

# Genetic resources: insurance policy for feeding the world

**FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**

**Side event during the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference**

**FAO HQ - Thursday 20 June  
18.00-19.30 hours, Iran Room (B-116)**

Maintaining biodiversity is a global responsibility.

The genetic diversity of plants and animal genetic resources, including micro-organisms and invertebrates, is the foundation for food security. Genetic resources for food and agriculture are unique and irreplaceable resources that help production systems adapt to climate change, ensure healthy and diversified nutrition for all as well as secure livelihoods.

For 30 years, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has provided a unique intergovernmental forum to reach global consensus on policies relevant to biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Commission has overseen global assessments of the state of the world's plant, animal and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as negotiated major international instruments, including Global Plans of Action and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Within the global agenda where achieving food security is a major goal and threats to biodiversity for food and agriculture are increasing, the Commission is well positioned to further the dialogue and partnership on the development and implementation of policy instruments that strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture, and that promote access to genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization.

At this side event, participants will reflect on the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture to food security, nutrition and livelihoods, as well as on the role of the Commission and on future challenges. Panelists will represent the perspectives of different stakeholders and discuss interventions at various levels.



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## SIDE EVENT PROGRAMME

- 18:00 Opening and introduction – José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director General
- 18:10 Video message of Mankombu S. Swaminathan, Chair of the Steering Committee of the High Level Panel of Experts of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
- 18:20 International Stakeholder Panel:  
Monica Martinez, Minister, Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the UN Geneva;  
François Pythoud, Head of Unit International Sustainable Agriculture, Federal Office for Agriculture, Switzerland;  
Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;  
Toby Hodgkin, Coordinator, Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research;  
Laura Ciacci, Responsible of the Institutional Relations, Slow Food;  
Patrick Mulvany, Adviser, Practical Action
- 19:00 Discussion
- 19:25 Closure

**Simultaneous interpretation** will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

**Refreshments** will be available outside the Iran room from 17:30 hours onwards.

### For more information

CGRFA website: [www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa](http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa)



30th anniversary interviews: [www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-media](http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-media)

Infographics: <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-media/cgrfa-infographics/en/>