

Biodiversity

A strategic value in resilient food production systems

Meeting Report

March 18 2010, Nutshuis, The Hague, Netherlands



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Report prepared by Jostein van Vliet, Warner Strategy & Fundraising

Summary

Biodiversity is crucial in poverty alleviation. With this in mind, the Netherlands Ministry for Development Cooperation created the Biodiversity Fund, managed by Hivos and Oxfam Novib. Eight years after its inception there are lessons to be learned from the organisations and programmes supported. This expert meeting served to discuss and share these lessons learned.

In his keynote speech, Dr. Pimbert (IIED, UK) made a case for urgently rethinking and transforming production models to build more resilient food systems. Ms. Pelegrina (SEARICE, Philippines) showed that farmer-participatory plant breeding contributes to biodiversity and resilience, an important insurance for small scale producers. Results of the programme show that it is an important and crucial supplement to the formal seed system when aiming at an increase in productivity and resilience. Farmers need access to land, markets and technology in order to be successful, often through close interaction with other stakeholders. Mr. Mushita (CTDT, Zimbabwe) addressed the need for better access and benefit sharing through laws and policies and the recognition of farmers' rights in governance structures. Dr. Niggli (FIBL, Switzerland) argued, based on extensive research data, that organic farming can feed the world if current disincentives are removed. Ms. Kreider (ISEAL, UK) provided insights into the use of voluntary standard systems to sustainably use biodiversity. One of the bottlenecks is to increase the supply of products by small scale producers, that comply to the standards.

In the light of climate change and the ongoing degradation of agricultural fields we need to further consider sustainable options for poverty alleviation in rural areas. We have to make much more use of locally available potential and ensure that there is an enabling environment at national and international levels.

Biodiversity is so far considered a side dish in the international arena. The biodiversity debate needs to be much more closely linked to other debates on poverty and wellbeing. The presentations, reflections and discussions showed that experience is growing with potentially interesting measures that result in the promotion and improvement of sustainable biodiversity use in agriculture and trade. At the same time these have shown to be successful tools for poverty alleviation.

We need the best of both worlds in many aspects: conservation and agriculture, larger farmers and small holder farmers. And for this, vibrant civil society organisations at local and international levels have shown to play a crucial role to ensure that stakeholders in business, government and research circles focus their agendas on a more sustainable use of biodiversity. Small holder farmers should not be seen as a problem but as part of the solution to successfully address issues of productivity, sustainability and in general well being.

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Introduction

A welcoming speech was given by **Allert van den Ham**, director of programmes of **HIVOS** on behalf of the organisers.

Biodiversity in agricultural systems contributes to poverty alleviation and to addressing the challenges of climate change. The Biodiversity Fund organized an expert meeting to highlight the insights and experiences of expert civil society organizations and discuss ways to create more resilient food systems and to scale up trade in products from biodiverse agricultural systems.

Biodiversity has to be part and parcel of our poverty focused strategies. Biodiversity is a direct lifeline for many people living in poverty and an indirect one for the rest of the world. The context for poor people is rapidly changing. They have to deal with issues related to food, feed, fuel, and financial crisis. Additionally, local food production increasingly has to compete with export crops including biofuels. Climate change only increases these challenges.

Internationally the role of agriculture is increasingly recognized, for example in the World Development report in 2008. The International Assessment of Agricultural Sciences and Technology for Development (IAASTD) however calls to deeply rethink the strategies toward revitalizing the agricultural sector. It asks for a new agricultural paradigm, focusing on the role of (poor) farmers.

Based on 8 years of experience from the Biodiversity Fund and its partners we would argue that biodiversity, if well managed can reduce risks for poor people. It requires a long term political, financial and technical support. Key lessons that can be drawn from the BDF experiences are:

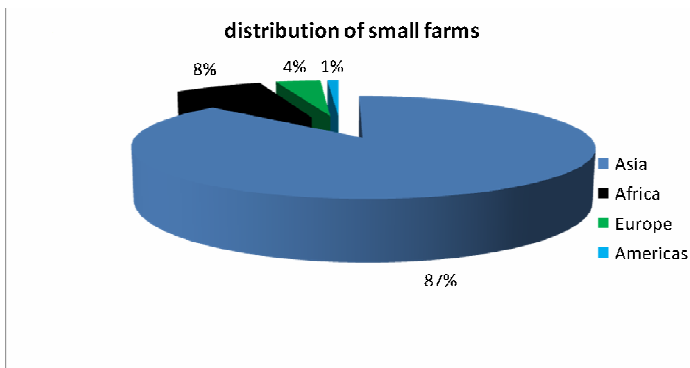
- Agriculture that takes biodiversity and the ecosystem seriously is able to increase productivity and reduce poor/small holder farmers' risks.
- Increasing biodiversity requires an acknowledgement that farmers are competent managers of diversity. We need to build upon their knowledge, take them seriously as stakeholders and support their technical and political empowerment.
- Markets can work for biodiversity conserving production processes. Marketing sustainably produced products through a verification system has triggered an increase in demand and has future potential.

There is an urgent need to build more resilient food systems with higher biodiversity and to scale up trade from biodiverse agricultural systems. Today we'd like to discuss how we can promote implementation and scale up to create a larger impact.

Keynote speech – Michel Pimbert (IIED)

Michel Pimbert of the **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** addressed in his keynote three questions relevant to biodiversity: What is wrong with the global food system, what can we expect from biodiversity, and how can we build more resilient food systems?

In answering these questions agriculture should be seen as a broad concept looking at the whole system from seed to plate. The focus is not just seed biodiversity – it also includes the wealth of species and ecosystems in landscapes that sustain farming, pastoral, forest dwelling and fishing



communities. Small farms should play a major role in the discussion on the global food system: they occupy 60 percent of the arable land, and 85 percent of farms worldwide are less than 2 hectares. Family farms and peasant based production is still responsible for 85 to 90 percent of the world's food production while 10 to 15 percent of the production is traded internationally. Small farmers have urgent needs such as disaster relief and pension

funds. It is important that progress builds on the whole body of small farmers.

Image 1: Small farms occupy 60% of world's arable land. Of 525 million farms world wide 85% are below 2 hectares. Source: Nagayets / IFPRI, Small Farms: Current Status and Key Trends, 2005

What is wrong?

Today's food and agriculture generates high levels of environmental degradation. There is growing malnutrition and food insecurity in the midst of plenty. Dr. Pimbert highlights that the problems in the global food system are the result of human-made choices. The prevailing views on modernity and neo-liberal thinking have justified the elimination of small-scale producers.

International Assessment of Agricultural Sciences and Technology for Development (IAASTD) recognizes the urgent need for a radical change in the way the world grows its food. Business as usual is not an option as industrial food and farming is more than ever becoming unsustainable. The IAASTD advocates reducing vulnerability of global food systems through local based innovations and agro-ecological approaches. There is an urgent need to rethink and transform production models, to move from linear production to more elegant systems that mimic natural cycles and to design productivity wholes from genes to species to ecosystems.

What can we expect from biodiverse agri-food systems?

Biodiversity provides food and livelihood security, but also basic ecological functions, for example pollinations and pest control. Small scale farms are usually rich in biodiversity and are much more productive and resource conserving than large monocultures. When looking at total output small farms are more productive than bigger farms. A study from the University of Michigan¹ suggests that small farms can feed the world, even when taking into account the predicted population growth.

Additionally, small farms have a positive effect on climate change as they contribute to a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions: soils of small farms absorb and fix carbon better than soils farmed with conventional fertilizers. The challenge is to think beyond the single farm and transform the whole food system including energy production, waste and water management.

How to build more resilient food systems?

Over the last 10 years there has been an emphasis on market based solutions. But money markets are only one form of economic exchange. This view should be rethought to include other forms of exchange such as solidarity economy, barter, and the gift economy. More plural and inclusive forms of economic exchange that combine the above can provide the economic framework(s) needed to sustain diverse local food systems, livelihoods, equity and cultural diversity.

¹ See: Badgley et al, 2007. Organic agriculture and the global food supply. Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems. 22 (2):86-108

It is necessary to transform knowledge and ways of knowing. Science and technology needs to be democratized and de-institutionalized to support autonomous learning and action.

It is important to strengthen the roles of local organizations as these mediate the relationship between communities and the environment (e.g. their role in facilitating local adaptive management of biodiverse food systems and the ecosystems they are embedded in).

The current corporate enclosure of land, seeds, water and forests must be reversed. Gender equitable and culturally appropriate property rights as well as community controlled land and territory are pre-requisites for the spread of biodiversity rich food systems based on local knowledge, institutions and management.

The governance of food systems needs to be more democratic. New institutional and methodological innovations are needed on a wide scale to enhance farmers' voices and put citizens in the centre of decision making. Decentralised governance and more direct forms of democracy are essential for the development of more resilient and biodiversity rich food systems.

More resilient food systems with higher agro biodiversity

Ditdit Pelegrina of **SEARICE** discussed on-farm conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity, based on their 25 years field and lobby experience in South East Asia. **Andrew Mushita** of the **Community Technology Development Trust** presented on need for equal access and benefit sharing and farmer's rights to preserve genetic diversity. **Álvaro Toledo** of the Commission of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture of the **FAO**, and **Bert Visser** of the **Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands (CGN)** and members of the audience provided reflections and reactions.

Farmers' on-farm conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; *Ditdit Pelegrina, South East Asian Regional Initiative for Regional Empowerment (SEARICE)*

Farmers in the South East Asia region experience three forms of tenancy. The first is land tenancy: In the Philippines 52 percent of the farms is under tenancy. More than 80 percent of the land is controlled by less than 30 percent of the land owners. This pattern extends to other countries in the region. Farmers experience market tenancy as they have little control over their prices. Farmers are reduced to contract growers by traders. This affects the farmers' decision making and their access and control over resources. Additionally there is technological tenancy: Farmers are reduced to end users of technology rather than seen as technology innovators.

To deal with these forms of tenancy SEARICE developed three sets of objectives. Biological objectives to conserve and develop plant genetic resource diversity, socio-economic objectives to address poverty and social change and political objectives to assist small-holder farms to regain control over information, knowledge and technology .

SEARICE is present in Bhutan, Laos, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. In these countries SEARICE works in a variety of systems and markets: both in intensive and market oriented systems where genetic erosion is more pronounced and in subsistence areas, where there is relatively high biodiversity and corresponding knowledge. Through adapting the Farmer Fields School (FFS) approach, SEARICE works on the one hand by strengthening the skills of farmers through discovery based learning processes and on the other hand by linking farmers to the broader political processes around them.

Farmer plant breeding contributes to the increase of varieties in the fields. Additionally, traditional varieties are infused by the farmers. In some cases farmers develop more varieties than the formal systems, and in this way they complement the national system. This results in an increase of yields, more seed security, the ability to share seeds in times of crisis, and a decreased dependency on the international market for seeds.

Commercial institutions have taken up the use of the farmer-developed varieties. In some countries seed clubs now supply a large amount of the market whereas the formal market lags behind. The work of SEARICE and its partners have resulted in increasing acknowledgment of farmers' capacities to breed high quality varieties. In for example Vietnam and Thailand the amount of varieties produced by farmers greatly exceeded the new varieties produced by the formal system. In Laos a 10-20 percent increase in yield from the use of farmer' seed varieties was reported, closing a three month hunger gap for indigenous communities. Governments increasingly recognize the work of farmers in regulation and through awards given to farmers. The work of SEARICE and its partners have resulted in ongoing debates on the development of a system that promotes farmer developed varieties complementing current seed rules and regulations and Intellectual Property rights. This resulted for example in inclusion of on-farm conservation in Bhutan's 5-year plan.

In order to succeed, farmers should be recognized as innovators as done in Vietnam by the government. Farmers taking an active role in variety development democratizes research. Transfer of technology happens from farmer to farmer and also from farmers to institutions.

From the experiences of SEARICE and its partners it can be concluded that developing biodiversity takes time. Developing biodiversity takes social transformation. Through the work of SEARICE, farmers recognize their ability of farmers to secure resources for themselves and institutions recognize their contributions as well. Conservation is linked to economics, institutions and politics. Therefore, objectives on these levels are essential. At the farmers field, there is no differentiation between biological and political work.

Enabling equitable access to plant genetic resources and farmers rights at local and global level, *Andrew Mushita, Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT)*

In his presentation Mr. Mushita shares that despite the difficulties in a country like Zimbabwe, CTDT has successes fully been able to legislate pro-poor farmers policy. Many countries lack comprehensive policies on equitable access and benefit sharing for farmers. There is a need for policies that look out for the interests of the farmers, not only the seed companies. Access and benefit sharing needs to promote exchange of seeds. There are no mechanisms in the national gene banks for the farmers to benefit from the exchange. These policies should restore historical imbalances and need to distribute wealth evenly and equitably between farmers and the formal sector system. The responsibility for these policies lies at the national level, but in many cases governments have limited capacity to amend existing legislation or develop new laws. FAO or other international institutions need to play a role to support national governments.

CTDT does policy work at the national and regional level. CTDT learned the capacity to negotiate was a critical factor. Through their work farmers managed to access and benefit from material in the system of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. CTDT also facilitated plant variety selection based on the farmers' preferences which made the farmers seed self-sufficient through on-farm seed-multiplications.

Farmers have many disadvantages: for example, intellectual property rights are not recognized for farmers while they are for the breeding companies. Farmers are not legally recognized as generators

of technology. There are no public funds to strengthen the farmers' activities and farmers don't have access to public materials.

The rights of farmers should be formalized, institutionalized and implemented at the national level. The process of formalizing the rights can be done through national consultative processes to amend existing seed laws to incorporate rights of farmers and to develop regulations to existing acts. Regional coordination and information sharing on policies and genetic erosion is necessary.

There is a need to develop a global framework for domestication of farmers' rights. The international institutions could facilitate consultative processes and facilitate regional harmonization and rationalization. Furthermore on the international level information sharing can be facilitated, for example through a database of enacted rights and policies and through highlighting experiences with implementation of farmers' rights.

Reflections and discussion:

Álvaro Toledo, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO sees a need to go from political interest to political action. The experiences shared at this meeting support this. The development of the BDF runs parallel to developments in FAO. In 2002 the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) was adopted. Since then there has been much discussion on how to make the text a living instrument and how to make it work at the national level. The experiences of the speakers give insight on how to do the implementation.

Throughout history the practice has been to exchange seeds throughout the world. Countries are interdependent and need to exchange and share resources to guarantee their future. This is why cooperation is very important. The treaty refers to the past and future contributions of farmers. In these 8 years the interest has shifted to the future role of farmers to develop biodiversity and the recognition of their role as creators, not only users, of technology.

Multi stakeholder involvement is important in this respect. Projects are successful because there is an interplay between the formal and the informal system. The initiatives are not only technical projects but are also a way into policy process.

Bert Visser, Centre for Genetic Resources:

We need to rely on local solutions for local situations. Participatory breeding initiatives are doing this. But in the light of the current changes such as climate change and deforestation we also need wider action. We have to look at issues such as soil conditions and access to water so farmers can stay in front of the climate change curve.

Ditdit Pelegrina mentioned how important it is to maintain the importance of diversity. We have to realize that a farmer seed system is dynamic. The number of varieties that are maintained is less interesting, the most important thing is that there is the capacity to maintain the diversity. Most of the genetic erosion happens not in either small agriculture or even in large scale agriculture. It happens in the phase when there is a change from small scale farming to a more formal system.

We not only need regulation on access and benefit sharing, we need laws that promote exchange, we cannot have laws that restrict it. We need better Intellectual Property laws and need to have good seed laws as currently they are restrictive.

Some reflections by the audience:

- Small farmers and biodiversity are linked by nature and culture. We should support farmers as custodians in this landscape. Participatory plant breeding has the potential to be productive as an alternative to the formal system.
- We need local solutions. There are large problems ahead such as the water crisis and climate change. This means thinking out of the box. Culture and world view is implicit in the discussion while they are very important. It is hard to talk about biodiversity without talking about cultural diversity.
- We need laws that promote exchange, we cannot have laws that restrict it. We need better IP laws and seed laws as the current laws are restrictive. While small scale farmers contribute largely to the global food production and to biodiversity, the national governments do not recognize this. We still have a lot of work to do to convince the people at the national level to promote farmer rights and biodiversity.

Scaling up trade from biodiversity agricultural systems

Urs Niggli of the **Research Institute for Organic Agriculture** presented on organic agriculture in the context of ecological sustainability productivity and livelihoods. **Karin Kreider** of **ISEAL** presented on voluntary standard systems and their potential pull for biodiverse agricultural systems. **Hans van den Heuvel** of the **Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, **Sietze Vellema** of **Wageningen University** and members of the audience provided reflections and reactions.

Organic agriculture in the context of ecological sustainability, productivity and livelihoods, *Urs Niggli, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture*

There are different approaches to increase sustainability in agriculture, differing in complexity. For example, implementing technologies such as minimum or no tillage is less complex than organic farming and agro forestry systems. More complex approaches tend to be more sustainable. There is still huge development possible for organic farming in terms of increasing productivity.

Biodiversity is an important element for organic farming. Sustainable biodiversity use is also a risk management strategy for low input farms. On organic farms there are many positive sustainability parameters, for example higher diversity in species and beneficial animals.

While much data is from temperate regions, increasingly data becomes available on organic farming in tropical regions. There are several important studies² showing that in tropical areas converting a farm to organic can increase yield. On the other hand it is always difficult to upscale case studies and successful field trials, for example because it might be hard to find enough manure and organic material to support the scaling up.

²See: Gibbon and Bolwig, 2007; Pretty et al., 2008, UNEP/UNCTAD; Badgley et al., 2008

Organic farming results in improved ecosystem services, benefits to social and human capital, improvement to infrastructure and markets and increase in income. Long term trials are under way to know how the yields perform ecologically and economically.

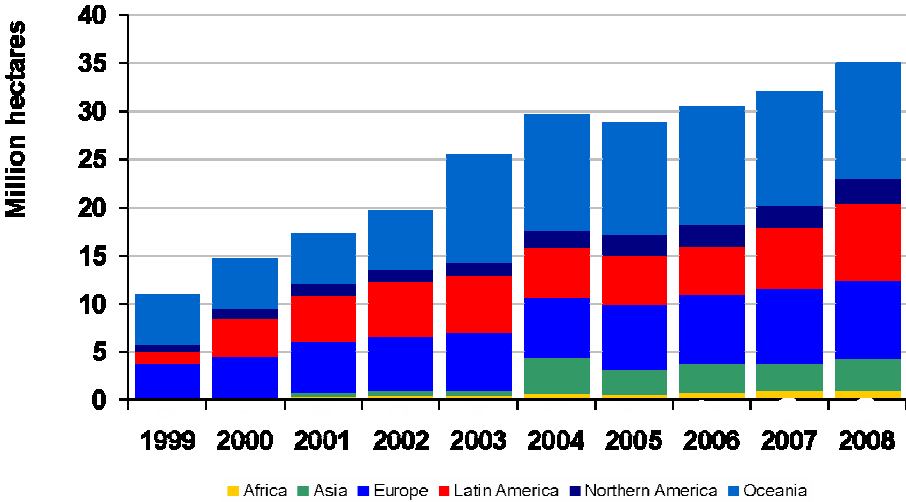


Image 2: Growth of organic farmland. Source: FiBL, IFOAM & SOEL 2000-2010

Can these effects be upgraded to successful markets? While the speed of the growth is amazing the increase of conventional farmland is even higher so it has little relative impact. In order to give small holder and larger farms more access to markets we have to go for cheaper and flexible systems.

Voluntary standard systems and their potential pull for biodiverse agricultural systems. Karin Kreider, ISEAL

The ISEAL alliance is a network of voluntary standards systems organizations like IFOAM and Rainforest Alliance. ISEAL develops codes of good practice around standard-setting, verification and impact. There are 11 members in full compliance, another 11 associate members that have committed to comply in 3 years.



Image 3: Eleven members of the ISEAL alliance are in full compliance. Another 11 members have committed to demonstrate full compliance in the coming three years.

Standards systems serve to pull biodiverse agriculture systems. For example through the Fairtrade price and price stability farmers were able to resist less ecologically sound practices that produce higher yields. In Cote d'Ivoire farmers have planted shade trees for their plantations, enhancing biodiversity and improving quality on the longer term. Biodiverse agricultural land is also used as wildlife corridors or as buffer zones. For example, SAN Member SalvaNatura uses certification of coffee farms to strengthen buffer zones around national parks.

Certified products have gone mainstream, for example, 30% of the tea in the UK is certified and 20% of the world's bananas are certified. However, this has happened only for a small range of commodities. In order to upscale it is important to link supply and demand. Currently supply is the bottleneck. The millions of smallholders have a tremendous need for capacity building. Producers need to be supported more to implement changes to comply with standards. This requires a coordinated effort by standards systems, donors and governments. Furthermore, a continued and increased commitment from companies, and an integration of standard systems in conservation plans and other national policies are important. Through the ISEAL impacts code more data will become available on the impacts of the standards systems, paving the way for new approaches and investments.

Reflections and discussion

Hans van den Heuvel, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Biodiversity is a side dish on the political agendas. The debate on, for example, scarcity does not include biodiversity. The rationality for linking biodiversity with other debates such as poverty reduction is there. In the presentations we have seen that biodiversity approaches can indeed produce. Increased production results in more income and jobs, reducing poverty.

On the certification issue, it is important that the costs and benefits for the farmer are balanced so they are able to better position their products. It could be good to look for competition between systems so the farmers can pick and choose according to their needs.

Sietze Vellema, Wageningen University:

The world of participatory breeding and the world of value chains need to be connected. In order to upscale biodiversity a proof of principle needs to be defined. One principle could be that farming communities are able to reach social settlements, and this could be the basis of up-scaling efforts.

On certification, sometimes you need pressure sometimes standards. We could learn from the experience of the Biodiversity Fund on when to use standards and when to use pressure. We can also learn from organizations on how to manage supply. To transfer knowledge a value chain perspective could be useful. The hubs where products come together could be an entry point to embed transfer of knowledge.

Some reflections by the audience:

- Loss of biodiversity is happening at an enormous scale because of developments in palm oil and soil. Bio fuels have an enormous risk for food security and biodiversity. Sometimes standards are necessary, sometimes issues require pressure.
- Voluntary standards seem to stay at the level of the farms. Due to its nature, biodiversity invites to think at a higher systems level. Organisations such as Rainforest Alliance is trying to include this in their standard setting process.

- While not included in the presentations, livestock is important in biodiversity. It is difficult to develop systems for increasing biodiversity in animals but there are efforts for example on chicken and roosters in Asia.
- Externalities are not priced into the products. This is one of the key points that should be addressed.
- In this discussion we are not talking about the poorest of the poorest. We need a different approach for those farmers. Often small farmers collect a wide variety of things from their environment. How can trade and certification help these farmers?
- There is some romanticism in the discussion on the small farmer. We have to realize there are people that don't have enough to survive. If farmers just don't have resources to survive they should have a way out.
- There is a lot of knowledge, for example how small farmers dealt with the drought in the eighties in Africa. It is important to communicate this knowledge better.

Reflections by the organisers

Carol Gribnau of Hivos:

The entry point for Oxfam Novib and Hivos was the recognition that a wide variety of species and ecosystems, or in short biodiversity, is crucial for those who directly depend on it, the rural poor. Their ability to manage biodiversity is also of importance to the global community. Rural poor provide products and services of global significance: Food, ecological services and raw materials. The figures presented, very impressively show the contribution of small farms to the world food production and that most agrobiodiversity is under the custody of the rural poor. There is a renewed recognition of the potentials of biodiversity in the light of the various crises around food security and climate change. We have seen examples of approaches that could provide answers to address global food supply and improve human wellbeing.

The examples and discussions on successful approaches show the importance of:

- genetic diversity within agricultural systems
- agricultural systems integrating biodiversity and related biodiversity systems as ways to address global food supply, poverty alleviation and climate change.
- Developing markets that act as a pull for biodiverse agricultural systems and the importance of voluntary standards in enhancing these markets.

This needs to be put on the agenda through conducting research to show impacts on poverty, strengthening the voices of farmers and through collective action.

During the meeting social and environmental voluntary standards were highlighted as an important tool to create markets that support and promote sustainable management of biodiversity. Also, several times mention was made of the importance to put biodiversity in the context of the wider landscape, and support land use planning. Furthermore it is clear that development agencies, governments and others have to take small-scale producers seriously as stakeholders. Currently, farmers are being reduced to end-users of technology and are not seen as innovators. We have to support them raise

their voice to influence national and international policies to challenge unsustainable practices and to democratize science and technology. Civil society organisations play a crucial role in linking stakeholders and developing new thinking.

Heleen van den Hombergh of IUCN NL and Natureandpoverty.net

In conclusion, we have to work together to use the best of both worlds in many aspects. In participatory plant breeding the formal and informal systems can learn together and attain higher productivity crops that are compatible with their local environments and livelihoods. Promoters of conservation and agriculture need to join hands to attain sustainable landscapes in which productive and reproductive environmental services are maintained and optimized. Both commercial and subsistence farming are needed to feed the world: it is not either/or. As thinkers on sustainability we have to put our work in the context of the wider landscape instead of just focusing on or promoting just one crop, production system or certification system. It often comes down to inclusive land use planning and this needs our active support to manage not only the direct but also indirect effects of the spread of monocultures (such as in case biofuels) and support multi-functional productive landscapes.

Civil society organizations and coalitions are important in this process. Over the past decades networks and organizations have developed that link the local to the national and international level to effectively influence decision making processes informed by realities on-the-ground and vice versa. The Biodiversity Fund and IUCN NL have supported such organizations. It is important to see the successes of such movements have not come overnight. It is a very long process that requires nurturing, now and in the future.

Launching of the Publication: Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Poverty

The Biodiversity Fund was established in 2000. After eight years a formal evaluation of the Fund was conducted and much can be learned from the experiences in the supported programmes. For these lessons to be useful for policymakers, NGOs, professionals and others, a publication was prepared. The publication, titled “Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Poverty” was officially presented to Mr. B.O.J.R. Glaubitz, the Netherlands Ambassador for Sustainable Development by Mrs. A. Papma, the Director Operations and Private sector of Oxfam Novib.

A copy of this report can be found on www.hivos.nl/english/bdf.

Annexes

Annex 1: Programme

12.30 -13.30	Networking lunch: coffee, tea and bread rolls
13.30 -13.45	Welcome by Allert van den Ham , director programmes and projects, Hivos
13.45 – 14.15	Keynote speaker Michel Pimbert (IIED, UK) The productivity issue. What can we expect from biodiverse agricultural systems?
14.15 – 15.30	<p>More resilient food systems with higher agro biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 min video – Bringing farmer realities in the room • Ditdit Pelegrina (SEARICE, Philippines) “Stability of the world’s food supply should be implemented in tandem with efforts to continually develop agricultural biodiversity”: An NGO with more than 25 years of worthwhile field and lobby experiences in Asian countries. • Andrew Mushita (CTDT, Zimbabwe) Without Farmers Rights no maintenance of plant genetic resources. CTDT’s lobby agenda with African Governments, SADC and FAO Seeds Treaty • Reflections: Alvaro Toledo (FAO), Bert Visser (CGN), Participants of the meeting
15.30 – 15.45	Tea Break
15.45 - 17.00	<p>Scaling up trade from biodiverse agricultural systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 min video– Sustainable farmers marketing the future • Urs Niggli (FIBL, Research Institute for Organic Agriculture, Switzerland) - Can biodiverse agricultural systems really feed the world? What data are available and what more can be expected? • Karin Kreider (ISEAL, Voluntary social and environmental standard systems Alliance, UK) - Can voluntary standard systems expect to be the pull for biodiverse agricultural systems? Is this to become more than a niche reality and can it become mainstream? What is required to upscale? • Reflections: Hans van den Heuvel (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DDE), Sietze Vellema (LEI, WUR), participants of the meeting
17.00 – 17.15	<p>Wrap up participants and organizers : Heleen van den Hombergh (IUCN NL / NatureandPoverty.net) and Carol Gribnau (Hivos, on behalf of the Biodiversity Fund)</p> <p>Launch of the new publication “<i>Biodiversity, Livelihoods and Poverty. Lessons learned of 8 years of development aid through the Biodiversity Fund</i>” Mrs. A. Papma (Director Operations and Private sector, Oxfam Novib) and Mr. B.O.J.R Glaubitz (Ambassador for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</p>

Annex 2: Biographies of speakers

Michel Pimbert, IIED, London

Michel Pimbert is Principal Researcher and Team Leader for Food & Agriculture at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in the field of agricultural ecology, the governance of food systems and natural resources. Currently he does action research on the regeneration of food systems based on social and ecological diversity, human rights and more inclusive forms of citizenship. He also works on methodological innovations for deliberative and inclusive processes (DIPs) in policy making and participatory practice. Before working at IIED Michel Pimbert was principal scientist at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (India), he was the director of the World Wide Fund for Nature (Switzerland) and lecturer at the University François Rabelais de Tours (France).

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Wilhelmina (Ditdit) Pelegrina, SEARICE, Philippines

Ditdit Pelegrina is the executive director of the Southeast Asia Regional Initiative for Community Empowerment (SEARICE), a regional NGO based in the Philippines. Ditdit Pelegrina has a background in horticulture and environmental sciences and has been involved in community based work to advance sustainable farming in the Philippines and Southeast Asia since 1992. SEARICE works with farmers, local government units, academic institutions and NGOs in Southeast Asia on practical/field work as well as on policy advocacy and campaigning in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity and to improve farmers' rights.

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Andrew Mushita, CTD, Zimbabwe

Andrew Mushita is the director of the Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT), Zimbabwe, and has worked for two decades with small-scale farmers throughout Southern Africa, focusing on seed systems and livelihood options. He often represents the region in international forums on biodiversity and serves as chairperson of the Regional Agricultural and Environmental Initiatives Network and is a member of the Biotechnology Trust of Zimbabwe. Andrew Mushita is also very active in policy debates on farmers' rights and genetic diversity within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as in the African Union. CTDT has set up an African wide network of NGOs and research institutes that works on farmers' seed systems. CTDT has also contributed with its experience and knowledge to negotiations of the FAO Seeds treaty.

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Álvaro Toledo, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, FAO, Rome

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Urs Niggli is the director of FiBL, Europe's largest centre for organic agricultural research and extension. He is member of the Board of FiBL Germany and FiBL Austria as well as of the Czech Bioinstitut and the IBLA in Luxemburg. He also teaches selected topics of organic agriculture at ETH Zurich, Kassel/Witzenhausen University and at the University of Wales, with an extensive background in crop research and weed management. Urs Niggli is also the founder of the Swiss inspection and certification company bio.inspecta, and is still a member of the Board of Directors. Currently, he is a member of the IFOAM World Board and of different advisory committees for scientific institutes and universities in Germany, Switzerland and Denmark. Urs.niggli@fibl.org, www.fibl.org

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