

# 2013

# International Symposium on Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Development

3-4 June - Beijing, China

## Sponsors



Chinese Academy of  
Agricultural Sciences  
(CAAS)



Bioversity International

## Co-sponsor



National Natural  
Science Foundation  
of China (NSFC)

## Agricultural biodiversity

Agricultural biodiversity is an essential component of food and nutrition security, environmental protection, income generation and sustainable development. It includes all biological diversity associated with food and agriculture. Agricultural biodiversity is the foundation of the ecosystem services that are both needed for sustainable production in agricultural landscapes such as pollination and pest control, and those provided by these landscapes such as hydrological flow regulation and water quality.

The multiple functions provided by agricultural biodiversity are increasingly being acknowledged for their contribution to sustainably improving farmer well-being while maintaining the health of agroecosystems. To this end, Bioversity International and the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences are organizing the International Symposium on Agrobiodiversity for Sustainable Development in Beijing, China.

The Symposium will focus on the important role of agricultural biodiversity in agroecological intensification for supporting productive and resilient farming systems and agricultural landscapes.

The Symposium will bring together research scientists, development agencies, policymakers, and other experts to share their experiences and knowledge on promoting agricultural biodiversity for supporting agroecological intensification, effective farming systems and landscape, livelihood resilience.

## Objectives

- To review and share experiences and knowledge on the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity, particularly in:
  - The use of agricultural biodiversity to support productive, resilient and sustainable farming systems
  - Agricultural biodiversity's contribution to ecosystem services that contribute to productive and multifunctional landscapes
  - The role of culture and institutions to support the use and conservation for sustainable farming systems and resilient landscapes
- To identify opportunities for research collaboration on the conservation and use of agricultural biodiversity for improving smallholder farming household livelihoods through the provision of better ecosystem services.

## Expected outputs

- Knowledge and experiences in managing agricultural biodiversity for agroecological intensification, sustainable farming systems and efficient ecosystem services reviewed, understood and shared among participants
- Approaches, protocols, methodologies and practices shared, reviewed and improvements suggested
- Priority areas for research collaboration and actions on conservation through use of agricultural biodiversity identified and recommended.



# Programme

2 June	Morning and afternoon	Registration
3 June	Morning	Opening Session, Session 1 and 2
	Afternoon	Session 2 and 3
	Evening	Poster session and cocktail
4 June	Morning	Session 3 and 4
	Afternoon	Discussion and recommendations

## Sessions

### 1. Overview of status, issues, challenges and opportunities for use and management of agricultural biodiversity in agroecological intensification

This session will deal with the updates on research and development of agricultural biodiversity in supporting food security, sustainable livelihoods and resilience. It will identify the challenges and needs that agricultural biodiversity research has in order to sustain agroecological intensification, productive landscapes and ecosystem services, and seek opportunities and action needed for partnerships with national, regional and international organizations to improve resilient livelihoods of smallholder farmers.

### 2. Use of genetic diversity to manage biotic and abiotic stresses to intensify production systems under environmental change

This session will deal with cropping patterns involving multiple varieties or species in farming systems, and the use of genetic diversity to reduce pests and diseases, and the use of genes, traits, varieties and species to intensify the productive system. It also covers effective practices in the use of genetic diversity through incorporating additional diversity within a certain crop species, in crop mixtures, or non-crop associated biodiversity in changing environments, and participatory breeding in responding to biotic and abiotic stresses.

### 3. Deployment of agricultural biodiversity in sustainable farming systems and production landscapes for better ecosystem services

Agricultural biodiversity contributes to the provision of ecosystem services at multiple scales. Soil nutrient cycling, pollinator and pest control services are offered at the field scale, but regulated by field and landscape scale processes. Agricultural landscapes are increasingly viewed as multifunctional – agricultural biodiversity can play an important role in providing landscapes scale services such as water quality, energy production and hydrological flow regulation. This session will consider how biodiversity can be operationalized to ensure the provision of these services. The first half of the session will focus on the ecological drivers through which agricultural biodiversity provides these services, whereas the second half of the session will focus on the socio-cultural and institutional dimensions of using agricultural biodiversity conservation for the delivery of ecosystem services in production landscapes.

### 4. Custodian farmers: the role of local knowledge, gender and culture in managing agricultural biodiversity for resilient farming systems and agricultural landscapes

This session aims to understand the local cultural values in the use and conservation of agricultural biodiversity, traditional knowledge in sustaining crop diversity in ecological intensification and resilience, and the role of gender in the management of agricultural biodiversity in farming systems. It also addresses the local rules and policies that enable resilient smallholder farming systems with enhanced productivity through the use of traditional crop varieties, traditional farming practices and climate change response strategies.

## Organizing committee

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**Leo Sebastian**, Regional Director, Bioversity International-APO

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## Scientific Committee

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## Registration

To register, please fill out the Registration Form that can be downloaded here:

<http://bit.ly/17uEV4n> and return it to the Organizing Committee **before 30 April 2013** to [z.zhang@cgiar.org](mailto:z.zhang@cgiar.org).

For the registered participants that will have prepared scientific posters, the local costs, including accommodation and food, will be covered by the organizers. However, you need to cover air tickets by yourselves.

The Organizing Committee will contact you with details once you have registered. For more information please visit: <http://bit.ly/17uEV4n>



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