

Session Recap: Bridging Biodiversity and Food Systems



Kunming-Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

This recent dialogue session at the biodiversity COP16 in Cali, Colombia provided a space to share knowledge between science, policy and practice and learn from each other's experiences. This to identify actions towards a shared narrative that can help bridge the divide between biodiversity and food systems. Here we share the key outcomes to support collaborative action.

Apply a Landscape Approach

Why: Both food systems and biodiversity are grounded in physical landscapes and interconnected across geographies at different scale levels. This requires context specific spatial planning and policies to set the conditions for sustainable production, processing and consumption which meets human needs, respects ecosystem boundaries and contributes to nature positive outcomes.

How: Use landscape-level planning to spatially integrate biodiversity considerations within agricultural management systems and land use allocation, balancing nature conservation, sustainable agriculture and food security in a way that allows for synergies and positive feedback loops.

Building Blocks for a shared narrative

Adopt a Plural Value Perspective

Why: Acknowledge nature's diverse values in food system approaches to broaden perspectives and allow for diversity of stakeholders needs, views and knowledge around nature's multifaceted roles.

How: Build on the knowledge base developed by IPBES (Values Assessment, 2022) to structurally embed a plural value perspective in exploring pathways of change in food system transformation. Make explicit how plural values are included in design and decision-making processes, including perspectives like "nature for nature," "nature for society," and "nature for culture."

Embrace Diversity in Food Systems

Why: To address structural barriers in the transformation of food systems, we need diverse solutions, knowledges, practices and support mechanisms, from local to global scale.

How: Actively explore diverse perspectives on necessary changes in food systems, dare to question vested interests that hinder change of the status quo and ensure that identified pathways of change allow for and steer towards diversity in production and consumption, diversity in participation and diversity in valuation.

Work towards Long-Term Commitments

Why: Mainstreaming biodiversity in food systems requires long-term thinking and investments that value ecological, economic and social returns.

How: Create finance models and policies that support biodiversity-positive practices, incentivize nature-positive solutions, and engage communities and youth in sustainable food systems by bringing attention to the value of nature in our daily food environment.

