

**Subject:** Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research - Special Issue

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Special Issue, November 2008

## Discuss Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change

Dear colleagues,

the Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change Project, supported by Bioversity International and the Christensen Fund aims to gather and make known information on the use of agrobiodiversity by communities facing climate change. Building on this it will identify gaps in the current knowledge and highlight areas that need further research. The brainstorming and discussion we would like to carry out on an online platform aims to support these goals.

All interested persons and parties are invited and asked to help us meet these objectives. The discussions will be moderated and some preliminary comments will be made in the beginning of each period to start the discussions.

- **Monday 17 to Monday 24 November**

Share your knowledge - how are indigenous and rural communities coping with climate change through adaptation measures involving agricultural biodiversity, and how are they increasing the resilience of agroecosystems? What knowledge gaps exist, which if identified, would help indigenous people and rural communities to better adapt to climate change?

- **Tuesday 25 November to Tuesday 2 December**

How would you raise awareness on the importance of ABD to cope with climate change and try to get the issue included in international research/ development agendas? What international research initiatives could be developed and how?

- **Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 December**

We will dedicate these three days to address some issues that arose during the discussions, wrap-up the discussions and circulate some text upon which the participants would agree upon and that we could eventually use as our position paper.

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Over the last months we have been collecting information on agrobiodiversity and climate change. We think there is a lot more going on than that we have been able to find out so far and we need to collect a much wider set of experiences. In particular we are looking for real experiences from communities and indigenous people about what they have had or have been able to do in response to climate change.

One of the most interesting and exciting stories we know about is the Tibetan community who perceive, adapt by becoming wine producers and mitigate the effects of climate change by practicing traditional conservation methods and managing land so to enhance organic matter in the soil.

- *"The mountains are not as beautiful any more, and they do not protect people as they used to"*  
(man, 29 years)
- *"I am worried that the earth will be destroyed if the snow disappears completely"*  
(woman, 85 years)
- *"If the snow disappears, people will disappear from the earth"*  
(man, 57 years)



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Please have a look at the [forum](#) and [sign up](#) to join the discussion.

For more information please visit the "[Documents](#)". You can also look at the "[Links](#)" to find a listing of experiences related to agrobiodiversity and climate change.

Thank you very much for participating in our online discussion.

The PAR Team

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