

# Agroecology and the right to Food and nutrition in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Webinar “Food Sovereignty, Gender, and Poverty Eradication”

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# Structure

- 1) Biodiversity and food production
- 2) Food Sovereignty and the human right to food and nutrition
- 3) Agroecology as a core element of a food system that enhances biodiversity
- 4) Linking agroecology, human rights and the CBD

# 1) Biodiversity and food production

## A multidimensional relationship

- Food production (agriculture, livestock keeping, pastoralism, artisanal fishing etc.) depends on biodiversity and functioning ecosystems
- The dominant model of food production is a main driver of biodiversity loss (deforestation, pollution, destruction of soils, overfishing etc.)
  - A utilitarian approach to protecting biodiversity – intrinsic value of nature/biodiversity
  - Food production as a problem in the context of biodiversity protection

2)

# Food Sovereignty and the human right to Food and nutrition

# From Food security to Food Sovereignty

- Food security: focuses on availability of calories and other nutrients
- Food Sovereignty: brings to the forefront issues of power and control
  - The right of people to define their own food systems (Nyéléni Declaration)
- Human right to food and nutrition (ICESCR, art. 11)
  - “realized when every man, woman and child, **alone or in community with others**, have physical Access at all times to adequate food or means of its procurement” (CESCR; GC No. 12)
  - Core elements: availability, accessibility, adequacy and sustainability
  - State obligations: respect, protect, fulfil
  - Nutritional well-being: regular access to a diversified, balanced, safe, fresh, culturally adequate diet.

- Collective right
- Women's rights: self-determination and control over their bodies and life
- Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007)
- Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP, 2018)
  - Small-scale food producers particularly depend on functioning, healthy ecosystems
  - They also play an essential role as stewards of ecosystems

3)

Agroecology as a core  
element of a Food  
system that enhances  
biodiversity



- A way of food production and management that builds on and stimulates natural processes (resilience and productivity)
- Co-evolution of human communities with their natural environment vs. domination, exploitation and destruction of nature and ecosystems
- Complexity – diversity
- Cultivated biodiversity – wild biodiversity
- Agricultural ecosystems
- Intra and inter-specific biodiversity
- Living soils as a basis for fertility (and to store carbon)
- Cultural dimension and diversity
- Challenge power structures (incl. patriarchy)

4)

Linking agroecology,  
human rights and the  
CBD

- Agroecology as states' obligation under the human right to food and nutrition in the face of deep ecological crises
- Agroecology to ensure sustainable livelihoods and a dignified life
- Agroecology as a key strategy to realize women's rights and realize gender equality
- The right to biodiversity (UNDRIP, art. 20, UNDRIP, art. 31)
- *In situ* conservation (CBD, art. 8)
- Sustainable use (CBD, art. 10)
- Key issues:
  - Right to land and territories (UNDRIP, art.; UNDRIP, art. 17)
  - Protection of management systems, including seed systems (UNDRIP, art.; UNDRIP, art. 19; 20.2)

## Entry points in the post-2020 GBF

- Target 9: move away from the productivity framing; increase area under agroecological production; reduce area under monocultures
- Target 12: FPIC and protection of traditional knowledge in the context of benefit sharing (including DSI)
- Targets 14 and 17: accountability (in particular for corporations) for activities that are detrimental to biodiversity
- Target 16: precautionary approach to biotechnologies and new technologies
- Mainstream women's rights and gender

# Thank you

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