

A Farmer-Driven Approach to Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Agricultural Sectors

Biodiversity faces unprecedented threats as it deteriorates on a global scale;¹ all the while, natural resources are increasingly under pressure due to the compounded impact of population growth, changing lifestyles and climate change. **Biodiversity**, soil and water are crucial to the functioning and resilience of agricultural and forest ecosystems. Declining biodiversity, soil health and water quality and availability are not only a crisis in and of themselves; they exacerbate the effects of climate change and have a direct impact on food, fiber, and fuel production, with a strong negative effect on farmers' income and livelihoods.

Just as farmers depend on the environment, the environment depends on farmers, who actively and in cooperation with nature manage 1/3 of the world's land. Goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)'s simply cannot be achieved without the active involvement of **Farmers**. Their meaningful participation in the CBD process is thus instrumental in realizing agriculture's potential to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity whilst meeting the food and development needs of the global population.

At COP16, the **World Farmers' Organisation (WFO)**² calls for greater

- 1) Recognition of the ecosystem services provided by farmers through sustainably managed agriculture, including through the adoption of regenerative and agroecological approaches;
- 2) Engagement of farmers as key actors and partners in global biodiversity efforts, with a special attention to the role of women and young farmers;
- 3) Support to farmers in the implementation of sustainable and locally appropriate agricultural practices enhancing both biodiversity and food security.

The WFO is willing to work with Parties and other stakeholders to

- Make the **GBF Monitoring Framework** applicable to the agricultural sectors, ensuring the indicators accurately reflect the situation on the ground by: integrating farmers' needs and expertise in the indicators' review and gaps' identification, reporting burdens and constraints; supporting farmers' access, collection and analysis of high-quality data for the planning and implementation of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices; enhancing farmers' capacity for sustainable production and access to effective and affordable tools.
- Secure substantial **financial backing** for GBF goals, including under the GBF Fund and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), ensuring direct access for farmers to biodiversity finance through their organised structures and providing them with tailored financial tools and incentives, including through conducive policy frameworks and innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, price premiums from certification schemes and farmer-centric biodiversity markets.
- Identify key **capacity building and development** needs and priorities and strengthening extension and advisory services for farmers, supporting the development and implementation of programs and initiatives enhancing their knowledge about biodiversity and biodiversity-friendly practices and their ability to improve on-farm efficiency without harming environmental outcomes.
- Ensure farmers' meaningful participation in biodiversity policy development and implementation at all levels, including the revision or update of **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**, to align policies with on-the-ground realities, instilling ownership, and catalyzing sustainable practices.
- Contribute to global efforts to **mainstreaming biodiversity** across the agricultural sectors by providing adequate means of implementations and creating an enabling environment where farmers can sustainably manage and invest in their land, addressing issues like land access, tenure and succession.

¹ See e.g.: Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, 2019), and Global Biodiversity Outlook (CBD, 2020).

² The WFO is a member-based association including national farmers organisations and agricultural cooperatives from all over the world and acting as a convener for *all* farmers in key multilateral fora. More information, including the [WFO Policy on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Natural Resources, approved in June 2024](#), are available at www.wfo-oma.org or by writing to info@wfo-oma.org.