

2021 High-level Political Forum Session "Looking at the 2020 targets: implementation and review"

FAO inputs on the 2020 SDG 2 targets

| Target/ Indicators | What is the current status of the target, in terms of actual measured progress and trends? | What has changed since the last time this target was reviewed at the HLPF (i.e. 2020)? | Any deviations in progress from what was expected (including due to COVID-19)? | Additional obstacles or opportunities in implementation including through interlinkages with other Goals, and connections to related processes? | New/promising openings for tracking progress, including from additional data sources? | What are promising strategies to accelerate action (by UN and partners) and to mobilize other stakeholders to advance implementation? How would one monitor action for implementing these? |
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| 2.5.1a | <p>- At the end of 2020, 5.7 million accessions of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture were reportedly conserved under medium or long-term conditions in 831 genebanks by 114 countries and 17 regional and international research centres, about 0.2 percent increase on the previous year.</p> <p>- Growth rate of the global holdings has decreased in the past ten years reaching its lowest level in 2020.</p> <p>- Overall, diversity of crop wild relatives, wild food plants, and neglected and underutilized crop species continues to be under-represented in <i>ex situ</i> collections and this is of particular concern given the increasing pressure faced by these plant species in both natural and agricultural environments.</p> <p>As of December 2020, 355 genebanks around the world conserved 125,027 samples from over 2,276 species listed in the IUCN categories of global major concern. Among these are underutilized crops and wild relatives of crops particularly important for global and local food security, as well as livelihood also in marginal environments, like arid and semi-arid zones. They include upland cotton, sweet potatoes, coffee, plums, apricots, Levant cotton, apples, mat beans and year-long beans, as well as wild relatives of wheat, oats, chickpeas, lupines and rice.</p> <p>Over the last 25 years, the augmenting pressure exerted by climate change on crop and crop-associated diversity under on-farm and wild conditions has been alarming. Crop wild relatives, wild food plants, and neglected and underutilized crop species have been among the plant groups most at risk. The global response in preserving crop diversity in standard compliant <i>ex situ</i> facilities has been insufficient to address to the increasing threats. Vulnerable plant groups continue to be missing in the gene bank collections or have their intraspecific diversity poorly represented.</p> | <p>No significant changes over the previous year were observed in the global holdings of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in 2020.</p> | <p>The first year of the COVID-19 pandemic has likely accelerated the negative trend in the growth rate of global holdings by affecting genebanks' operations, including new germplasm collecting and acquisition activities.</p> | | <p>The on-going preparatory process of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> has likely helped to increase the number of reporting countries from 103 in 2019 to 114 in 2020. Newly reporting countries were 4 from Central America, 3 from Western Africa and Central Asia, and 1 from Southeastern Asia. The increase reflects a better awareness of the importance of monitoring <i>ex situ</i> holdings.</p> <p>Ongoing process under the Commission will likely continue to exert pressure for countries to report, however improved reporting and monitoring does not necessarily translate into improved efforts to conserve PGRFA.</p> | <p>The preparation of the Third Report on the State of the World's PGRFA and the update of the Second GPA offer an opportunity to boost action at regional and global levels particularly for those plant groups important for food and agriculture such as crop wild relatives, wild food plants, and neglected and underutilized crop species.</p> |
| 2.5.1b, 2.5.2 | <p>Indicators 2.5.1b and 2.5.2 show that we are still far from maintaining the genetic diversity of farmed and domesticated animals neither <i>ex-situ</i> by cryconservation (sufficient material stored for 203/7700 local breeds) nor <i>in situ</i>, where the risk-status of 61% of local breeds remains unknown.</p> <p>Significant effort is needed to collect or estimate relevant data and increase the amount of cryocenserved material for local breeds.</p> <p>See CGRFA, Status and trend of AnGR.</p> | <p>Since the last report, the quantity of data in DAD-IS regarding the cryoconservation status of national breed populations has increased substantially. SDG Indicator 2.5.1b now provides a greatly improved picture regarding the cryoconservation status of local breeds, as the proportion of breeds lacking information decreased from</p> | <p>No specific data are available on the impact of COVID-19 on the diversity of livestock breeds.</p> | <p>All (SDG) targets favoring sustainable agriculture and biodiversity represent an opportunity for an increased use and sustainable development of animal genetic resources.</p> | <p>Ongoing process under the Commission will likely continue to exert pressure for countries to report, however improved reporting and monitoring does not necessarily translate into improved efforts to conserve AnGR.</p> | <p>Closer alignment of the work of the CGRFA and COAG with the Agenda2030 and improved exchange between FAO bodies are important strategies, with monitoring based on the specific reports.</p> |

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| | | <p>around 95 percent to about 50 percent. Cryoconservation is a powerful tool for both ensuring a population is safe from extinction and for management of genetic diversity <i>in situ</i>.</p> | | | | |
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