



AGROBIODIVERSITY INDEX



The challenge: To secure adequate food that is healthy, safe and of high quality for all, in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Today's food systems are failing on both the consumption and production sides:

- Malnutrition affects one in three people on the planet
- Production of fruit and vegetables provides only 78% of the world population's nutritional needs
- Planetary boundaries are being pushed beyond safe limits – agriculture contributes around 24% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions and is the single largest user of fresh water on the planet.

The solution: Mainstream agrobiodiversity in sustainable food systems

Agrobiodiversity – the diversity of crops and their wild relatives, trees, livestock and landscapes – is a key component of the **sustainable food systems** needed to meet current and future food and nutrition needs.

Agrobiodiversity is critical to the attainment of the **Sustainable Development Goals**: zero hunger, healthy lives and wellbeing for all, sustainable consumption and production patterns, combatting climate change and halting biodiversity loss.

Agrobiodiversity is vital to meeting the **Convention on Biological Diversity's Biodiversity targets** which promote the

sustainable management of agriculture for biodiversity conservation and the conservation of genetic diversity of cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals, and crop wild relatives.

Agrobiodiversity is a critical component of a sustainable food system. Without agrobiodiversity a food system cannot be sustainable.

The Agrobiodiversity Index is a new tool to measure food system diversity and sustainability. Why do we need it?

Up to now, there has been no consistent way for governments, private sector and other decision-makers to assess agrobiodiversity in food systems, track change, or measure the influence that it has on other issues and sectors.

Such knowledge gaps also extend to measuring how agrobiodiversity is delivering progress to meet multiple interconnected global targets including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

What is the Agrobiodiversity Index?

The Agrobiodiversity Index is a consistent, long-term monitoring tool to measure and manage agrobiodiversity across four dimensions: diets, production, seed systems and conservation.

The Agrobiodiversity Index will help decision-makers – governments, investors and companies – ensure that their food systems are more diverse and sustainable.

**To manage agrobiodiversity,
we need to measure it**

Agricultural biodiversity (agrobiodiversity) "includes the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture, including crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries." (FAO, 2005)

Bioversity International is developing the Agrobiodiversity Index for public and private investors and practitioners to optimize the capacity of agrobiodiversity to improve food and nutrition security, human health and environmentally-friendly farming systems, now and in the future.

How will the Agrobiodiversity Index work?

It will guide and stimulate public and private sector investments in agrobiodiversity for sustainable food systems.

It will provide policymakers and private investors easy-to-digest evidence that allows them to link decisions across human nutrition, environmental protection, agricultural production, biodiversity conservation and economic development.

It will enable decision-makers to manage agrobiodiversity and guide policies and investments in food, agriculture and conservation.

It is comprised of a simple set of measures to:

- Apply across four inter-connected dimensions of diets, production, seed systems and conservation
- Use in different locations by different actors to provide insights into agrobiodiversity trends
- Provide key data for allocation of financial resources
- Measure progress towards relevant targets in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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The Agrobiodiversity Index is critical for decision-makers to measure and manage actions towards developing sustainable food systems:

- **Companies** implementing sustainable business practices that increase long-term shareholder value both by reducing risks in the supply chain and enhancing attractiveness to consumers.
- **Governments** pursuing sustainable development by investing in progressive food, agriculture and conservation actions and monitoring country progress towards global goals.
- **Investors** in Green Bonds contributing capital to sustainable environmental and climate-focused development projects.
- **Farmers, consumer groups and local organizations** wanting evidence to inform their decisions about sustainable practices and purchases.



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON
Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

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