

# Incentive measures for sustainable use and conservation of Agrobiodiversity

Workshop held in Lusaka, Sept. 11-14, 2001

## Introduction

The workshop on incentive measures in agrobiodiversity was collectively organized by SADC-Plant Genetic Resources Centre (SPGRC), GTZ Sectoral Project "Managing Agrobiodiversity in Rural Areas", Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) to identify incentive measures to enhance the sustainable use and conservation of agrobiodiversity. Participants came from 12 SADC countries and other countries outside the region and included representatives from governments, NGOs, farmers, the private sector, research, regional and international organizations.



seed fair, Zambia  
Photo: Beate Weiskopf

## Background

In the SADC region, more than 80% of the communities depend on agrobiodiversity for their well being, livelihood and food security. Economic, socio-cultural and policy incentive measures are needed to maintain, manage and use this diversity in a sustainable manner. Specific areas for incentives identified in the workshop are marketing, policies, public awareness, education and training. The incentive measures will increase the range of diversity available to farmers and the options for them to choose. Such incentive measures are critical and important for stimulating initiatives related to conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

## Outcomes

Participants formulated a final statement including recommendations for actions to be taken at different levels:

### Community level

Supporting community based activities in conservation and use of plant and animal genetic resources such as seed fairs, animal shows, community seed banking as well as community based management of animal genetic resources and seed exchange activities will contribute to broaden the diversity available at community level and to recognize gender dynamics in maintaining diversity.

## Policy and legal framework

The OAU model legislation should be taken as an example for policies recognizing the rights of smallholder farmers and their knowledge as custodians of agrobiodiversity. Legislation for access and benefit sharing at national level and the harmonization of such frameworks at regional level based on the African customary law in line with the OAU model legislation has to be developed, as well as a *sui generis* legislation for the protection of new plant varieties.

## Education, Training and Public Awareness

The participants recognized the need for a paradigm shift in the training and education system to participatory inclusive approaches focusing on the reality at farmers level (Curriculum development). This includes also the need for attitude change of researchers, policy makers and extension workers.

## Marketing and Adding Value

Strategies must aim at adding value to genetic resources to increase the sustainable utilisation of those resources (through characterization, domestication, participatory breeding, quality enhancement, product development, labelling, etc.) and increase income for farmers.

## Activities identified for the SADC region

Concrete activities that will follow the meeting and will be supported by GTZ and other organizations were identified. These included:

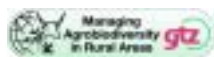
- Developing national strategies and action plans on agrobiodiversity (in specific countries) and their implementation
- Scaling-up on farm conservation programmes using lessons learnt from on-farm projects
- Facilitating the access of agrobiodiversity products to markets
- Introducing agrobiodiversity awareness in ongoing foodsecurity programmes
- Organising workshops for policy makers on agrobiodiversity
- Review of genetic resource legislations in SADC countries and their harmonisation
- Lobbying in favour of harmonising seed regulations for both farmers' and improved varieties



Agricultural activities, Namibia  
(Foto:Ralf Bloch)



Streetmarket, Namibia  
(Foto: Ralf Bloch)



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