



Objective

"To bring people together to share innovative traditional and scientific knowledge on how Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (Including Indigenous People and local community groups) can advance agroecological practices, agrobiodiverse planting materials, and climate-smart business and finance models that enrich nature and nutrition"

About the conference

The conference, set to take place in Pokhara, from 9-12, April 2024, promises to be a pivotal event in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among diverse stakeholders. The conference will count on the participation of 120-150 representatives from different Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) supported by the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), provinces, NGOs, INGOs, the private sector, media agencies, and other relevant stakeholders across the globe. The conference will stimulate the upscaling of good practices across a global network of FFPOs, facilitated by the FFF. FFPOs from the Global South, particularly Asia, Africa, and Latin America, will exchange agrobiodiversity knowledge through field visits and share fair, and discuss common challenges in maintaining agrobiodiversity, which will enable them to adapt their models from lessons learned to benefit their members' livelihoods and ensure the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity.

Why will the Conference focus on forest and farm producers' organizations (FFPOs) ?

FFPOs, representing 84% of global farms, produce 35% of the world's food on just 24% of agricultural land. However, they face competition from large-scale monocultures, which dominate markets driven by uniformity and scale efficiency. Land degradation, affecting 40% of Earth's land and half of humanity, threatens half of global GDP reliant on natural resources, amounting to around USD 44 trillion.

Without change, degradation could spread over 16 million km² by 2050. FFPOs offer an alternative, promoting diverse production on smallholdings, enhancing food security, and mitigating climate and market risks. Strengthening these organizations is crucial for promoting agrobiodiversity and sustainable development.



Photo: Hem GC, LI-BIRD

Conference venue: Pokhara, Kaski, Nepal

"Enriching nature and nutrition through agroecological knowledge, seed management, and climate-smart business and finance models."

Agriculture dominates nearly half of the Earth's land, making its resilience crucial amid climate change. The diversity within agricultural and wild ecosystems sustains humanity, but it's rapidly declining due to economic inequality and power dynamics. Despite historically cultivating 7000 food plants, only three crops rice, wheat, and maize account for half of global plant-based calories, posing significant risks. Nature degradation and climate change threaten both frontline forest and farm producers and future global supplies of essential resources like food, energy, and medicines.

FFPOs safeguard much of the world's remaining agrobiodiversity through traditional knowledge and practices. However, they face challenges such as resource rights competition and lack of support compared to industrial monocultures. The conference aims to highlight these challenges and share best practices in policy, knowledge management, seed conservation, agronomy, enterprise development, and finance to sustain agrobiodiversity. Additionally, it seeks to build alliances to increase investment in forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs), crucial for maintaining agrobiodiversity.







Photo: Sambat Ranabhat, LI-BIRD

HIGHLIGHTED SESSIONS OF CONFERENCE

- Session 1** Agrobiodiversity – What it is and why it matters
- Session 2** How policies shape agroecology approaches that help to protect and manage agrobiodiversity for better or worse
- Session 3** Traditional knowledge of agroforestry systems and knowledge exchange practices that maintain agrobiodiversity
- Session 4** Seed and farm management techniques and innovations to sustain agrobiodiversity
- Session 5** Enterprise innovations that encourage diversification in what is planted
- Session 6** Nature finance – improving flows to FFPOs

Expected outcomes

-  Documented cases of good practices and tactics that sustain agrobiodiversity from FFPOs from which lessons can be learned.
-  Agreed actions to expand the co-production of knowledge on agrobiodiversity management in different contexts
-  Agreed actions to promote the diversification of seed sources that sustain options for agrobiodiversity
-  Agreed actions to pilot and upscale innovative business and financial models that incentivise agrobiodiversity conservation rather than diminish it.

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The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a partnership between FAO, IIED, IUCN and AgriCord, strengthening Forest and Farm Producer Organizations for improved livelihoods and climate-resilient landscapes

