Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Highlights 2012-2018

Brazil

**Evidence:** Nutrition data for 78 underutilized species added to the national database; 12 MSc dissertations and 3 PhD thesis dissertations published in collaboration with federal universities.

**Awareness:** Gastronomic events featured celebrity chefs using native crops; indigenous species featured on school textbook covers; mainstreaming biodiversity for food and nutrition online course.

**Policy:** Ordinance 284 prioritizes 100 underutilized species, providing guidance to food procurement, nutrition education and other initiatives.

Kenya

**Evidence:** Updated Food Composition Table includes nutritious African Leafy Vegetables.

**Awareness:** Farmer Business School and training program; school gardens; field days and food fairs.

**Policy:** Kenya’s first Biodiversity Conservation Policy passed in Busia County recognizing species for conservation, market utilization, and incorporation into school meals.

Sri Lanka

**Evidence:** Composition data on 58 varieties, 28 underutilized species made available in the national database.

**Awareness:** Hela Bojun food outlets promote underutilized species and empower women business owners who cook indigenous food.

**Policy:** Updated National Strategy and Action Plan mainstreams biodiversity in nutrition and food security policies and programmes.

Turkey

**Evidence:** Food composition data of 43 wild edible plant species included in the FAO/INFOODS and national database.

**Awareness:** Alaçatı Herb Festival celebrates wild edible plants and traditional culture; 3 wild edible species domesticated with private sector engagement and upgraded market strategies.

**Policy:** Biodiversity conservation mainstreamed into agricultural research, school curricula, and programmes such as the Turkish Healthy Nutrition and Active Life and Turkish Nutrition-Friendly Schools Initiatives.

The Challenge

Agricultural biodiversity is under threat worldwide, as current production and consumption revolves around only 12 crops. Homogenous diets, limited food access and poorly developed markets for underutilized, nutrient-rich species contribute to the continued persistence of malnutrition and poverty.

The Solution

Agricultural biodiversity conservation can be achieved through strategic use of locally-adapted, nutrient-rich crops. Increased supply and demand of biodiversity offers environmental, livelihood, and health benefits to communities around the world.

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Producers
- Used a broader range of species in diets
- Organized food events
- Adopted sustainable cultivation practices
- Domesticated underutilized species
- Revalued traditional knowledge
- Established school and community gardens
- Gained awareness of the importance of nutrition and healthy diets
- Developed healthy recipes
- Established links to institutional and conventional markets

Researchers
- Developed food composition tables for 195 species integrated in FAO/INFOODS database
- Carried out market studies on underutilized species with nutrition potential
- Wrote recipe books
- Developed farmer training programmes
- Increased capacity of universities and labs to analyze underutilized species

BFN has pioneered a cross-sectoral, multi-level partnership approach to increase production and consumption of underutilized species

Consumers
- Recognized the importance of food diversity
- Included dietary diversity in schools, households and social programmes
- Demanded greater sustainability and healthier food options
- Gained awareness of the importance of nutrition and healthy diets
- Appreciated cultural and traditional foods

Policymakers
- Developed national dietary guidelines that include underutilized species
- Built institutional and market capacity for BFN
- Integrated environmentally sustainable practices in food production and policy
- Integrated biodiversity into national strategies for nutrition and food security
- Supported further research and market information on underutilized species

Produce

Consume

AWARENESS

EVIDENCE

POLICIES

CONTRIBUTING TO THE SDGS AND AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

1. Inform about biodiversity
2. Mainstream biodiversity
3. Sustainable production
4. Decrease habitat loss
5. Sustainable management
6. Prevent species extinction
7. Conserve gene pool
8. Conserve traditional knowledge
9. Improve & share biodiversity science
10. Reduce hunger
11. Ensure availability and economic access
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Life on land