

CONFERENCE

**Biodiversity in European
Development Cooperation**



**Report from Workshop 1:
Ecosystem services contributions to
the MDGs – building assets for rural
poverty reduction**

Emile Frison, IPGRI
Chair



Objective

- **To identify the investments needed to accelerate rural poverty reduction, including the steps required to build and diversify the natural and anthropogenic resources and assets available to help rural people escape poverty**
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Key questions



- 1. Does rural poverty reduction face additional challenges in marginal/fragile areas?**
 - 2. What is the contribution of natural resource (agricultural and environmental) assets to rural poverty reduction and the attainment of the MDGs? Is this contribution fully accounted for?**
 - 3. Is it possible to link diversification (at the genetic, farming system and landscape level) to household productivity?**
 - 4. How could additional investment in Rural Development improve the stability, quality and productivity of farming systems in marginal areas and how would this support progress in other sectors such as health?**
 - 5. Conservation and development specialists have discussed integration for many years with little success – what shifts in thinking are required in both sectors to make this a reality?**
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Conclusion



- The Millenium Development Goals are unlikely to be achieved across all regions without a renewed focus on rural development.
 - Fortunately, there is ample scope for biodiversity interventions that contribute positively to small-scale rural production systems and thus to poverty reduction. This provides the major opportunity for integrating conservation in current development efforts
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Gen'l Recommendations



1. Strengthen policies and institutions that support the formal recognition of rural people's rights to manage natural resources and benefit from them
 2. Improve data collected by national household budget surveys to capture the value of on-farm and off-farm biodiversity use, in order to inform national-level economic planning cycles
 3. Utilise genetic, species and ecosystem diversity as an asset for rural poverty reduction by enhancing its contribution to poor people's strategies to minimise risk, improve food security, nutrition and health, and increase resilience
 4. By getting people out of extreme poverty, investing in sustainable rural development in developing countries can help the EU address major policy issues such as migration and security.
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Required Action - EU



- In setting country-level aid priorities, the EC should systematically seek inputs and opinions from civil society as well as government viewpoints
 - Support the development of valuation tools for biological assets at community and macroeconomic levels, and incorporate the output of biological assets valuations in Country Strategy Papers.
 - Support participatory research on enhancing productivity in agricultural systems while improving their resilience through the deployment of greater genetic, species and landscape level diversity, through existing funding mechanisms such as the EDF, the budget line on food security and through the seventh EC research framework.
 - The EU needs to aim for greater policy coherence among its development aid, agricultural, economic, fisheries, migration and security policies.
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Required Action - Others



The conservation community should:

- Pay more attention to the components of biodiversity that underpin production systems and design conservation interventions (including sustainable use) accordingly
- Form partnerships with research and development organizations in order to develop and test economic valuation tools and empower key stakeholders to use these

National governments should:

- Direct their national statistics agencies to collect data on the value of on-farm and off-farm biodiversity use, and use this information in national economic planning
 - Give higher priority in Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers to investments in pro-poor rural development that minimise risk, improve food security, nutrition and health, and increase resilience
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