

# Plants of the Past, or Crops for the Future?



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Bioversity International  
28-30 August 2018

# Outline

## The BFN Project

- Methodology
- Contributions to GSPC, SDGs

## Mainstreaming Biodiversity

## Hunger and Malnutrition

- Ex. Kenyan Schools

## Resilient Livelihoods

- Ex. Hela Bojun

## Sustainable Food Systems

- Ex. Turkish surveys

## Conclusion

- Looking Ahead: Recommendations



# What is the Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition Initiative?



- Funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), led by 4 countries with support from Bioversity International, FAO and UN Environment
- CBD Cross-Cutting Initiative
- Biodiversity conservation through use
- Exploring the potential of nutrient-rich, underutilized crops

# Contributions to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

- Natural edible biodiversity- both wild and cultivated- is **accessible**, **affordable**, and **acceptable** in many areas that struggle with malnutrition, environmental, and livelihood challenges.
- Researching and mainstreaming nutritious crops into policies and markets helps producers, consumers, and ecosystems.
- Harnessing this agrobiodiversity will be critical in our efforts to address the SDGs & GSPC Targets, especially in uniting human and environmental health.

2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



# BFN Methodology

- The BFN Project uses a multi-level, cross-sectoral approach:
  - **Provide Evidence:** nutrition analysis, crop databases, traditional knowledge
  - **Influence Policy:** public health, agriculture, conservation, procurement
  - **Raise Awareness:** education, recipe books, food festivals, farmer training

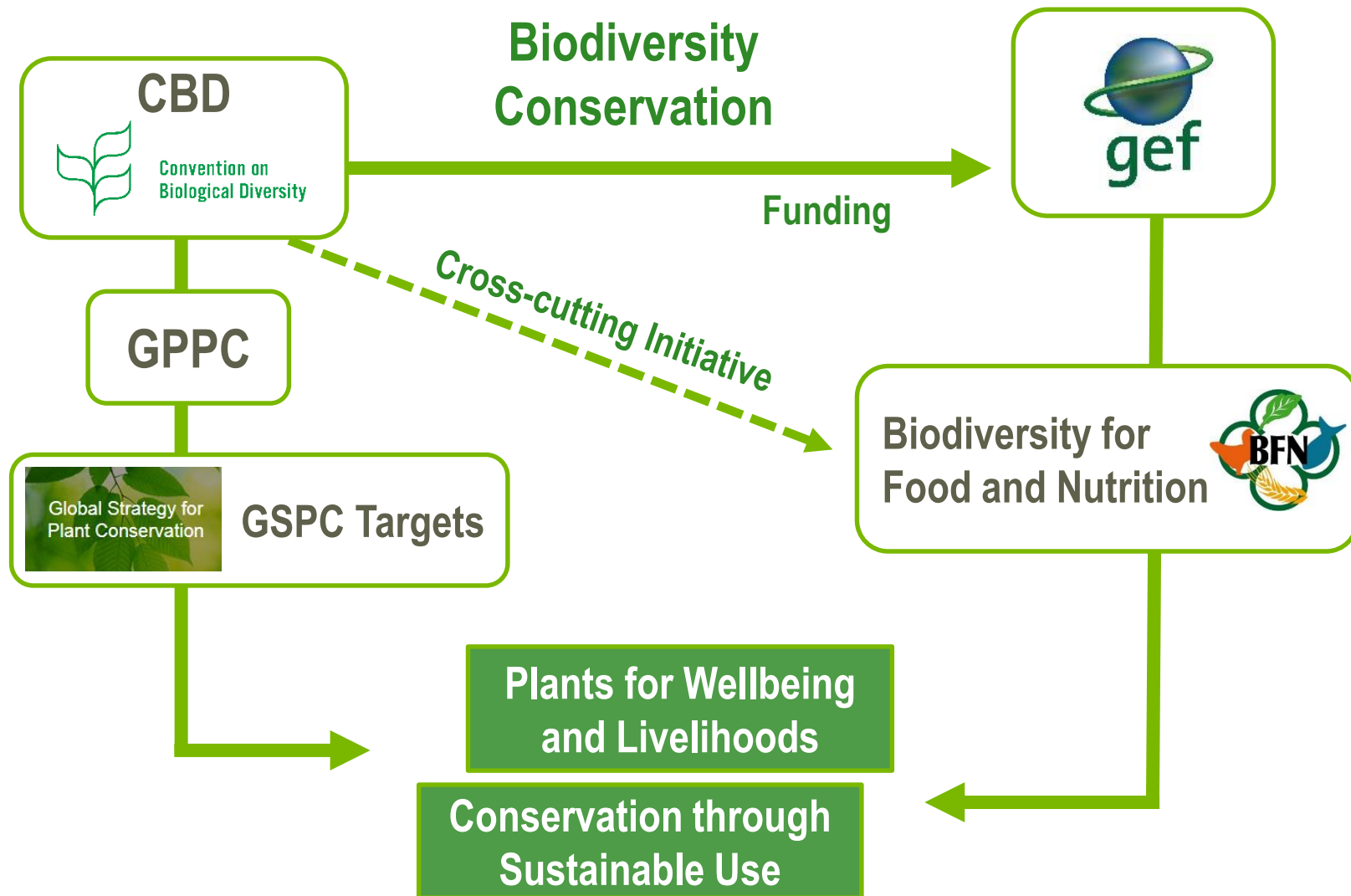
A context-based strategy means working closely with local partners



Sri Lankan rice varieties, credit: S. Landersz

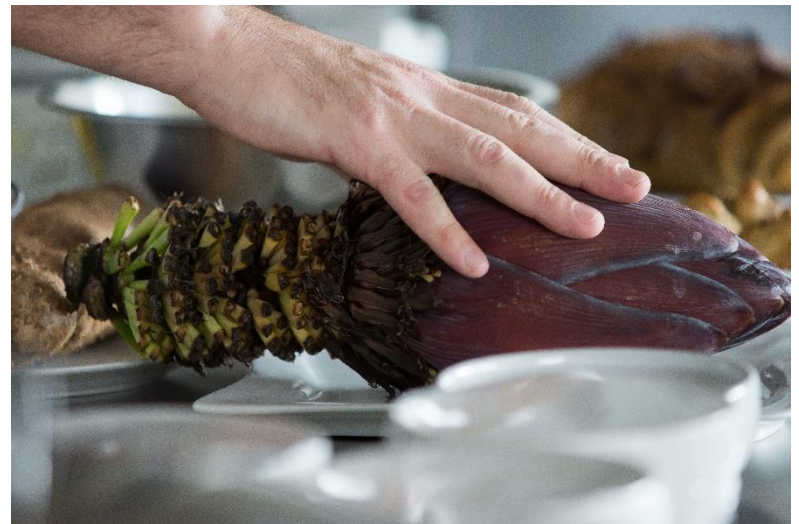


# Contributions to GSPC Objectives



# Mainstreaming Biodiversity

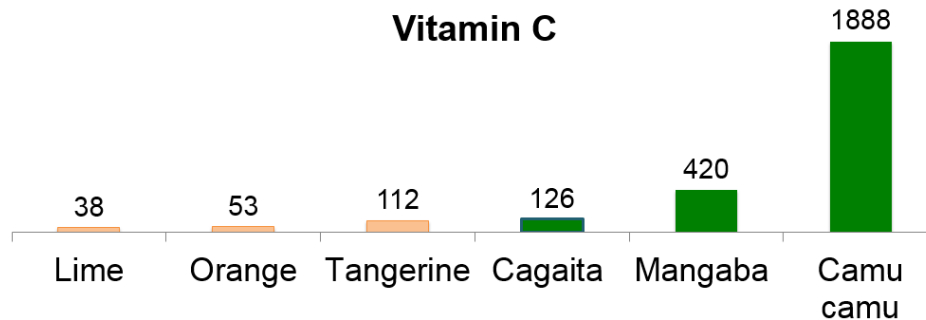
- NBSAPs (National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans)
- Key example of how BFN made sure biodiversity will be integrated into many levels' and sectors' activities
- Reporting national progress to CBD (evaluation + monitoring)
- NBSAP revisions, i.e. in Brazil
- Achieving wider recognition of biodiversity at international level



# Fight Hunger and Malnutrition

GSPC Target 3:  
sharing research

- Research crops with micro-nutrients that combat Triple Burden of Malnutrition, increase dietary diversity
- Advocate for policy and procurement programmes that connect local farmers and produce to student meals
  - (reaches 41.5M children in Brazil)



**Figure 3** – Content of vitamin C (mg/100 g edible portion) in fruits commonly consumed<sup>5</sup> (orange) and underutilized fruits native from Brazil (green)





# Case Study: Kenya

GSPC Target 14:  
education and awareness

- Busia County (~30% undernourished)
- Home-Grown School Feeding
  - Farmers trained to supply healthy produce directly to school canteens
- Kenya's first Biodiversity Conservation Policy (endorsed 2018)
  - link between nutrition and agriculture
  - BFN united a range of ministries and public stakeholders to draft the policy

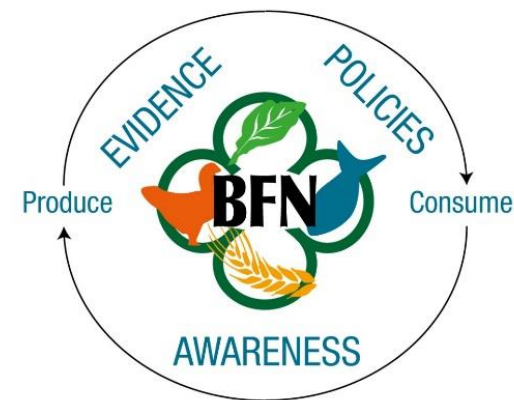
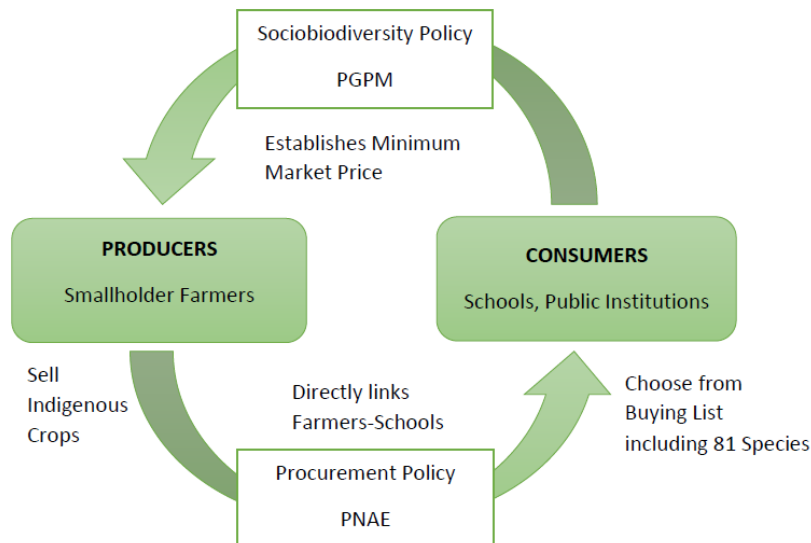


Mandala Garden at Mundika Special School for the Deaf, credit: A.Manjella

# Build Resilient Livelihoods

- Fair pricing policies (Brazil) to increase market opportunities for smallholder farmers
- Empower women, youth, and disenfranchised groups to feed themselves and generate income

Mainstreaming Biodiversity through Procurement: Brazil



# Case Study: Sri Lanka

GSPC Target 13: use local plant knowledge for sustainable livelihoods

- Hela Bojun Traditional Food Businesses are run by women entrepreneurs
- By cooking and selling indigenous produce, the women support their households, feed their community, and generate tourism

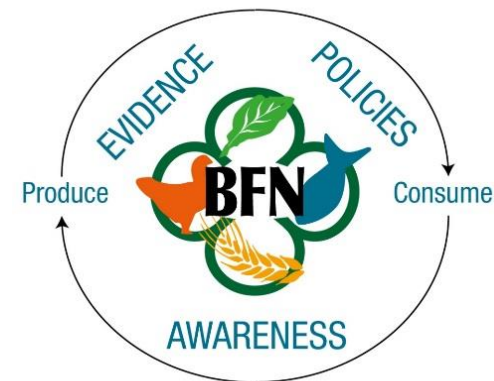
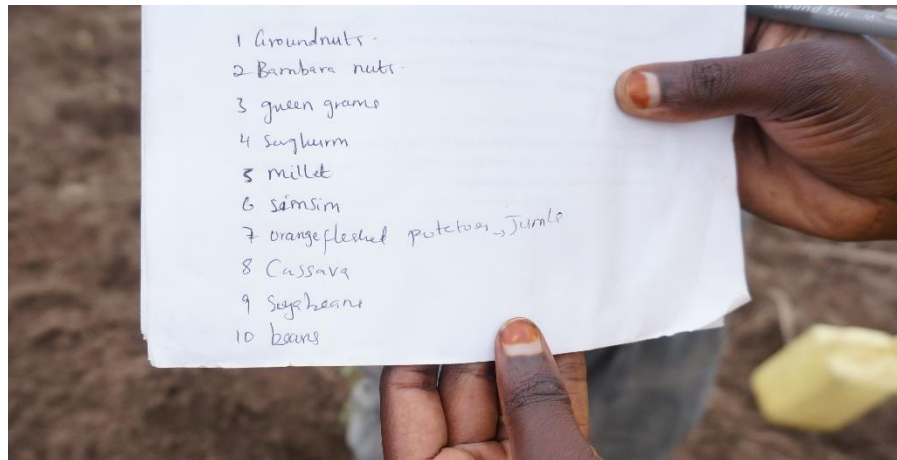


Colombo Food Festival, credit: D.Hunter

# Ensure a Sustainable Food System

GSPC Target 9:  
conserve genetic  
biodiversity

- Identify locally-adapted crops that resist drought, pests, and climate change.
- Produce data that facilitates prioritization of crops
  - 195 species' information added to FAO/INFOODS



# Case Study: Turkey

- Regional market surveys selected Golden Thistle, Einkorn Wheat, and Foxtail Lily as wild edible plants that could be domesticated
- Alaçatı Herb Festival educates thousands of people each year on benefits and methods of using edible biodiversity
- Education initiatives train students to find jobs in the green sector

GSPC Target 12:  
sustainable wild harvesting

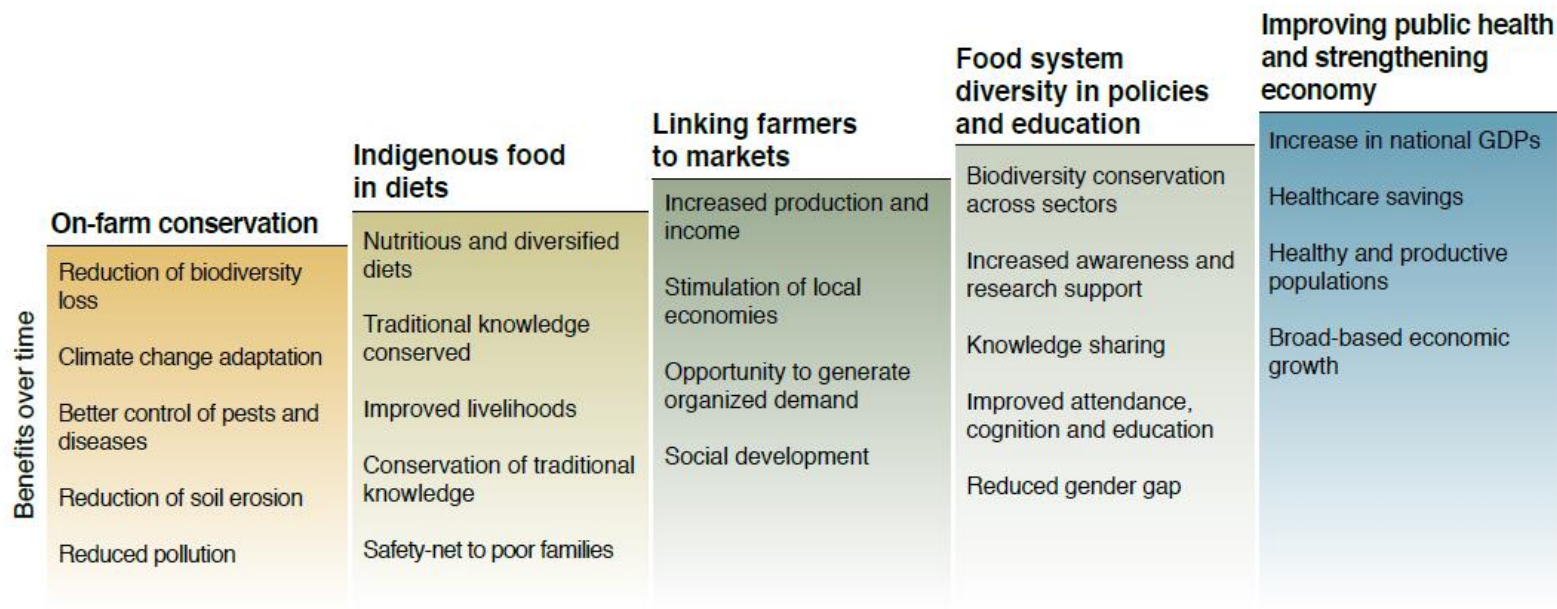


Alaçatı Herb Festival, credit: D.Hunter

# Summary: Contributions to SDGs

SHORT TERM

LONG TERM



CBD targets



1 Inform about biodiversity



2 Mainstream biodiversity



4 Sustainable production



5 Decrease habitat loss



7 Sustainable management



13 Conserve gene pool



14 Restore ecosystem



18 Conserve traditional knowledge

SDGs



1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



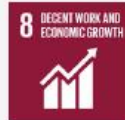
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



15 LIFE ON LAND

# Summary: Contributions to GSPC / CBD

BFN has contributed to each objective, with actions that:

- ✓ **Document** plant diversity
- ✓ Implement **conservation**
- ✓ **Sustainably** and **equitably use** diversity
- ✓ Promote **education** and **awareness**, sustainable livelihoods
- ✓ Build **capacity** and **public engagement**

# Looking Ahead: Recommendations

- More focus on the **value of food biodiversity** and its role in food systems
- Increased **collaboration between related initiatives**: GSPC and Cross-Cutting Initiative / BFN, with ongoing work on biodiversity and human health.
- **Promoting sustainable production and consumption.**





# Thank you

[www.b4fn.org](http://www.b4fn.org)



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