

Betreff: Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research - 4th Newsletter



October 2009

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From the PAR Secretariat

Welcome to our fourth newsletter. As part of the build up to the 15th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15 UNFCCC), this newsletter looks at climate change, indigenous communities and agrobiodiversity.

Climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by indigenous communities including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment. Climate change poses threats and dangers to the survival of indigenous communities worldwide, even though indigenous peoples contribute the least to greenhouse emissions. Indigenous peoples are vital to and active in the many ecosystems inhabiting their lands and territories and may, therefore, help enhance the resilience of these ecosystems. In addition, indigenous peoples interpret and react to the impacts of climate change in creative ways, drawing on traditional knowledge and other technologies to find solutions, which may help society at large cope with impending changes.

[PAR's project on climate change](#) collects information about the use of agrobiodiversity to adapt to climate change. The work aims to facilitate a dialogue between rural communities and researchers all over the world. It is also building a knowledge base that can be used to increase recognition for the multitude of adaptation practices communities are already undertaking. Bringing together and providing a synthesis of these practices will help users to access and test them and identify those that work best in different situations. Documented adaptation practices can also be used to advocate stronger involvement for marginal groups in developing climate change responses.

In this newsletter you will find a report of the highlights and outcomes from an e-discussion forum held earlier this year and from a workshop held recently in Chiang Mai, Thailand which involved researchers, representatives of indigenous peoples and civil society members. We have also identified a few of the many stories and experiences about how different communities are using agrobiodiversity to adapt to climate change.

We hope the information will be of interest to those who are engaged in agrobiodiversity and climate change research. The newsletter is intended to be a means for continuous information-exchange amongst stakeholders in agrobiodiversity

research. Your ideas and feedback are always welcome. To ensure our newsletter is up-to-date and meets your diverse needs, please send your comments, suggestions and keep us informed by email at platformcoordinator@cgiar.org or visit us www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/climate_change.

Please contribute to our form "[Charting adaptation to climate change using agrobiodiversity](#)".

You can read more about the international workshop "*The use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous peoples and rural communities in adapting to climate change*", which took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 17-20 June 2009 at:

- [The use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous peoples and rural communities in adapting to climate change](#)
- [Agenda, Background documents, Fieldtrip and Papers](#)
- [Presentations](#)

Thank you very much and enjoy!!!

Best regards,
The PAR Team

Discussing Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change

Chiang Mai Workshop (17-20 June 2009) Thailand

"The use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous peoples and rural communities in adapting to climate change"

The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research together with [Bioversity International](#) and the University of Chiang Mai Plant Genetic Resources and Nutrition Laboratory (CMUPNlab) organized an international workshop on "[The use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous peoples and rural communities in adapting to climate change](#)"

The workshop aimed to:

1. Bring together and exchange information on the use of agrobiodiversity by rural and indigenous communities coping with climate change;
2. Strengthen communication among agrobiodiversity researchers, maintainers and users;
3. Help identify new cross-cutting multidisciplinary research activities.

Twenty-five participants representing civil society, research and representatives from indigenous peoples groups attended the workshop. The forum provided an opportunity to explore the crucial function of agrobiodiversity by supporting indigenous peoples and traditional rural communities deal with climate change and the uncertainties associated as a result.

The workshop objectives were to:

1. Bring together and make information available on the use of agrobiodiversity by rural and indigenous communities to cope with climate change, and relevant research work on effect of climate change on agriculture and agrobiodiversity;
2. Support enhanced communication among agrobiodiversity researchers, maintainers and users;
3. Prepare a synthesis and assessment on the maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous peoples and rural communities under conditions of climate change;
4. Identify new cross-cutting multidisciplinary research activities

[Presentations](#) included stories, experiences and examples on how indigenous communities utilise agrobiodiversity in order to cope with climate change. The workshop participants agreed to prepare a publication drawing attention to the practical experiences of indigenous peoples and rural communities for coping with climate change. It is hoped that this publication will be distributed at the 15th Conference of the Parties of the [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#) in Copenhagen in December 2009, as well as at other major international events.

PAR Participates at the UNFCCC Bangkok Climate Talks

As a result of the Chiang Mai workshop the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR) took part in a series of Indigenous Peoples' side events held during the UNFCCC Intersessional Climate talk meetings in Bangkok 2-3 October 2009, more at www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=1302.

The main theme of the Indigenous Peoples' workshops was Rotational Farming (RF). This farming practice can offer adaptation and mitigation opportunities and, hence, qualify for REDD, as long as the cycles are long enough to allow fallow regeneration (seven or more years). Rotational Farming entails very high levels of diversity within and amongst crops, provides the building blocks for tomorrows climate stress tolerant seeds and is, therefore, fundamental in building resilience and ensuring adaptation.

During the workshop on Shifting Cultivation, REDD and Climate Change PAR introduced a fact sheet on [Rotational farming: a knowledge intensive system to cope with climate change](#).

During the workshop on Indigenous Peoples, Agro-Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change PAR presented a briefing paper titled [Coping with Climate Change - The use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous and rural communities](#).

This briefing paper is an outcome of the international workshop held in Chiang May last June on "The use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous peoples and rural communities in adapting to climate change". The workshop participants are acknowledged as co-authors of this paper, having provided the text and photos. PAR gratefully acknowledges the financial, scientific and technical support of the Christensen Fund, Bioversity International and the Chiang Mai University. PAR also presented the above mentioned fact sheet titled "[Rotational farming: a knowledge intensive system to cope with climate change](#)".

On the occasion of International Peoples Day: "Indigenous Voices and Actions on Climate Change" PAR organized a workshop on Agro-Biodiversity, Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Change. Download the flyer with event details at:

www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog?getfile=1273

Read full details of PAR's participation in the Bangkok climate talks at www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=1270.

We will continue to keep you informed on outcomes of the Bangkok Climate Change talks and the race to Copenhagen!

Nibbles

- PAR spoke up in South Africa at the Traditional Knowledge and Environmental Change symposium and at [Diversitas Open Science Conference](#). On behalf of PAR, Frederick van Oudenhoven and Bongie Khumalo invited participants to become engaged with the Platform and to contribute case studies. Traditional knowledge (TK) and the people it represents remains marginal and is not represented in high level climate change negotiations. The UN Forum for [Indigenous Peoples](#) is weak. Thus, all the participants agreed it will be necessary to create linkages with stronger institutions, most notably with the IPCC. If the IPCC could be convinced to include TK in its scientific agenda, then the chances for recognition in global policies will be higher (i.e. higher than through lobby with individual governments).
- **Uniting drylands research could halt looming crisis** - more than 200 scientists and policy makers attended the UNCCD 1st Scientific Conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina 22 to 25 September 2009. An historic event. Science was able to influence policy and decision making at global and national levels. Find out more about it at www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=1364
- View the video clip on "[Knowledge for the young generation](#)", Pastoralists and climate change in Eastern Africa.
- [Indigenous groups bear witness to climate change damage](#)
- [Agriculture: A Stormy Time for Indigenous Wisdom](#)
- [Climate Change and Vulnerable Societies](#)
- [Meeting review CBD Group of Experts on Traditional Knowledge associated with Genetic Resources](#)
- Delicious - The dataset is growing and we have now 343 records organized under headings and tags that will ease your navigation. We welcome your contributions to enrich our social bookmarking database at: delicious.com/PAR_CC.

Announcements

2010 Vavilov-Frankel Fellowship

www.bioversityinternational.org/about_us/fellowships/vavilov_frankel_fellowship.html

2009-2010 ICIPE Fellowships

www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/wp_main/?p=529

Events

- E-discussion on Climate Change in the Himalayas: The Gender Perspective 5-25 October 2009. www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=1335
- High-Level Roundtable: Voices for Rural Development – Dialogue of Generations, during European Development Days (EDD), 22-24 October 2009 Stockholm, Sweden. www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=1391
- The Himalaya - Changing Landscapes outdoor photo exhibition, 25-31 October

- 2009, Bern, Switzerland. www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=1362
- Workshop "Plants, Livelihoods and Climate Change: how can Kew and its partners help?", 2 November 2009, Millennium Seed Bank, Wakehurst Place, England. www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=1174
 - 15th Triennial Symposium of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops 2-6 November 2009, Lima, Peru. www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/blog/?p=770
 - Adaptation to Climate Change: the role of ecosystem services, international training course, 9-13 November 2009, Turrialba, Costa Rica. www.cifor.cgiar.org/trofcca/ref/home/index.htm
Course announcement (in Spanish)
www.cifor.cgiar.org/trofcca/news/20090615/capacita_adaptacion2009.pdf

The PAR Newsletter is published by the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research and distributed to members and other subscribers.

PAR's goal: Is to enhance the sustainable management and use of agrobiodiversity by improving knowledge of all its different aspects. It seeks to promote research and integrate, mobilize and share research findings on the sustainable management of agrobiodiversity.

The Secretariat welcomes news, letters and other items of interest from individuals and organisations.

Your ideas and feedback are always welcome. To ensure our newsletter is up-to-date and meets your diverse needs, please send your comments, suggestions and keep us informed by email at platformcoordinator@cgiar.org or visit us at www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/climate_change.

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