

Synchronizing agrobiodiversity research to maximize the contribution of agrobiodiversity to human well-being

Toby Hodgkin, Julia Ndung'u-Skilton, Marije bij de Vaate

Introduction

The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research was established in 2006. It provides a framework for collaboration and cooperation among those working to maximize agrobiodiversity's contribution to human well-being and to deal with global challenges such as climate change, water quality and land degradation

> Box I <

The overall goal of the Platform is to enhance the sustainable management and use of agrobiodiversity by improving knowledge of all its different aspects. The Platform does this by providing information, identifying the role of agrobiodiversity in dealing with major global issues and promoting research.



(Bioversity International)

The Platform and International agendas

The goals and objectives of the Platform are defined by agendas aimed at improving the well-being of people throughout the world through sustainable management and use of natural resources.

> Box III <

Box I

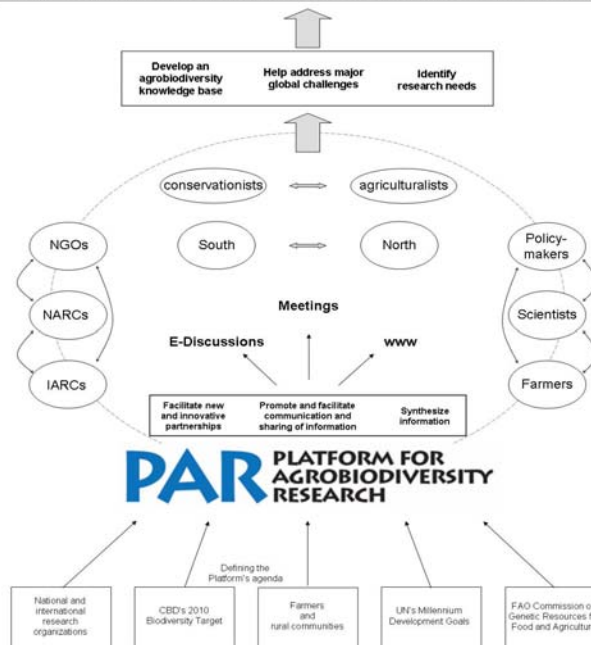
Agricultural biodiversity, or agrobiodiversity, includes all the components of biological diversity of relevance to food and agriculture as well as the components of biological diversity that constitute the agro-ecosystem: the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms, at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels, that sustain the functions, structure and processes of the agro-ecosystem.

Objectives

- To support the development of an adequate agrobiodiversity knowledge base
- To identify ways in which agrobiodiversity can contribute to addressing some of the major global challenges faced today
- To identify and facilitate new and innovative research partnerships

> Box II <

sustainable management and use of agrobiodiversity for human well-being



Box III

UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
The MDGs are globally agreed targets for generating income for the poor, eradicating extreme hunger, combating diseases, improving people's health and reversing the loss of environmental resources by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes.

FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)
The main objectives of the CGRFA are to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.

CBD 2010 Biodiversity Target
The Target aims at significantly reducing the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by 2010, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and for the benefit of all life on earth

Getting involved and becoming a member

Go to the Platform's website:

www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org



I. de Boreghy (Bioversity International)

Activities and outputs

A. Information synthesis

Information about agrobiodiversity is often hard to find, widely dispersed and fragmented. The Platform collects, collates and synthesizes available information on key topics. These analyses allow the Platform and its stakeholders to identify knowledge gaps and to promote research on these.

Current examples include:

- Providing a compendium of available tools and methodologies to measure the status of agrobiodiversity at genetic, species, ecosystems or farmer-field level;
- Integrating knowledge on the ways in which different components of biodiversity interact.

B. www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org

The Platform's website

- makes available information on agrobiodiversity and provides links to information sources;
- supports collaboration by providing an open database of experts for policy-makers, landscape managers, scientists, civil society organizations, etc.;
- offers a space for discussions and organizing e-discussions.

C. Organizing meetings

Platform meetings

- promote communication;
- encourage sharing of experiences and knowledge;
- support and facilitate further development of agrobiodiversity research;
- support adoption of research findings by land managers and policy-makers.



Pollination as an ecosystem service (CIP)

Contacts

Rome, Italy
Toby Hodgkin (project coordinator)
Bioversity International
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a
00057 Maccarese
+39 066 118 212
t.hodgkin@cgiar.org

Nairobi, Kenya
Marije bij de Vaate (associate expert)
Bioversity International
United Nations Avenue
PO Box 30677
00100 Nairobi, Kenya
+254 722 4524
m.bijdevaate@cgiar.org

Box II

"The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research can play an important role in facing the increasing challenges in agriculture and conservation of biological diversity, by strengthening the knowledge base needed to support the development of a more sustainable agriculture and halt the loss of biodiversity in and around agricultural areas"
Dr Ahmed Djghlaf, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (1st Stakeholder Meeting of the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research, 29-31 May 2006, Rome, Italy)

"We look at the Platform as a tool instrumental to finding new kinds of research and related partnerships to fill current knowledge gaps and to proving that agrobiodiversity can make a fundamental contribution to sustainable development"
Dr Salvatore Arico, UNESCO-Man And Biosphere (1st Stakeholder Meeting of the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research, 29-31 May 2006, Rome, Italy)

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