

**Platform for Agrobiodiversity Newsletter**  
**September 2011 ISSUE No. 009**

Dear Friends and colleagues,

Welcome to this 9th edition of the PAR Newsletter. In this issue you will find the following:

**From the Secretariat**

- Special Information Seminar on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: State of Knowledge, Risks and Opportunities
- An Annotated Bibliography on Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change.
- Farmers and genebanks, creating alliances to help rural communities cope with climate change

**Articles**

- 13th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
- Biocultural community protocols, traditional livestock keepers, and animal genetic resources.
- Can Crop Diversity Reduce Pests and Diseases Pressure? The case of bean in Uganda
- New CIAT research on soil biodiversity in Slash-and-Mulch agroforestry systems

**Announcements**

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Our subscriptions continue to increase on a daily basis; the online newsletter provides you with an opportunity for you to share your experiences and articles with a wider community with which you share a common interest. Please feel free to send us your contributions within the context of agrobiodiversity. Send them to [platformcoordinatorATcgiar.org](mailto:platformcoordinatorATcgiar.org)

**Our deadline for the Newsletter contributions is October 30th 2011.**

Enjoy this issue!

## From the Secretariat

### Special Information Seminar on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: State of Knowledge, Risks and Opportunities

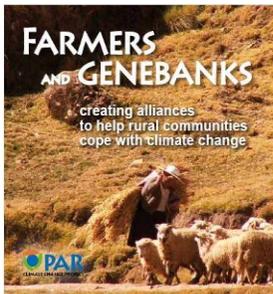


The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research facilitated a Special Seminar on Climate Change and made a statement during the CGRFA-13 session this week at FAO, Rome. On the 16 July 2011, the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research participated in a Special Information Seminar on “Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: State of Knowledge, Risks and Opportunities” which took place at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, and which was organized back-to-back with the 13th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). [Read more](#)

### An Annotated Bibliography on Agrobiodiversity and Climate Change.

PAR’s Climate Change Project has been compiling a list of relevant titles on agrobiodiversity through an online social bookmarking service called “Delicious”. [Read more](#)

### Farmers and genebanks, creating alliances to help rural communities cope with climate change

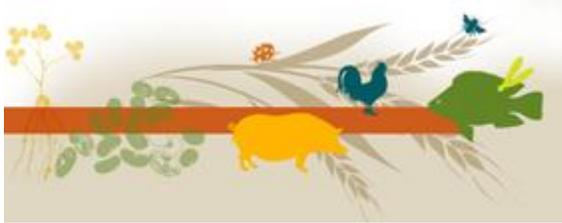


For the last 2 years, The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research has worked with Indigenous communities and with genebanks in Sarawak, Malaysia and Cochabamba, Bolivia. The aim of the work was to improve the access by communities to the crop varieties maintained in genebanks that could help adaptation to climate change. In this Publication keys issues, lessons learnt and shared are highlighted.

[Read more](#) or [Download the publication \(pdf\)](#).

## News articles

### 13th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture



FAO Rome was in the month of July filled with activity as scientists, policy –makers and other stakeholders converged in Rome to discuss various issues related to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. [The 13th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture \(CGRFA\)](#) took place on 18-22 July 2011

in Rome, Italy. A summary of what took place can be found in the [IISD coverage of the event](#).

### Biocultural community protocols, traditional livestock keepers, and animal genetic resources.



On 20 July 2011, at the 13th Session of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA13), the LIFE Network and the League for Pastoral Peoples and Endogenous Livestock Development co-hosted a side event on biocultural community protocols, traditional livestock keepers, and animal genetic resources. [Read more](#)

Source: [Natural Justice](#)

### Climate Change, Food Security, and Agrobiodiversity: Toward a Just, Resilient, and Sustainable Food System

Findings from a study that examined the underlying causes of the global food crisis and recommends specific measures to address the distinct but related problems of food insecurity, loss of genetic resources, and climate change. [Read more](#)

### Can Crop Diversity Reduce Pests and Diseases Pressure? The case of beans in Uganda



A research project being undertaken in Uganda aims at answering the question: **Can Crop Diversity Reduce Pests and Diseases Pressure?** In the project, bean varieties are used as the test crop. The aim is to know how much bean diversity the farmers cultivate, whether they were sowing mostly traditional or improved varieties and how much pests and diseases pressure he/she was experiencing. In addition to this, the study seeks to find out if there were differences in resistance to various pests and diseases of the different varieties. In the end of the study, the researchers hope they will find ways for reducing genetic

vulnerability within the farmers' fields. [Read more](#)

## **New CIAT research on soil biodiversity in Slash-and-Mulch agroforestry systems**

This report in Applied Soil Ecology comprises a summary of work conducted by researchers from CIAT and the University of Western Australia. It is about smallholder agroforestry systems and how they can retain relatively abundant, diverse populations of soil invertebrates. [Read more](#)

## **Announcements**

- [Vacancies: Six \(6\) Senior Scientist Positions at the newly created WASCAL \(West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use\)](#)
- [Vavilov-Frankel Fellowship: Call for 2012 Deadline for applications 6 November 2011](#)
- [New online MSC in Forestry with a focus in agroforestry](#)
- [Proceedings 5th Africa Agriculture Science Week & FARA General Assembly 2010](#)
- [Training opportunity: Contemporary approaches to genetic resources conservation and use in the context of climate change, with a focus on genetic resource policy and management and integrated seed sector development , Wageningen, Netherlands , 16 April – 4 May 2012](#)
- [Launch of third edition of AfricaAdapt's Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund for climate change adaptation in Africa.](#)

More announcements can be found in the [PAR main website](#) You can also check latest funding opportunities in [Gender and Diversity funding news](#) or [Terra Viva grants](#).

## **Forthcoming Events**

- [First Plenary of Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services IPBES](#), Nairobi, Kenya, 3-7 October 2011
- [CBD SBSTTA-15](#), Montreal, Canada 7-11 November 2011
- [1st ASARECA General Assembly](#), Entebbe, Uganda , 14-16, December 2011
- [Planet Under Pressure Conference 2012](#) , London , UK, 26-29th March 2012

For more information on future events, visit our [Events](#) page.

## **Resources**

- [Economic Management of Marine Living Resources](#)  
This book offers an overview of the nature of the difficulties facing the marine fisheries sector, especially in poorer countries where communities are reliant on what they can harvest from the sea. It also looks in detail at methods to collect and analyse socio-economic data relating to these resources and their use, allowing decision-makers and stakeholders involved in fisheries management to plan for the future.
- [Agroecosystem management and nutritional quality of plant foods: The case of organic fruits and vegetables by Brandt K, Leifert C, Sanderson R, Seal C. J.](#)  
Organic fruit and vegetables contain on average 12 per cent more health-promoting compounds than conventionally grown produce, scientists at Newcastle University have found. The study, published in the academic journal Critical Reviews in Plant Sciences, reveals that organic crops contain significantly higher levels of secondary metabolites (compounds that are believed to protect us against a range of diseases including obesity) than conventionally-grown crops.

- [Conservation genetics of cattle, sheep, and goats by Pierre Taberlet, Eric Coissaca, Johan Pansua and François Pompanona](#)
- [Genetic diversity among chicken breeds of the conservation program of the INIA by Dávila, S. G.; Gil, M. G.; Resino-Talaván, P.; Campo, J. L.](#)
- [Indigenous People's Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change: Experiences from the Maasai of Southern Kenya](#)

An interesting and informative publication from Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO) focuses on the devastating effects of climate change by describing the adaptation experiences of the Nilotic ethnic group of the Maasay, who inhabit the three districts of Greater Rift Valley, in South Kenya.

- [Local agro biodiversity and traditional knowledge need to be preserved.](#)

By Kurbonali Partoev *et al.* This publication detects and studies native diversity of fruit, grain and feed crops that have become threatened or endangered in Tajikistan. In addition it identifies various kinds of traditional knowledge, experiences and skills, used by farmers to conserve this agobiodiversity.

Download the results' publication (pdf) here: [English](#) (7.2MB) and [Russian](#) (6.7MB).

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**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 PAR Newsletter is published by the Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research and distributed to members and other subscribers. The Secretariat welcomes news, letters and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondences and information to:

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