

Subject: Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research - 2nd Newsletter

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research. We have again circulated this newsletter widely but please note that if you do not want to receive further newsletters (about once every 2 months) you can unsubscribe as described below.

Our thanks to the many recipients of our first newsletter who have already logged on or registered with the Platform website and to those who have registered and logged on to the climate change section.

Some of you might have noticed that the Website of the Platforms Climate Change Programme went through a major redesign. Work is still in progress, so you might find some new tools and functionalities within the next weeks. We will keep you up-to-date. Additional to the redesign the URL changed slightly: Please up-date your bookmark to http://www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org/climate_change/blog/

Below you will find some news items sent to us by partners which may be useful. These include information on funding possibilities, publications, and on new developments relevant to maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity.

The Platform took part in the Recent World Conservation Congress of IUCN in Barcelona. We co-hosted an Alliance Workshop "Bridging the gap between agriculture and nature conservation"; together with the Alliance of the CGIAR, Ecoagriculture Partners, FAO and IUCN. The aims of the workshop were to :

1. bring together scientists working on the agriculture and nature conservation fields to exchange information about their approaches and discuss challenges, compatibilities and incompatibilities, and ways of collaborating and building on each others' efforts in order to find a common solution to the problems of environmental security and its impact on livelihoods;
2. to seek a cross sector integrated and long term approach to link the sustainable conservation of the natural assets to improving people's lives

Paul Bordoni and Toby Hodgkin from the Platform Secretariat presented a seminar on climate change and agricultural biodiversity to staff at IFAD. [READ MORE ...](#)

Again, we welcome your news and suggestions for the Platform and for activities which the Platform might be involved in. We also welcome comments on the items you find on the website. Note that the first time you comment you will have to register.

Websites

New website on Farmers' Rights

<http://www.farmersrights.org/>

The Farmers' Rights Project of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute (FNI) in Norway has recently launched a new website about Farmers' Rights as they are addressed in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Farmers' Rights are aimed at enabling farmers to continue their work as stewards and innovators of agricultural biodiversity, and at recognizing and rewarding them for their contribution to the global pool of genetic resources. [READ MORE ...](#)

Publications

Climate variability and change: adaptation to drought in Bangladesh

This resource book, has been prepared as a reference and training guide for building the capacity of agricultural extension workers and development professionals to deal with climate change impacts and adaptation, specifically targeting drought-prone areas of Bangladesh. It also presents suggestions for a three-day training course that would be readily adaptable for any areas of Bangladesh affected by climate-related risks. [READ MORE ...](#)

Governing Agrobiodiversity: Plant Genetics and Developing Countries

A new book by Senior Research Fellow Regine Andersen of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute in Norway makes the first comprehensive analysis of how international agreements have affected the management of crop genetic resources in developing countries, suggesting that the interaction of the most relevant agreements (TRIPS, UPOV, CBD, IU and ITPGRFA) has produced largely negative impacts, despite good intentions. The book highlights entry points to shape a better governance of agrobiodiversity. [READ MORE ...](#)

Funding

Latest EU calls

Under its 7th Framework Programme the EU calls for Environment and Agriculture related high-level research projects. [READ MORE ...](#)

\$50 Million to Protect Biodiversity Threatened by Climate Change

During the IUCN Conference in Barcelona, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced a \$50 million commitment to support conservation groups working to preserve eight biodiversity hotspots threatened by climate change. In 2009 they will consider letters of inquiry (LOIs) for projects related to biodiversity adaptation to climate change in the following focal regions: Madagascar, Albertine Rift, and Northern Andes. [READ MORE ...](#)

Experiences

The Platform's climate change project continues to collect information on farmers' experiences of coping with change. For example:

West Africa's experiences in adapting to climate change

Climate change is an emerging challenge linked to the internal variability of the climatic system and external natural factors but more to human activities. Farmers have realized as the years of dryness pass that this is a persistent phenomenon. They have thus developed since the 1970s strategies to fight, well before the politics of international development have focused on Mali more recently. [READ MORE ...](#)

Participatory Plant Breeding for Climate Change Adaptation: the case of FIPAH and new Santa Cruz and Capulin Mejorado varieties

Honduran farmers have organized community-based agricultural research teams to diversify their plant genetic resources and to develop hardier plant varieties that grow well on their soils. As part of the Unitarian Service Committee (USC) Canada's global Seeds of Survival (SoS) program, FIPAH (Foundation for Participatory Research with Honduran) is working with farmers to help build resilient food systems and to promote food sovereignty. [READ MORE ...](#)

Conserving, promoting and improving crop diversity to enhance food security in a changing climate

Traditionally Pacific Islanders have used different ways to ensure food security, such as gardening, fishing, hunting and selling products or labour to provide an income. However with the increase in urbanization and cheap, poor quality food imports, local food production has been negatively affected. Climate change will also affect food production and other factors, such as health, infrastructure, ability of countries to import food and ability of households to purchase food. [READ MORE...](#)

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