Approach: prevention of the impact of diseases in aquatic animals in the marine-coastal biodiversity*. Ms Hien Ngo, FAO RLC, gave a presentation on *Pollinator-friendly practices in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

10. 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. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

11. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to SPA 3 (Institutional frameworks for biodiversity for food and agriculture) at national level, 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. IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

12. Participants broke into subregional working groups to discuss gaps and needs with respect to the implementation of the FA BFA at national and regional levels. The gaps and needs identified by the working groups are summarized in Section 4 of *Appendix II*.

## **IX. CLOSING**

13. Mr Dan Leskien thanked FAO RLC for having hosted the workshop and having provided excellent support for its organization and operation. 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 interpreters for their excellent work and the Government of Germany for the generous support that made the workshop possible.

## APPENDIX I

**AGENDA OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON TAKING ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

<b>DAY 1: 11 September 2023</b>	
8:30 – 10:00	Registration
<b>OPENING</b>	
10:00 – 10:15	Eve Crowley, FAO Representative Chile and FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean Jeff Pettis, President, Apimondia International
<b>SESSION I</b>	<b>SETTING THE SCENE: BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE - THE GLOBAL POLICY LANDSCAPE</b>
10:15 – 11:30	<i>Pollinators – the case for an ecosystem approach to biodiversity for food and agriculture</i> Breno Freitas, Professor, Universidade Federal do Ceará, Brazil <i>Integrating agroecological production in biodiversity policies</i> Lucas Garibaldi, Principal Researcher, National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Institute of Natural Resources, Agroecology and Rural Development (IRNAD-UNRN-CONICET), Argentina <i>Kunming-Montreal GBF: Creating the synergies</i> Monica Kobayashi, Programme Management Officer for Agricultural Biodiversity and Inland Waters, 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 Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Discussion</i>
<b>SESSION II</b>	<b>THE STATUS OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.</b>
<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	
12:00 – 13:00	Antigua and Barbuda Argentina Brazil Chile Colombia Costa Rica Cuba

13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:30	Ecuador El Salvador Guatemala Haiti Honduras
15:30 – 16:30	Jamaica Mexico Nicaragua Panama Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
<b>SESSION III</b>	<b>CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS</b>
16:30 – 17:30	<b>WORKING GROUPS – SESSION III: CHARACTERIZATION, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE – GAPS AND NEEDS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mesoamerica (ES)</li> <li>• South America (ES)</li> <li>• Caribbean (EN/ES)</li> </ul>

<b>DAY 2: 12 September 2023</b>	
10:00 – 11:00	<b>Session III: Reports from the working groups</b> <b>Preliminary results of the participant survey</b>  <i>Discussion</i>
<b>SESSION IV</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<b><i>Invasive alien species, a challenge for agriculture, forestry and conservation of biodiversity</i></b> Sergio Zalba, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean  <b><i>Soil Biodiversity</i></b> John Parnell, International Consultant Soil Biodiversity, FAO  <b><i>One Health Approach: prevention of the impact of diseases in aquatic animals in the marine-coastal biodiversity.</i></b> Alicia Gallardo, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean  <b><i>Pollinator-friendly practices in Latin America and the Caribbean</i></b> Hien Ngo, Biodiversity and Pollination Expert, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Discussion</i>

12:30 – 13:00	<b>WORKING GROUPS – SESSION IV: MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mesoamerica (ES)</li> <li>• South America (ES)</li> <li>• Caribbean (EN/ES)</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 15:00	<b>WORKING GROUPS – SESSION IV continued.</b>
15:00 – 16:00	<b>Session IV      Reports from the working groups</b> <i>Discussion</i>
<b>SESSION V</b>	<b>CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b>
16:00 – 17:00	<i>The example of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Agricultural Sectors</i> Frédéric Castell, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO  <i>National implementation examples on mainstreaming biodiversity in the agricultural sector</i> Sol Ortiz, General Director of Policies, Prospective and Climate Change, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mexico; Hesiquio Benítez, General Director of Cooperation and Implementation of CONABIO, Mexico.
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Discussion</i>

**DAY 3: 13 September 2023**

10:00 – 11:30	<b>WORKING GROUPS – SESSION V CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mesoamerica (ES)</li> <li>• South America (ES)</li> <li>• Caribbean (EN/ES)</li> </ul>
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Session V      Reports from the working groups</b> <i>Discussion</i>
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
<b>SESSION VI</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>
14:30 – 16:00	<b>WORKING GROUPS – SESSION VI IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mesoamerica (ES)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• South America (ES)</li><li>• Caribbean (EN/ES)</li></ul>
16:00 – 17:00	<b>Session VI     Reports from the working groups</b> Final discussion
17:00 – 17:30	Closing



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## APPENDIX II

### MAIN GAPS AND NEEDS AND POSSIBLE ACTIONS

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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 Latin America and the Caribbean**

- There is a need for efficient inventory management.
- There are insufficient numbers of taxonomists in the subregion.
- Access to remote areas where biodiversity is located is difficult.
- A “one off” model should be avoided: monitoring should be continuous and regular rather than periodic.
- Dedicated staff and budgets (for consultants) are required.
- Skills reside mostly in extension rather than in research.
- Often governments do not see genetic resources and their monitoring as important.
- Platforms that create, update and integrate information related to BFA are absent or poorly maintained in the countries of the region.
- There is a lack of data and information on associated BFA related to wild food, particularly at the population level. Research in this field needs to be strengthened.
- There is a need to systematize and improve the availability of information on biodiversity and to address limitations to the collection of material in areas of particular interest.
- Synergies with the CBD must be promoted. Given that at least seven targets<sup>2</sup> of the Kunming-Montreal Global Framework of Biodiversity are linked to agriculture, it is necessary that NFPs BFA get involved in the process of updating their countries’ National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

##### **Action needed to address the main gaps and needs**

- The format of projects needs to be adjusted. Projects are often too short to allow their objectives to be met. Governments should carefully consider the need to ensure the continuity of many activities related to BFA.
- To ensure the sustainability of projects, it is vital that stakeholders “own” or “buy into” them. Specific actions such as creating information tools (brochures) or organizing social events such as biodiversity weeks or days for the elderly or for children are needed.
- There is a need to generate the interinstitutional agreements, capacities and financial and legal mechanisms required to create, consolidate and secure the continuity of information on BFA at national and regional levels.
- There is a need to raise awareness at the political level in the countries of the region in order to boost the characterization, evaluation and monitoring of BFA.
- There is a need to strengthen institutions through capacity development and to strengthen cooperation between national institutions so that relevant information is made available. More international cooperation is also required.

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

- In meetings with countries there is a need to stress the importance of building awareness at the local level.

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<sup>2</sup> See Targets 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14 and 19. <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets>

- Support is needed for capacity building in areas such as indicator development, characterization, evaluation, monitoring and the use of relevant tools.
- The tools and platforms needed to implement work on characterization, assessment and monitoring need to be made available.
- Technical and financial support and capacity development related to the activities listed under the previous subheading are required.
- More diffusion of FAO information systems and training on their use is required. FAO offices at the national level could provide relevant support and material to countries.
- The Commission's Group of Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing needs to be strengthened.
- The sharing of experiences between countries needs to be supported by involving competent authorities, including ministries of agriculture and the environment.
- Support for the development of national regulatory frameworks is required.
- Guidelines facilitating characterization, assessment and monitoring of BFA should be developed in close cooperation with NFPs BFA.
- The Commission and FAO should assist NFPs BFA in raising the profile of BFA at all levels, including policy level. Increased awareness at policy level may lead to improved and more sustainable support for work on BFA.

**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 provide more information on associated biodiversity. Countries are interested in focusing, *inter alia*, on soil biodiversity and pollinators. More work is needed in relation to national programmes that aim to eradicate pests such as mosquitos and the effect such local programmes can have on planned work to protect pollinators.
- The agricultural indicators agreed upon at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 15) need to be taken into account in order to reduce duplication.
- The Commission should review existing indicators to determine whether there is a need to improve them or generate new indicators.

**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 Latin America and the Caribbean**

*Knowledge gaps*

- There is limited knowledge of the negative effects of some traditional farming practices, for example burning land to clear it for farming. There is limited coordination between entities on best practices – some are encouraging practices that are not in fact biodiversity friendly and are the opposite of what is being promoted by others.
- Some farmers do not understand the relevance of biodiversity to their farming practices or its implications for increased production. If they understood this, they would support the implementation and up-scaling of biodiversity-friendly practices. For instance, in the case of the example presented to the workshop concerning the importance of clearing a patch of land in the middle of a field to encourage ground-nesting pollinators, some farmers might argue that the loss of land for production would outweigh the benefits in terms of pollination, even though the latter could double yield. Better education on BFA would increase the likelihood that farmers would take up the pollinator-friendly practice.
- There are no mechanisms that guarantee the protection of the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities or their knowledge associated with the conservation and sustainable use of BFA.

*Financial gaps*

- Limited financial resources are available to invest in agroecological tools that support the implementation and upscaling of biodiversity-friendly practices.

*Adaptation gaps*

- Biodiversity-related principles and biodiversity-friendly practices are known, but willingness to implement them is limited because of concerns that the time it takes to implement them may lead to reductions in crop yields and lower incomes (e.g. using neem products to deal with a pest outbreak versus a quick knock-down intervention with a product such as Malathion).

*Policy gaps*

- Many public-policy instruments are outdated and require revision in order to ensure that they effectively promote the sustainable use and conservation of BFA.
- Unsatisfactory monitoring and enforcement of public policy, together with a lack of financial and human resources, mean that policy frameworks are ineffective.

*Capacity gaps*

- Capacity development and the promotion and dissemination of the many good practices that already exist in the agriculture sector are limited. One of the reasons for this is that there are no incentives promoting the use of such practices in the field.

*Value chain gaps*

- There are too many intermediaries in agricultural value chains, and this prevents producers from receiving fair revenues.

**Actions needed to address the needs and gaps***Knowledge gaps*

- There is a need to build, model, demonstrate and provide training on relevant learning models, for example the use of farmer field schools.
- Input suppliers need to be trained regarding appropriate farming practices so that they can make agroecologically friendly products and tools available.
- There is a need to implement urban farming systems that use mixed crops and animals in urban spaces under the slogan “from the country to the table”. Good agroecological practices should be implemented in these systems to educate urban dwellers and demonstrate best practices to them. This would increase biodiversity, create better appreciation of biodiversity-friendly practices and increase demand from the urban population for the use of such practices.
- There is a need to encourage family farms and backyard gardening and the utilization of best practices in these systems.
- The management of the information and traditional knowledge generated by Indigenous Peoples and local communities needs to be improved through the implementation of policies that ensure immediate action.

*Financial gaps*

- Credit needs to be made available to farmers at low interest rates.
- Locally produced, agroecologically safe products need to be developed for use in local farming systems. Examples include biopesticides and biostimulants (e.g. insecticides produced using neem, growth stimulants produced by combining bacteria and fungi, and entomopathogenic products for controlling pests). There is a need to become self-sufficient in such products so that imports can be greatly reduced.
- Incentive programmes for promoting the use of agroecologically safe products in farming systems and the diffusion of agroecological farming systems are needed – for example, guaranteed markets and higher prices, and support with inputs such as irrigation water.
- Agrotourism should be promoted, as this will stimulate the development of biodiversity-friendly operations that promote tourist visits. The foreign exchange generated will promote continued use of agroecologically friendly products and so support implementation and upscaling and facilitate buy-in from stakeholders.

*Adaptation gaps*

- Adherence to the principles of integrated pest management and the use of the farmer field school approach should be encouraged.
- Forecasting systems need to be utilized so that proactive management practices can be implemented.

*Policy gaps*

- Public policies need to be updated and implemented effectively so as to ensure that they promote the sustainable use and conservation of BFA.
- Enforcement mechanisms need to be strengthened through the provision of sufficient financial and human resources.
- The management of BFA needs to be better integrated with efforts to meet countries' food security requirements.
- Production systems need to be valorized and strengthened in terms of their diversity.
- Planning of the management of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity needs to be better integrated.
- Biodiversity needs to be integrated into agricultural policies, particularly into relevant decision-making processes.

*Capacity gaps*

- Technical capacity related to good agricultural practices needs to be improved so as to add value in their use and promote constant innovation.
- Education and capacity building need to be strengthened.

**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**

- There is a need to provide support with the development of forecasting and modelling systems that allow better appreciation of different agricultural practices. When people understand the long-term effects of such practices, beneficial ones can more easily be propelled into action.
- There is a need to train stakeholders on how to develop forecasting systems for themselves. If capacity is increased, such systems can be developed and used as teaching tools to support implementation.
- Support is needed for efforts to tackle the gaps identified under the previous subheading.

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

- Targets and indicators are important in monitoring change. Support will first be needed to determine baselines and understand the current state of implementation.
- The Commission should undertake a revision of existing indicators to determine whether there is a need to improve them or develop new indicators.

**SECTION 3: CREATING INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND ENABLING COOPERATION 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)**

- There is a lack of political will to create such frameworks.
- There is a lack of financial support for the creation of such frameworks. It will be essential to increase the efficiency of the processes of financial institutions and international cooperation agencies.
- Knowledge gaps among policymakers need to be addressed.
- There is a lack of knowledge among civil servants on how to “lobby” and generate consensus that promotes political change.

- There is a lack of personnel trained in crafting legislation and policy as well as a lack of subject-matter specialists to assist in this process.
- Lack of cooperation and synergy between institutions that have biodiversity-related mandates constrains decision-making in this field. Improving policies and decision-making will require broader cooperation and the involvement of all key stakeholders.
- Legal frameworks must focus on solving national needs and improving capacities in the field of research. Making progress towards the implementation of existing frameworks is often complex. One of the main challenges will be revising legal frameworks related to institutional arrangements in order to address gaps in the integration of sectors and cross-sectoral actors. Intersectoral collaborative work needs to be made more participatory in order to make the implementation of the Strategic Priorities 3.1 and 3.2 of the FA BFA more fruitful.
- Undersecretaries and consultant offices supporting the work of NFPs BFA need to be created.
- The agenda of the ministries of agriculture in most countries does not include the conservation and use of genetic resources or BFA. This means that “in practice they do not exist”. NFPs BFA are often operating as “one-person teams” and it is very difficult to work adequately in such circumstances.
- The stakes need to be raised. There is a need for national agricultural policies that have lifespans of at least ten years.
- Biotechnological innovations need to be considered in relation to BFA.

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

- Strengthening links and relationships between stakeholders and the national offices of FAO can help reinforce coordination among stakeholders.
- There is a need for FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to provide technical assistance in the form of relevant legal and technical expertise.
- Regional workshops on the creation of baselines that local experts can reference and use as guidelines are needed.
- Guidelines and other information products are needed. FAO could prepare such materials and distribute them among countries and FAO national offices to support NFPs BFA.
- Support is needed for the creation of national institutions for the use and conservation of genetic resources and BFA and for the creation of national and subregional networks that facilitate teamwork among relevant actors.

#### **Development of guidelines to support countries in the development of enabling frameworks**

- Requirements include the following:
  - voluntary instruments generated through participatory mechanisms that consider regional particularities;
  - general guidelines addressing overarching themes;
  - country-specific guidelines; and
  - other types of material that may help NFPs BFA, including audiovisual materials.

#### **Aspects to be addressed in guidelines**

- Issues that need to be covered include the following:
  - baseline surveys to assess basic competencies;
  - economic valuation of goods and services associated with BFA (e.g. biological control);
  - development of indicators for relevant technical, legal, social and economic matters; this should include the identification of where there are gaps and where synergies can be created;
  - use of the above-described information in the development of policy frameworks; and
  - implementation of the measures set out in Strategic Priorities 3.1 and 3.2 of the FA BFA.

## **SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **Possible priorities for USD 300 000 projects on NATIONAL implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture**

- National baseline studies need to be conducted to identify gaps related to each strategic priority. The results will guide the development of regional and national projects and highlight where action is needed.
- Countries have very different priorities, and these should be taken into account in any measures that support the implementation of the FA BFA.
- For some countries, characterization and geographical identification of major agroecosystems (including aquaculture systems) may be priorities. Other countries would rather focus on the development of an integrated framework that facilitates the implementation of the FA BFA.
- Other priorities mentioned include strengthening intersectoral institutional work to allow the effective implementation of BFA-related actions.

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

- Project proposals should be based on baseline studies identifying the status of BFA as well as gaps and needs.
- Selection criteria should reflect national gaps and needs, as identified by countries.
- Priority should be given to projects that are aligned with countries' public policies and strategies.
- Feasibility, sustainability and scalability in the execution of the projects are key, as are intersectoral and interinstitutional participation aimed at generating shared benefits.

### **Possible priorities for USD 300 000 projects on REGIONAL COOPERATION in the implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture**

- Regional cooperation is critical for the national implementation of the FA BFA. Regional projects should cover all the strategic priority areas of the FA BFA.
- Regional projects could address, for example, the identification and collection of maize and bean genetic resources, including wild relatives, relevant to the development of new varieties adapted to changed climatic conditions.
- Regional projects could involve the exchange of experiences, for example those related to sustainable coffee or cocoa systems.
- Regional projects should involve the private sector, as appropriate.

### **Possible selection criteria to be applied in the selection of project proposals addressing REGIONAL COOPERATION in the national implementation of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture**

- Experiences from existing regional projects (e.g. BOLD, supported by the Global Crop Diversity Trust) could inform the establishment of criteria for the selection of project proposals addressing regional cooperation in the national implementation of the FA BFA.
- Selection criteria should be aligned with relevant public policies, strategies and action plans and allow for the identification of "windows of opportunity".

## APPENDIX III

### SUMMARY FINDINGS OF THE FAO SURVEY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

#### Introduction

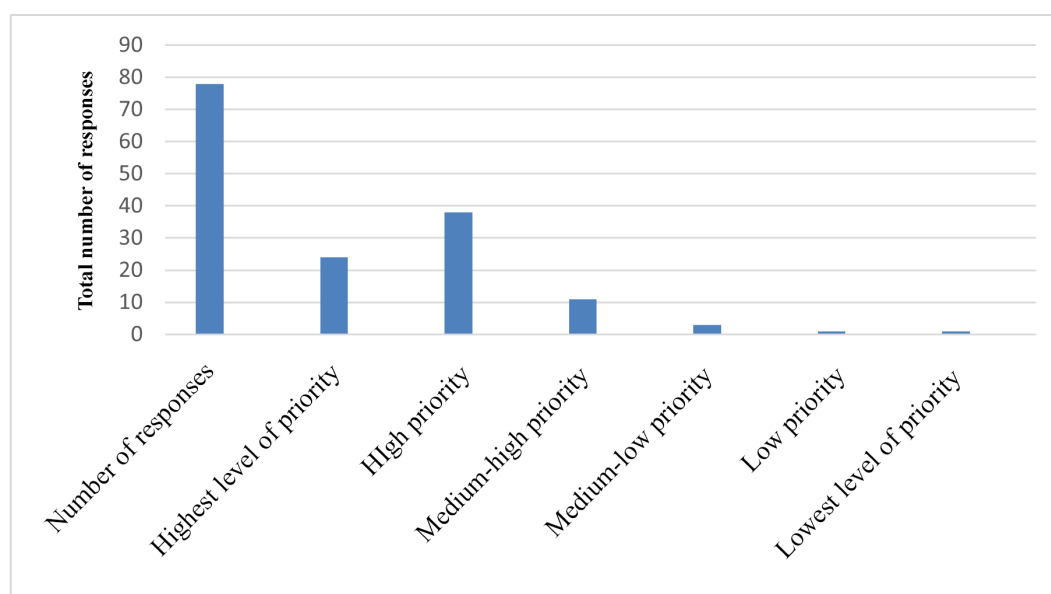
Prior to the workshop Taking Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, a 27-question survey was circulated to all National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (NFPs BFA) and designated representatives in the region. The survey aimed to generate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

Thirteen responses were received within the deadline set by the workshop organizers, and these responses provide the basis for this summary. A further five responses were received after the deadline, making a total of 18.

#### 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)<sup>3</sup> 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. More than half of the 78 ratings (i.e. 13 respondents rating six strategic priorities) placed the respective strategic priority in one of the two highest categories (Figure 1). As shown in Figure 2, six respondents placed Strategic Priority 2.1, which promotes sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture (BFA) and integrated approaches to its management, in the highest category.

**Figure 1. Priority knowledge gaps and needs (I)**



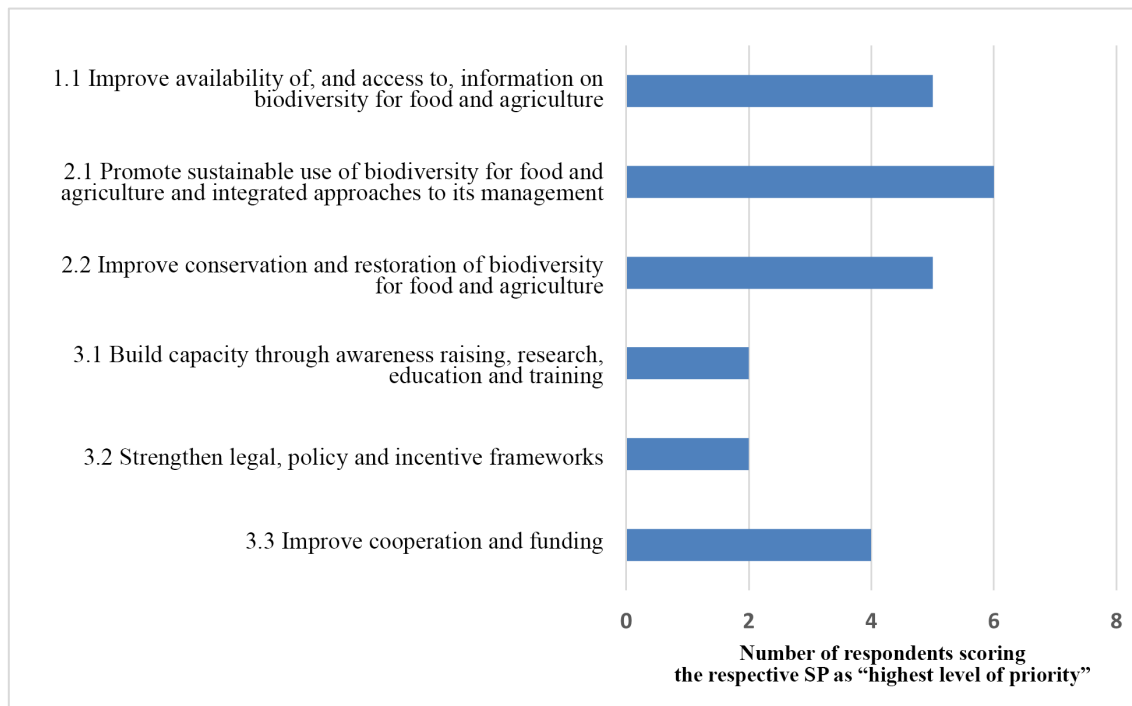
Notes: Respondents were asked “For which of the following SPs do you consider the training/expert inputs would be particularly useful to assist you with national implementation?” They were presented with a list of the six strategic priorities (SPs) of the *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and

<sup>3</sup> 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>

requested to assign a priority level to each. The same priority level could be assigned to more than one SP. The bars indicate the total number of responses for each priority level across all the SPs combined.

It can be noted that a large majority of respondents scored all the strategic priorities as medium-high priorities or higher. Low priority and lowest priority scores were each assigned only once in total, i.e. by one respondent to one strategic priority in each case. This may imply that the strategic priorities listed in the FA BFA are still up to date and relevant to the agenda of most NFPs BFA.

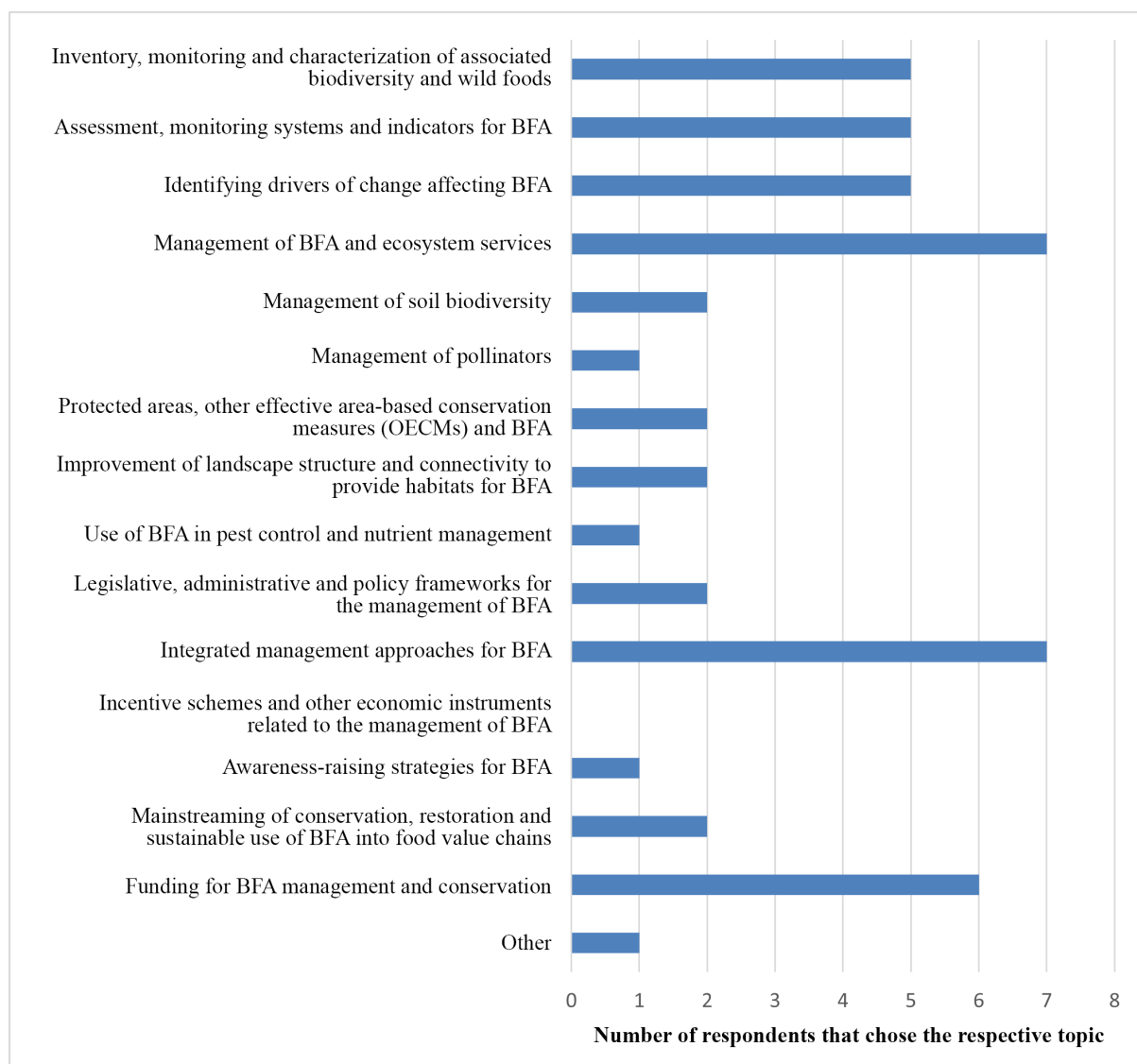
**Figure 2. Priority knowledge gaps and needs (II)**



*Notes: Respondents were asked "For which of the following SPs do you consider the 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. The same priority level could be assigned to more than one SP.*

Responses to a question about which BFA-related topics from a list of 16 diverse options were priorities for knowledge enhancement indicated that the most popular option was integrated management approaches for BFA, which was placed in the top four by seven respondents (Figure 3). All of the three most frequently chosen topics were related to management activities, the other two being financing for management and conservation of BFA, and management of BFA and ecosystem services, both of which were chosen by six respondents.



**Figure 3. Priority topics for knowledge enhancement**

*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.*

### **Sharing of best practices and lessons learned**

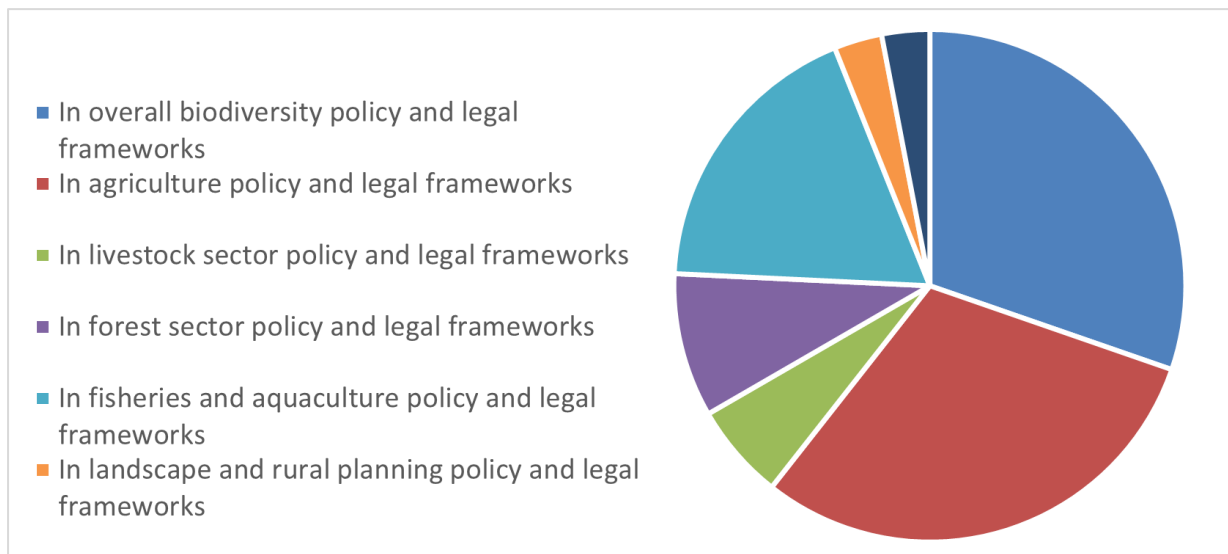
This section of the survey invited respondents to provide examples from their countries of best practices and lessons learned related to the following issues: characterization, assessment or monitoring of BFA; conservation or restoration of genetic, species or ecosystem levels; sustainable use of BFA or integrated approaches to its management; legal policy and incentive frameworks for BFA; multistakeholder, cross-sectoral or regional cooperation in BFA assessment, monitoring, management, conservation or restoration. Respondents were also invited to report country success stories or lessons learned related to capacity building or awareness raising on BFA. Unfortunately, the response rate in this section was low. More than 50 percent of the questions remained unanswered.

### **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. Eight respondents indicated that no such frameworks exist, while four indicated that they do exist. 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 (Figure 4).

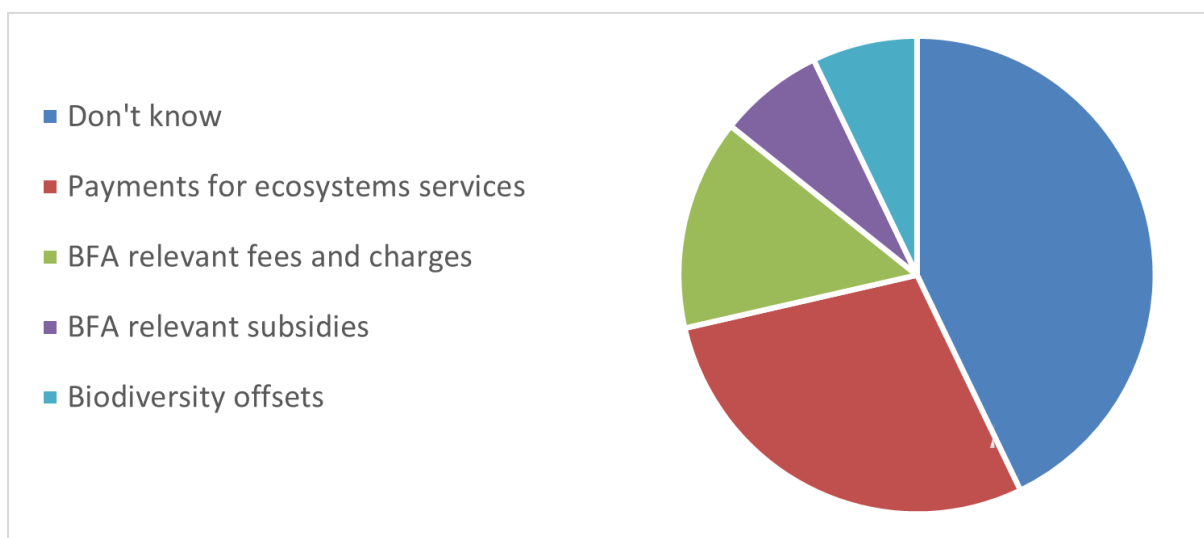
**Figure 4. Frameworks within which policies addressing BFA are located**



*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.*

Respondents were also asked whether various types of economic instruments are used to promote the sustainable management of BFA in their respective countries (Figure 5). The responses suggest a lack of knowledge about the role of economic instruments in the management of BFA. The type of economic instrument reported by the largest number of respondents was payment for ecosystems services.

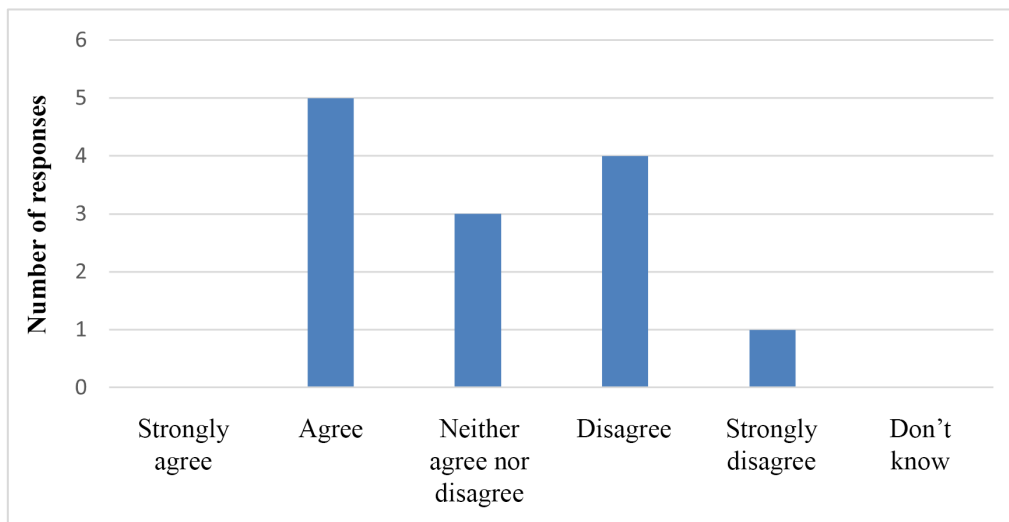
**Figure 5. Level of use of economic instruments to promote sustainable management of BFA**



*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. The pie chart indicates the share of each option among the total responses.*

In response to a further question, five respondents indicated that they agreed with the statement “BFA-related policies and instruments are coordinated among each other in my country”, four that they disagreed and one that they strongly disagreed (Figure 6).

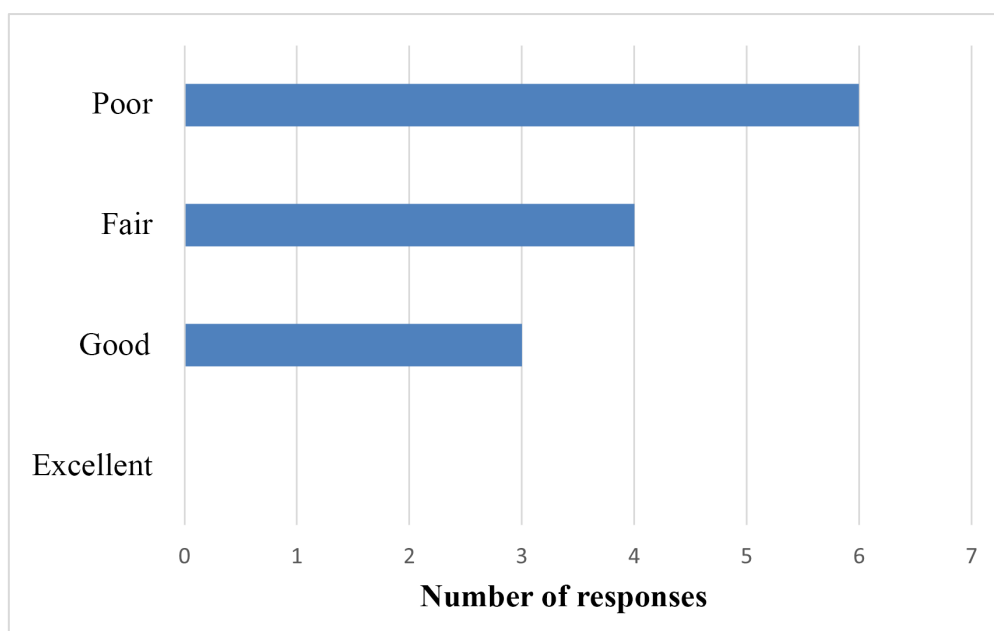
**Figure 6. Status of BFA-related policies and other instruments**



*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?” by choosing from a list of options.*

In response to a question about the state of BFA-related cross-sectoral interagency dialogue in their countries – a critical factor in the effective implementation of activities in a multidisciplinary sector such as BFA – six respondents indicated that the level of dialogue was poor, four that it was fair, and three that it was good. None reported that the level of dialogue was excellent (Figure 7). It would be interesting in future surveys to explore in more detail the reasons for the poor ratings and the disparity of views within the region.

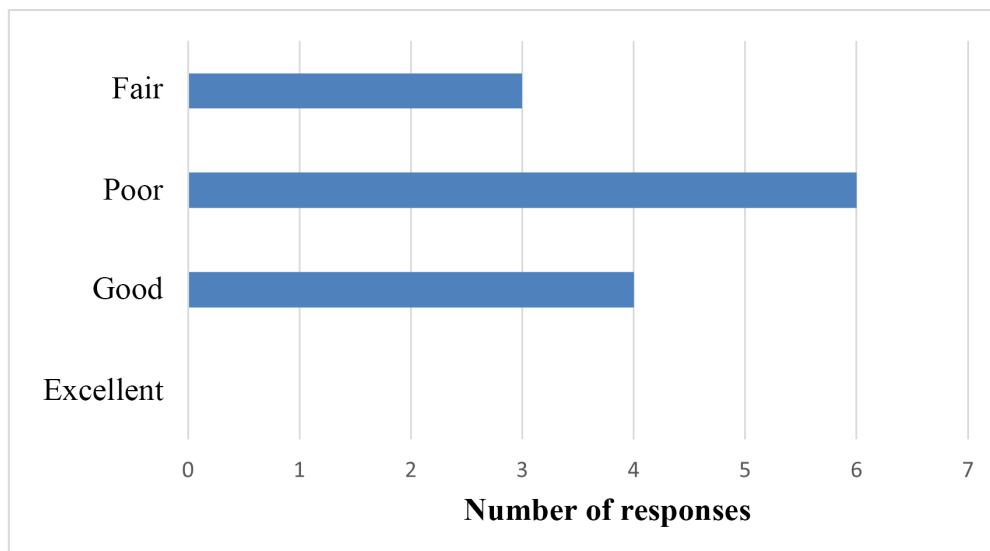
**Figure 7. Status of BFA-related cross-sectoral interagency dialogue**



*Notes: Respondents were asked “How would you describe the level of BFA-related cross-sectoral/interagency dialogue in your country?” and given a list of options.*

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, six respondents indicated that it was poor, four that it was good and three that it was fair (Figure 8). Once again, no respondents gave a rating of excellent.

**Figure 8. Status of involvement of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale producers in decision-making**



*Notes: Respondents were asked the following question: “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?” and given a list of options.*

The responses to a question about the respondents’ awareness of BFA-related regional transboundary programmes revealed that awareness about such initiatives is very limited. Seven respondents did not provide an answer, two responded negatively and four indicated that they were aware of some such initiatives. This might be an indication that effective intraregional exchanges are still very limited and that insufficient importance has been attached to transboundary information sharing within subregions and regions.

Finally, a question on the strategies that respondents would use to raise awareness of conservation and sustainable use of BFA among the general public and policymakers elicited several responses. The following strategies were mentioned: communications, awareness-raising and public-relations campaigns at the grassroots levels, with youth in schools, universities, etc.; new strategies to “bring the fields closer to the city” (*acercar el campo a la ciudad*); integration approaches; and incentive programmes.

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