

**Input for the 2025 High-level Political Forum
Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)**

Your assessment of the impacts of the multiple and interconnected crises on the implementation of SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14 and 17.

Loss of genetic resources (GR) and biodiversity is a crisis in itself and contributes to other crises, such as those related to food security and nutrition, climate and water. It undermines efforts to meet above SDGs.

SDG 3: Wild and domesticated biodiversity at genetic, species and ecosystem levels underpins the ability of agrifood systems to supply the diverse range of healthy foods, provides mental health and well-being benefits, is a source of pharmaceutical products and offers alternatives to the use of various hazardous chemicals.

SDG 5: Women often have knowledge of and control over GR. This knowledge, in some circumstances, can enable them to have more control over how agricultural land is used. For example, in some countries, women are responsible for harvesting and raising fish and other aquatic foods. This not only provides them with a source of income but also empowers them and raises their social status.

SDG 8: The GR associated with agrifood systems are fundamental to the sustainable development of the sector. Diverse GR are a vital source of raw materials (e.g. fibres, timber, etc.) for many economic sectors and a major asset for the tourism industry. GR can also allow value to be generated from by-products and wastes and progress to be made towards the realization of a circular bioeconomy. Opportunities to use microorganisms to convert agrifood by-products into useful materials are expanding. Many insects are being used to speed up the conversion of organic waste into fertile soil.

SDG 14: Diverse aquatic GR need to be protected inter alia because of their roles in increasing the resilience and adaptability of coastal ecosystems and the communities that depend on them to deal with the impacts of climate change.

SDG 17: Improving capacity development and multi-stakeholder partnerships, particularly with Indigenous Peoples, is key to efforts to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources to address multiple crises.

Three key areas where sustainable, inclusive, science-and evidence-based solutions for achieving the SDGs and leaving no one behind are being effectively delivered, especially related to the cluster of SDGs under review in 2025, also bearing in mind the three dimensions of sustainable development and the interlinkages across the Goals and targets.

Focusing on the work of the Commission and on the cluster of SDGs under consideration, the following activities can be highlighted:

1. The Commission provides a forum for intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder discussion of

health and nutrition-related issues such as the contributions of biodiverse foods to healthy diets and the role of different knowledge systems in relation to the SDGs.

2. The contributions of biodiversity to livelihoods and sustainable development are a key focus of the Commission's sectoral (crop, forest, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, microorganisms and invertebrates) work and much of its cross-sectoral work. Its Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture aims to foster the contributions of genetic resources to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and to sustainable development via a cross-sectoral approach that accounts for the multiple economic, social and environmental roles of agrifood systems.

3. The Commission's Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture serves as a guiding framework for activities in this field at national and international levels and creates opportunities to establish multistakeholder partnerships.

Three examples of measures to accelerate progress towards SDGs through well-coordinated actions in key transitions to bring progress to scale (food security, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution), building on interlinkages between SDGs to ensure cohesive progress.

Focusing particularly on the roles of genetic resources and biodiversity in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the cluster of SDGs under consideration, relevant measures include the following:

1. improving knowledge of components of biodiversity, their roles in ecosystem functioning and the sustainable uses to which they can be put. In the context of the cluster of SDGs under consideration, this includes strengthening research on, and better raising awareness of, the contributions and potential contributions of biodiversity to human health (including via healthy diets, mental-health benefits, provision of pharmaceutical inputs, provision of alternatives to hazardous agrochemicals, and reducing the risks posed by infectious diseases) and economic development (notably in the agrifood sector but also in other sectors that utilize biodiversity-based inputs and processes) and improving the monitoring of the status and trends of aquatic genetic resources – including by integrating different knowledge systems to ensure to ensure participatory and cohesive progress;

2. ensuring that policy and legal frameworks are put in place that facilitate the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources for food and agriculture in support of sustainable economic development, human health, livelihoods and well-being; and

3. urgently and effectively addressing drivers of biodiversity loss in order to ensure that the ecological services that underpin sustainable economic development are not disrupted and that components of biodiversity are not lost as we continue to explore their roles in ecosystems and potential value to agriculture.

Follow-up actions and measures being undertaken by your intergovernmental body or forum to

support implementation of the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and the outcomes of the 2024 Summit of the Future, to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Commission's work contributes to global efforts to address many of the issues highlighted in the 2023 SDG Summit Political Declaration and in the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, notably those related to food security, to the efforts to restore, protect, conserve and sustainably use the environment, and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Recommendations and key messages to be considered for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration of the 2025 HLPF.

The ongoing and potential future contributions of genetic resources and biodiversity, including the wild and domesticated biodiversity found in and around agrifood systems, to human health, well-being and sustainable development need to be better accounted for in policy frameworks addressing health, biodiversity and climate change.

Policy frameworks addressing economic development and environmental protection need to account more coherently for the contributions of biodiversity to sustainable development in the agrifood sector.

In addressing the conservation and sustainable use of life below water, attention needs to be paid to the genetic diversity within aquatic species and populations, in addition to threats to species abundance and to the survival and integrity of aquatic ecosystems.

Policies related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of agrifood systems need to ensure the full and effective participation of women, particularly Indigenous women and female farmers and fishers, in decision-making in this field.

Improving capacity development, multi-stakeholder partnerships and access to different knowledge systems and relevant technologies, particularly in developing countries, is key to efforts to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources and biodiversity, including those of relevance to food and agriculture.