

Evidences

Study #4010

Contributing Projects:

- P1782 - Sustainable food systems through managing diversity (SustainableFoods)

Part I: Public communications

Type: OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report

Status: Completed

Year: 2021

Title: Guided by the Agrobiodiversity Index, nearly half of 350 keystone food and agricultural companies provide evidence that they are contributing towards improving soil health and increasing agrobiodiversity

Short outcome/impact statement:

The Agrobiodiversity Index was used to guide the Soil and Agrobiodiversity component of the Food and Agriculture Benchmark of the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) and to encourage food and agriculture companies to provide evidence that they are contributing towards improving soil health and agrobiodiversity. WBA applied this benchmark with 350 keystone food and agricultural companies; 45% of them provided adequate evidence to demonstrate that they are contributing to improving soil health and agrobiodiversity.

Outcome story for communications use:

<Not Defined>

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome:

- <https://vimeo.com/654178196/a3c5a77281>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies : No

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 2

Links to the Strategic Results Framework:

Sub-IDs:

- Increased capacity for innovation in partner development organizations and in poor and vulnerable communities

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:

- Global

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:

Contributing CRPs/Platforms:

- WLE - Water, Land and Ecosystems
- A4NH - Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

Contributing Flagships:

- F5: Enhancing Sustainability Across Agricultural Systems (ESA)

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:

- WBA - World Benchmarking Alliance

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:

This is an application of an innovation reported in 2020 (P1782: Agrobiodiversity index for supporting public and private sector decision-making on biodiversity in food systems, for healthy diets, sustainable production, and conservation).

Innovations:

- 2054 - Agrobiodiversity index for supporting public and private sector decision-making on biodiversity in food systems, for healthy diets, sustainable production, and conservation (<https://tinyurl.com/2mz8m9ww>)

Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:

Any entity that wants to enhance and maintain agrobiodiversity for sustainable food systems, whether a national government or a future-conscious private company, needs a way to track progress over time. To make this kind of assessment possible, WLE/A4NH/Alliance developed the Agrobiodiversity Index (1-5). Its adoption has contributed to changes in behavior and discourse by a growing group of private sector companies (6-10).

The Agrobiodiversity Index is the first standard way of measuring agrobiodiversity in consumption, production and conservation (5). It helps assess performance and progress towards managing agrobiodiversity for sustainable food systems through three commitment indicators, four action indicators and 15 status indicators. These are structured in three pillars supporting healthy diets, sustainable production and conservation, and also align with nine of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2020 and 2021, the Agrobiodiversity Index was used to guide and apply the Soil and Agrobiodiversity component of the WBA Food and Agricultural Benchmark (7), and thereby to encourage companies to provide evidence that they are contributing towards improving soil health and increasing agrobiodiversity (8). WBA has applied their Food and Agricultural Benchmark with 350 large “keystone” food and agricultural companies (7). In this process, 45% (158) of the companies provided adequate evidence to demonstrate that they are contributing to improving soil health and agrobiodiversity (8). Six percent (21) of these companies have further demonstrated their commitment by providing quantitative data or setting company-wide targets specifically towards improving soil health and agrobiodiversity (8). The companies that make the top three in the ranking are companies playing a leading role in the One Planet Business for Biodiversity (OP2B) coalition of 23 companies of the World Business Council on Sustainable Development – to which WLE and the Agrobiodiversity Index team provide technical support as part of the scientific committee of OP2B (10).

While it is not possible to say what share of these outcomes is due to the Agrobiodiversity Index and WLE researchers’ inputs, WLE and the Agrobiodiversity Index have contributed significantly to the research and dialogue on soil and agrobiodiversity monitoring, targets and commitments relevant for private sector companies. This will continue through engagement with OP2B, WBA, HowGood and the Agrobiodiversity Accelerator (1-10).

References cited:

- [1] Bioversity International. 2019. The Agrobiodiversity Index 2019 report: Risk and resilience. (<https://cgspace.cgiar.org/handle/10568/100820>)
- [2] Bioversity International. 2018. The Agrobiodiversity Index. (<https://bioversityinternational.org/abd-index>)
- [3] Jones, S.K.; Estrada-Carmona, N.; Juventia, S.D.; Dulloo, M.E.; Laporte, M-A.; Villani, C; Remans, R. 2021. Agrobiodiversity Index scores show agrobiodiversity is underutilized in national food systems. Nature Food 2: 712-723. (<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-021-00344-3>)
- [4] EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform. 2020. Measuring the impact of agriculture on biodiversity – Why and how do companies do it? Online workshop. (<https://tinyurl.com/yecd942m>)
- [5] World Benchmarking Alliance. 2021. Virtual launch of the 2021 Food and Agriculture Benchmark. (<https://tinyurl.com/yaodj8hj>)
- [6] MARLO. 2020. At least six private sector partners use WLE/A4NH/Alliance’s Agrobiodiversity Index products to guide more holistic decision-making. (<https://tinyurl.com/y83coz85>)
- [7] Negra, C.; Remans, R.; Attwood, S.; Jones, S.; Werneck, F.; Smith, A. 2020. Sustainable agri-food investments require multi-sector co-development of decision tools. Ecological Indicators 110: 105851. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2019.105851>)
- [8] Bioversity International. 2017. Mainstreaming agrobiodiversity in sustainable food systems: Scientific foundations for an agrobiodiversity index. (<https://bioversityinternational.org/mainstreaming-agrobiodiversity>)
- [9] World Benchmarking Alliance. 2021. Methodology for the Food and Agriculture Benchmark: A roadmap for corporate action. (<https://tinyurl.com/yahwgcgda>)
- [10] World Benchmarking Alliance. 2021. 2021 Food and Agriculture Benchmark. Key finding: The sector is not taking environmental responsibility. (<https://tinyurl.com/yca9c6l8>)

Quantification: <Not Defined>

Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

Gender relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **Gender** relevance: Gender and social inclusion are key aspects of better management of agrobiodiversity. OP2B have an explicit category on social (including gender) indicators in their regenerative agriculture Framework, to which the Agrobiodiversity Index has provided input (1,10).

Youth relevance: 0 - Not Targeted

CapDev relevance: 1 - Significant

Main achievements with specific **CapDev** relevance: The Agrobiodiversity Index has empowered private sector networks to explicitly include agrobiodiversity in monitoring, reporting and guiding related actions (2,4,6).

Climate Change relevance: 1 - Significant

Describe main achievements with specific **Climate Change** relevance: Use of soil and agrobiodiversity measures in private sector environmental reporting has strengthened awareness, strategic planning and reporting on the interaction between climate and biodiversity, and the importance of agrobiodiversity in climate adaptation (1,4,8,9).

Other cross-cutting dimensions: <Not Defined>

Other cross-cutting dimensions description: <Not Defined>

Outcome Impact Case Report link: [Study #4010](#)

Contact person:

Roseline Remans, Senior Scientist, WLE, Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT,
r.remans@cgiar.org