Food Security and Nutrition
The UN Environment Programme Experiences

UN EMG Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity and Human Security
2-3 May 2018
History of CBD Work Program on Agrobiodiversity and UN Environment support

1996 – Based on the Brazilian proposal and SBSTTA 2 recommendation the CBD adopted Decision III/11 at COP 3 in Buenos Aires establishing the Work Program on Agricultural Biological Diversity (Agrobiodiversity), further detailed in Decisions V/5 in 2000 and VI/5 in 2002.

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators adopted by the CBD in Decision V/5 in 2000 in Nairobi and further detailed in Decision VI/5 in 2002 in the Hague.

International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity adopted by the CBD in Decision VI/5 in 2002 in the Hague and further detailed in Decision VIII/23 in 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil.

Cross-cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition (BFN) adopted in 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, of the CBD Decision VIII/23.
Mainstreaming Agricultural Biodiversity Typology of UN Environment Interventions

- **In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives Through Enhanced Information Management and Field Application**
- **Conservation and Management of Pollinators for Sustainable Agriculture, through an Ecosystem Approach**
- **In-Situ/On-Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity (Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species) in Central Asia**
- **Conservation and Sustainable Use of Cultivated and Wild Tropical Fruit Diversity: Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods, Food Security and Ecosystem Services**
- **Conservation and sustainable management of below ground biodiversity**
- **Biodiversity Portfolio Approach to Buffer against Unpredictable Environmental Change in the Nepal Himalayas**

**37 countries supported by UN Environment in Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agriculture Production Sector**

Development and Application of Decision-support tools to conserve and sustainably use genetic diversity in indigenous livestock and wild relatives.
Challenge: Shrinking biodiversity in agriculture, food systems and diets

- 250,000 globally identified plant species
- 7,000 number of crops used for food by humans throughout history
- 3 rice, maize, and wheat currently provide >50% of the world’s calories from plants
- 12 crops that together with 5 animal species provide 75% of the world’s food today
Challenge: malnutrition

795 million suffer from insecure food supplies

2 billion overweight or obese

2 billion lack essential vitamin and minerals in diet
Brazil

1 in 3 children aged between 5 & 9 are overweight

70 species
Mostly fruits

Turkey

31% population overweight

43 species of local wild edible plant species

Sri Lanka

1 in 3 children aged between 5 & 9 are overweight

20 Native root & tuber crops, bananas, rice varieties, leafy vegetables & fruits

Kenya

1/3 of population food insecure

20 Native leafy vegetables, sorghum, millets, fruits, livestock

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BFN Approach

• Enhancing the Knowledge Base
• Informing Public Policies and Markets
• Raising Awareness & Consumer Demand for biodiversity

2016 Ordinance on Sociobiodiversity
More power to local nutritious foods
Schools, gardens are a platform... 

...to bring all this together
Key for success – Working in Partnerships

- Sister UN Agencies- FAO, IFAD, UNESCO;
- Partner Governments;
- CGIAR Centers;
- Academia;
- CSO;
- Local communities;
- Private sector.
What’s next

• Not loose momentum;
• Share experiences among countries;
• Enhance inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation;
• Establish public policies to scale-up;
• Integrate with national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Challenges

Unfinished agenda

Political will, capacity, resources, competing interests…
SDG “Accelerator”
Thank you