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STUDY GUIDE

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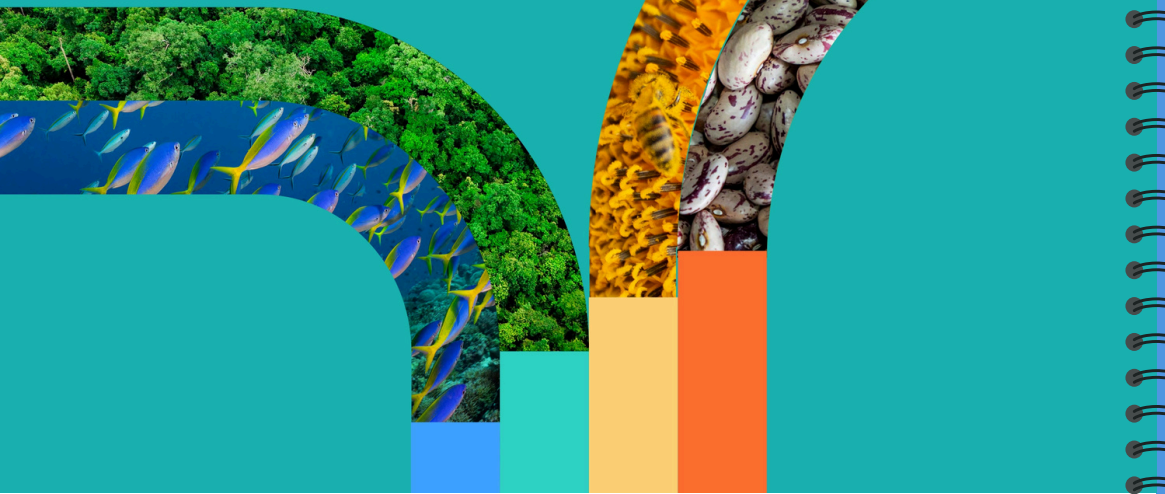
Biodiversity in Agrifood Systems

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AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS IN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Policy brief



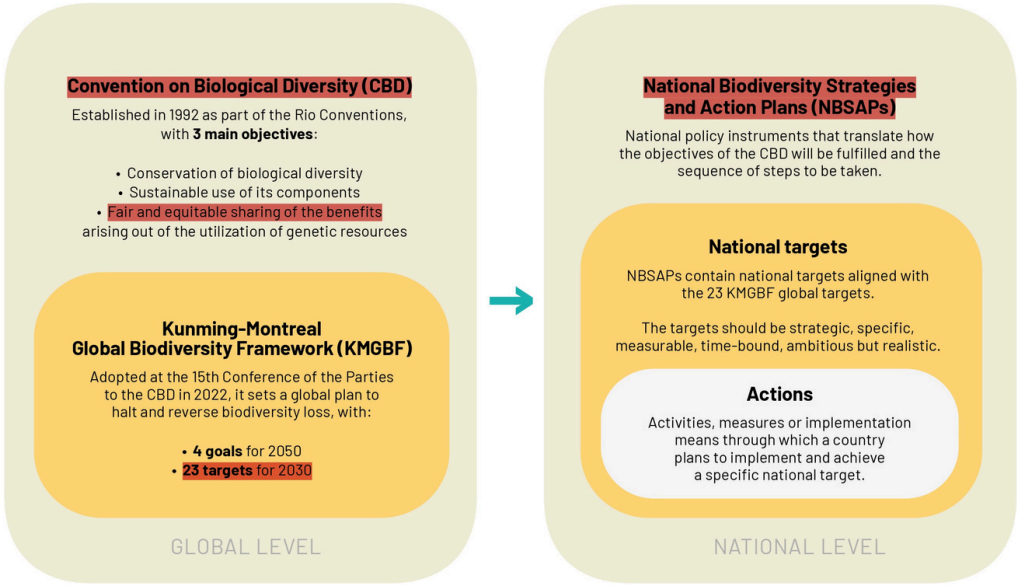
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ABOUT THIS BRIEF

Through the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in 2022, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) committed themselves to revising or updating their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in alignment with the goals and targets of the KMGBF (Figure 1).

This policy brief presents selected key highlights from FAO's forthcoming global analysis of revised or updated NBSAPs submitted by Parties to the CBD as of 21 February 2026,[1] offering insights into how countries are leveraging agrifood system actions to address the loss of biodiversity, promote its sustainable use, and achieve the targets of the KMGBF. The analysis is based on a methodology developed by FAO to assess how agrifood systems – including crop, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and their related value chains and actors – are reflected in actions and policy measures aimed at achieving the national targets in NBSAPs.[2]

FIGURE 1.
Implementing global biodiversity objectives at the national level



Source: Authors' own elaboration based on Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Decisions 15/4 and 15/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

Note: KMGBF = Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; NBSAP = National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan.

1 FAO, forthcoming. *Global analysis of agrifood systems in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans*. Rome.

2 FAO, forthcoming. *Assessing the role of agrifood systems in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. Methodology*. Rome.

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Definition 1

Biodiversity means the variety of living things, including differences among species, genetic differences within a species, and the ecosystems where they live. In agrifood systems this includes crops, livestock, fish, forests, pollinators and soil organisms. For example, bees pollinate fruit trees, soil organisms recycle nutrients, and different crop varieties can withstand different pests or droughts. The Convention on Biological Diversity is the international treaty through which countries cooperate to conserve biodiversity, use it sustainably and share benefits from genetic resources fairly.

Definition 2

Genetic resources are materials from plants, animals or microorganisms containing inherited traits that may be useful, for example in developing a disease-resistant crop. Benefit-sharing means that when such resources are used, benefits should be shared fairly under applicable rules. These might include research partnerships, access to improved seeds, training or payments. A key question is how communities and countries that conserve useful resources can benefit when others develop products from them.

Definition 3

An NBSAP is a country's plan for meeting its biodiversity commitments. It should turn broad goals into national targets and concrete actions, identifying who will act and what resources are needed. For example, a government might set a target to restore damaged wetlands, then fund restoration work and monitor whether fish and bird populations recover. Adopting a plan is not the same as carrying it out.

Definition 4

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets 23 global targets for 2030 and four longer-term goals for 2050. Countries translate these shared ambitions into national targets suited to their circumstances. Relevant agrifood measures include restoring damaged ecosystems, managing fisheries sustainably and making agriculture more biodiversity-friendly. A global target does not prescribe an identical action for every country.

Interesting Facts 1

Agrifood systems extend far beyond crop farming. They include raising animals, managing forests, catching and farming fish, and the activities that bring food to consumers. These systems depend on biodiversity, but they can also threaten it. Clearing forests for farmland destroys habitats, growing the same crop over large areas can reduce biological diversity, and excessive pesticide and fertilizer use can harm pollinators, soil organisms and waterways. Overfishing can disrupt marine food webs. Protecting biodiversity therefore requires changes throughout agrifood systems, not just in crop production.

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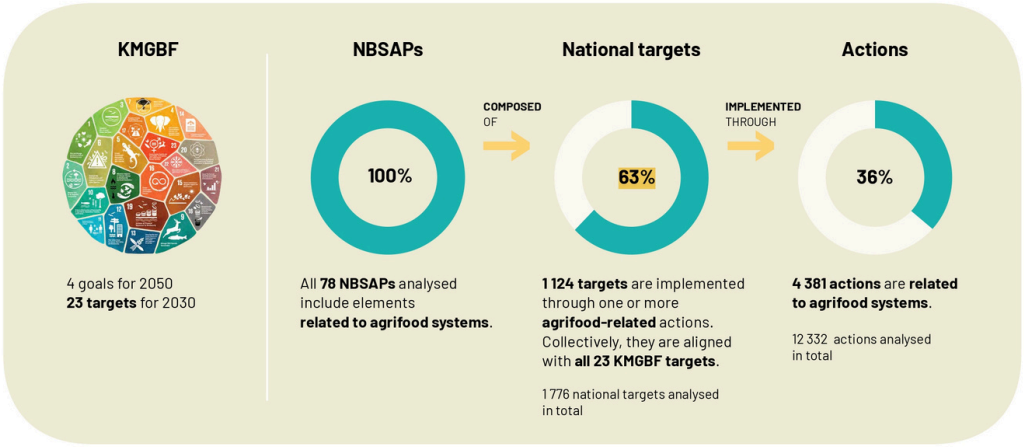
KEY HIGHLIGHTS

1 Agrifood systems are key entry points for the implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans



Agrifood systems feature prominently in NBSAPs. All 78 NBSAPs analysed include agrifood-related targets and actions, demonstrating that countries consistently recognize agrifood systems as key entry points for implementing national biodiversity commitments (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2.
Agrifood-related commitments across National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans



Source: Authors' own elaboration based on 78 revised and updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity as of 21 February 2026.

Note: KMGBF = Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Did You Know That... 1

Every national plan in this particular sample mentions agrifood-related biodiversity measures. That shows the issue is widely recognized among the countries whose updated plans FAO examined. It does not mean every country in the world has submitted an updated plan, nor that the planned actions have been implemented or achieved results. The analysis covers 78 plans submitted by 21 February 2026.

Interesting Facts 1

The figure refers to the share of national biodiversity targets in the 78 plans that are linked to at least one agrifood-related action—not the share of biodiversity already protected. A target might be to restore a degraded habitat, while the action could be changing grazing practices or restoring vegetation. Counting targets and actions reveals what countries intend to do, but monitoring is needed to learn whether biodiversity actually improves.

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2 Two-thirds of national targets are implemented through agrifood-related actions, collectively contributing to achieving all 23 targets of the KMGBF


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Across the NBSAPs analysed, 63 percent of all national targets are implemented through one or more agrifood-related actions (Figure 2). These agrifood-related targets and actions are intended to benefit biodiversity by acting on agrifood systems, for example through practices such as increasing the sustainability of food production, restoring degraded ecosystems for improved production, and reducing food loss and waste. Agrifood interventions in NBSAPs thus have the potential both to contribute to positive biodiversity outcomes and to provide co-benefits such as improving food security, nutrition and livelihoods.

Collectively, the 1 124 agrifood-related national targets are aligned to the 23 targets of the KMGBF. While agrifood systems are most directly associated with KMGBF Target 10 on enhancing biodiversity and sustainability in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry, countries also use agrifood-related actions to advance all the other targets, in particular Target 11 (Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people), Target 2 (Restore 30 percent of all degraded ecosystems), Target 9 (Manage wild species sustainably to benefit people) and Target 1 (Plan and manage all areas to reduce biodiversity loss). The KMGBF is integrated and cross-cutting in nature, and so are agrifood systems.[3] Because they can contribute to the three overarching objectives of the KMGBF targets (reducing threats to biodiversity, meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and offering tools and solutions for mainstreaming biodiversity),[4] agrifood systems are increasingly recognized as essential to the implementation of the KMGBF.

3 FAO, 2024. *Delivering on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through agrifood systems*. Rome.

4 CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 2022.

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Definition 1

A co-benefit is an additional positive result of a policy. For example, restoring mangroves may protect coastal habitats and provide nursery areas for fish, while also supporting fishing livelihoods and helping protect shorelines. Similarly, healthier soils can support biodiversity and improve farmers' ability to grow food. Benefits are not automatic: some measures require money, land or changes in practices, and different groups may gain or lose in different ways.

Definition 2

Target 10 concerns managing places used to produce food and other biological resources in ways that conserve biodiversity. In practice, this might mean protecting pollinator habitat near fields, reducing damage to the seabed from fishing, maintaining mixed forests or managing fish farms to limit pollution. The challenge is to protect the natural systems on which production depends while sustaining food supplies and livelihoods.

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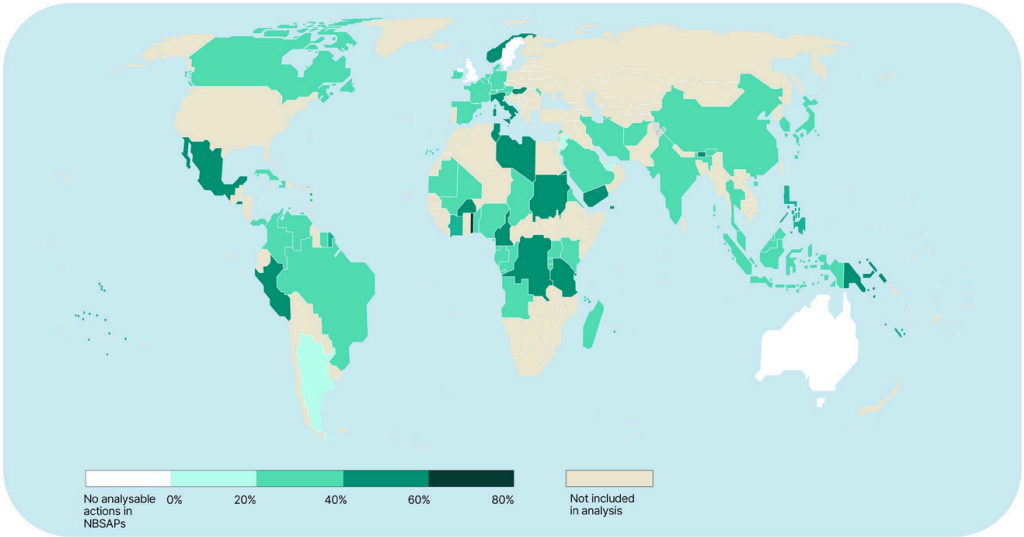
3 More than one third of all actions planned in NBSAPs are related to agrifood systems; however, this figure varies widely across NBSAPs



Actions related to agrifood systems account for 36 percent of all the NBSAP actions planned globally. However, the proportion varies considerably from NBSAP to NBSAP, ranging from 9 percent to 80 percent (Figure 3). This variation reflects differences in national priorities and circumstances, institutional arrangements and capacities to mainstream biodiversity across agrifood sectors. Overall, the largest group of countries (65 percent) are those for which the proportion of agrifood-related actions in their NBSAPs lies between 21 percent and 40 percent.

Togo is the country that has the highest proportion of agrifood-related actions in its NBSAP, accounting for 80 percent of all the actions planned. The country's agrifood ministries are identified as key actors responsible for delivering the majority of national targets and actions. It also has cross-sectoral policies that embed biodiversity objectives into agrifood plans and programmes. This is operationalized through concrete agrifood-related interventions, including the expansion of biodiversity-friendly practices, such as agroecology, sustainable forest management, ecosystem restoration and the sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

FIGURE 3.
Proportion of actions that are related to agrifood systems in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans analysed



Source of data: Authors' own elaboration based on 78 revised and updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity as of 21 February 2026.

Source of map: United Nations Geospatial. 2025. Stylized Map of the World.

Note: Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. Dotted or dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement. Refer to the disclaimer on page 12 for the names and boundaries used in this map.

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Interesting Facts **1**

This is the share of planned biodiversity actions related to agrifood systems in individual national plans, not a measure of which country protects biodiversity best. Countries differ in their economies, ecosystems, ministries and ways of writing plans. A country with many agrifood actions may still struggle to fund them; another may address similar problems through broader environmental policies. Comparing the percentages alone would therefore be misleading.

Interesting Facts **1**

FAO reports that 80% of Togo's planned actions in the analyzed NBSAP concern agrifood systems. The brief describes measures such as agroecology, sustainable forest management and ecosystem restoration, with agrifood ministries assigned important roles. This is an example of integrating biodiversity into agricultural policy; it is not evidence that 80% of the measures have already been completed or that Togo has the best biodiversity outcomes.

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4 Most countries include actions specific to forestry and fisheries in their NBSAPs, yet aquaculture remains comparatively under-represented

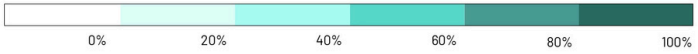

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Figure 4 presents a typology of 55 agrifood-related actions used to assess the extent to which agrifood systems are reflected in NBSAPs[5] and shows the proportion of countries whose NBSAPs include each of these types of action, and the main corresponding agrifood sector.

All the NBSAPs analysed include actions targeting agriculture, either specifically or alongside other sectors of the economy such as tourism, mining or transport (referred to in the figure as "Economy-wide, including agrifood systems"). Nearly all NBSAPs also include sector-specific actions targeting forestry (97 percent) and fisheries (95 percent). However, certain agrifood sectors are less consistently targeted: 32 percent of NBSAPs do not include aquaculture-specific actions, and 25 percent do not include actions specifically targeting crop or livestock systems.

FIGURE 4.
Inclusion of agrifood-related actions in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (by percentage of NBSAPs, and by sector)

		SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION							
ACTIONS	Percentage of NBSAPs	Agriculture*	Crop	Livestock	Forestry	Fisheries	Aquaculture	Post-harvest and consumption	Economy-wide, including agrifood systems
Management practices and production approaches									
Restoration practices	92%								
Biodiversity-friendly practices	92%								
Sustainable forest management	86%								
Harvesting of wild species	86%								
Ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions	73%								
Spatial planning	73%								
Pest management	71%								
Protected areas	71%								
External inputs (unspecified or other than pesticides and fertilizers)	70%								
Soil management	66%								
Fish stock management	66%								



5 FAO, forthcoming. *Assessing the role of agrifood systems in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans. Methodology*. Rome.

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Something to Think About **1**

Aquaculture means farming fish, shellfish or other aquatic organisms. Poorly managed farms can affect biodiversity through pollution, habitat damage, escaped farmed species or disease transmission. Yet aquaculture can also provide food and livelihoods. What practical safeguards could governments require—for example, suitable farm locations, wastewater controls and monitoring of escapes—without placing unaffordable costs on small producers?

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ACTIONS	Percentage of NBSAPs	SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION: Agriculture*	Crop	Livestock	Forestry	Fisheries	Aquaculture	Post-harvest and consumption	Economy-wide, including agrifood systems
Invasive alien species management	62%								
Trade of wild species	60%								
Nutrient management	56%								
Reducing deforestation	53%								
Water and irrigation management	53%								
Agroforestry	52%								
Habitat conservation within production areas	52%								
Environmental impact assessment	47%								
Agroecology	47%								
Livestock management	47%								
Urban farming and forestry	45%								
Organic production	45%								
Pollination management	41%								
Sustainable intensification	34%								
Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	33%								
Human-wildlife conflict	33%								
Fire management	32%								
Reducing bycatch	30%								
Other effective area-based conservation measures	29%								
Diversification within production systems	26%								
Ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture	23%								
One Health	16%								
Mixed systems (other than agroforestry)	7%								
Genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA)									
Sustainable use of GRFA	74%								
Conservation of GRFA	70%								
Inventory and characterization of GRFA	49%								
Access and benefit sharing of GRFA	48%								
Biotechnology and biosafety									
Biotechnologies and biosafety (other than LMOs and GMOs)	44%								
Living modified organisms and genetically modified organisms	32%								

Percentage of NBSAPs

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

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Definition 1

Agroforestry means deliberately growing or maintaining trees alongside crops or livestock. Trees can provide shade, protect soil, store carbon and create habitat for birds and pollinators; some also provide fruit, fodder or timber. For example, farmers may grow shade trees over coffee plants. The design matters: the right tree species and spacing can benefit production, while poorly chosen trees may compete with crops for light or water.

Definition 2

Agroecology applies ecological principles to farming. Rather than relying on a single method, farmers may rotate crops, grow different species together, use natural enemies of pests, recycle nutrients and protect soil organisms. For example, planting legumes between other crops can help maintain soil fertility. These approaches can reduce some environmental pressures, but farmers may need training, suitable seeds and time to adapt practices to local conditions.

Definition 2

Pollination is the transfer of pollen that allows many plants to produce seeds and fruits. Bees, butterflies, birds and other animals perform this service for numerous crops. Farmers can support pollinators by maintaining flowering plants and nesting habitats and reducing harmful pesticide exposure. Without effective pollination, some crops may produce fewer or poorer-quality fruits. Not all crops depend on animal pollinators, so needs differ by farming system.

Definition 2

Genetic resources include the inherited diversity found within crop varieties, livestock breeds, forest trees, fish and other organisms used for food and agriculture. Different varieties of the same crop may carry traits for drought tolerance, pest resistance or nutritional quality. Conserving this diversity gives farmers and researchers more options as climates and diseases change. FAO's separate plant genetic resources report explains why traditional varieties and wild relatives of crops are especially valuable.

Something to Think About 5

A wild plant or traditional crop variety may contain a useful trait that researchers employ to develop a new seed variety. But the communities that have conserved or cultivated that resource may not receive the benefits automatically. How could countries support research and seed development while respecting applicable access rules and ensuring fair benefits for countries, farmers and Indigenous Peoples who contribute genetic resources or associated knowledge?

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ACTIONS	Percentage of NBSAPs	SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION							
		Agriculture*	Crop	Livestock	Forestry	Fisheries	Aquaculture	Post-harvest and consumption	Economy-wide, including agrifood systems
Post-harvest and consumption									
Value-chain and market development	79%								
Enable low-impact consumption choices	66%								
Agricultural waste and wastewater management	60%								
Food loss and waste reduction	42%								
Healthy diets and nutrition	40%								
Energy in agrifood systems									
Bioenergy	26%								
Improved energy use in agrifood systems	12%								
Participation and decision-making									
Policy and governance	95%								
Technical and scientific cooperation	93%								
Data for decision-making	92%								
Participatory approaches to planning and decision-making	88%								
Traditional knowledge and practices	62%								
Equal rights and access to land and natural resources	42%								
Finance and resource mobilization									
Reducing harmful subsidies and increasing positive incentives	70%								
Mobilizing finance or scaling investment	70%								

Percentage of NBSAPs

0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

Source: Authors' own elaboration based on 78 revised and updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity as of 21 February 2026.

*The category "Agriculture" is used when the action in the NBSAP refers to agriculture without further specifying the sector (e.g. crop or livestock) targeted. The categories "Crop" and "Livestock" are used when the action explicitly refers to the respective sector.

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5 Most NBSAPs include restoration practices in agrifood systems (92 percent) and sustainable forest management (86 percent), while other key approaches are less consistently reflected



Countries are deploying a wide range of agrifood-related actions to deliver on their national biodiversity targets. These actions can be grouped under broader categories, such as production practices, ecosystem and landscape management, genetic resources management, enabling actions in governance and decision-making, and finance and resource mobilization (Figure 4).

With regard to the specific types of production and ecosystem management practices featured in agrifood-related actions, the most frequently included are restoration practices (92 percent of NBSAPs), biodiversity-friendly practices (92 percent), sustainable forest management (86 percent), harvesting of wild species (86 percent), pest management (71 percent), ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions (73 percent), and spatial planning (73 percent).

However, despite their recognized importance to positive biodiversity outcomes,[6] several agrifood approaches are less consistently reflected in NBSAPs. For example, only 23 percent of NBSAPs include actions related to the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, and measures aiming at reducing bycatch (30 percent) and addressing Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (33 percent) also remain limited.

Although specifically mentioned in KMGBF Target 10,[7] agroecology and sustainable intensification are included in only 47 percent and 34 percent of NBSAPs, respectively. OECMs (other effective area-based conservation measures), together with protected areas, are a key element of KMGBF Target 3 (on protecting 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas).[8] Although there is increasing interest in the potential of agricultural systems as OECMs, actions related to this are included in only 29 percent of the NBSAPs analysed. This may reflect the fact that agricultural OECMs are a new and emerging area and still lack clear criteria and guidance.

With regard to the post-harvest and consumption components of agrifood systems, 79 percent of NBSAPs include actions focused on value-chain and market development, whereas only 42 percent include actions aimed at reducing food loss and waste. Given that more than 30 percent of food produced globally is lost or wasted,[9],[10] addressing this issue offers substantial potential co-benefits for biodiversity, food security and nutrition.

6 FAO. 2024. *Delivering on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through agrifood systems.* Rome.

7 CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 2022.

8 CBD/COP/DEC/15/4, 2022.

9 FAO. 2019. *The State of Food and Agriculture 2019. Moving forward on food loss and waste reduction.* Rome.

10 UNEP. 2024. *Food Waste Index Report 2024*. Nairobi.

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Interesting Facts 1

An ecosystem approach considers how fishing or fish farming affects the whole aquatic environment, not just the species being harvested. For example, catching one fish species can change food supplies for predators, while damage to seabed habitats can affect many organisms. The 23% figure describes whether plans explicitly include this approach; it does not show how many fisheries are actually managed sustainably.

Definition 1

Bycatch is the unintended capture of animals during fishing, such as turtles, seabirds or fish that the crew was not trying to catch. Some bycatch survives and can be released, but other animals are injured or die. Measures include changing fishing gear, using escape devices or avoiding areas and seasons where vulnerable species gather. The 30% figure describes the share of plans containing bycatch-related actions, not a 30% reduction in bycatch.

Definition 2

An other effective area-based conservation measure (OECM) is a geographically defined area outside a protected area that is managed in a way that achieves lasting biodiversity conservation, even if conservation is not its primary purpose. For example, a sustainably managed community forest might qualify if it delivers demonstrated long-term biodiversity benefits. Simply calling a farm or forest "sustainable" does not automatically make it an OECM; outcomes and management need to meet relevant criteria.

Interesting Facts 1

Food that is lost after harvest or wasted by shops and households has already required land, water, energy and other resources to produce. Reducing those losses can ease pressure to expand farmland into natural habitats. For example, better storage can prevent harvested vegetables from spoiling before sale. This is a biodiversity measure even though it may happen far from a forest or protected area. The percentage measures planned actions, not actual reductions in waste.

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6 Enabling actions in NBSAPs focus on governance and knowledge in agrifood systems, while equity and rights-based actions lag behind



The agrifood-related enabling actions included in NBSAPs focus primarily on policy and governance measures (95 percent of NBSAPs), technical and scientific cooperation (93 percent), data for decision-making (92 percent), and participatory approaches to planning and decision-making (88 percent). Measures aimed at reducing harmful subsidies, increasing positive incentives and mobilizing or scaling up finance and investment in agrifood systems feature in 70 percent of NBSAPs. In contrast, ensuring equal rights and access to land and natural resources appears to remain a lower priority, with only 42 percent of NBSAPs addressing these issues in the context of agrifood systems.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

NBSAPs reflect countries' policy commitments, plans and intentions to act. To support the effective implementation of planned agrifood-related activities, the global analysis points to the following policy recommendations.

1 **Integrate agrifood-related commitments in NBSAPs into relevant national sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes, policies, and investment frameworks.**

Policy coherence and implementation should be supported by clearly defined institutional mandates, coordination mechanisms and adequate resources, including the translation of commitments into costed and budgeted implementation priorities within national development and investment frameworks. Agrifood stakeholders and institutions should be actively involved to enable effective delivery on national biodiversity targets and actions.

2 **Scale up the implementation of priority agrifood actions identified in NBSAPs, including ecosystem restoration, biodiversity-friendly practices, harvesting of wild species, pest management and sustainable forest management.**

These agrifood solutions are already widely prioritized across NBSAPs. Scaling up their implementation will require sustained technical support to agrifood stakeholders, alongside strengthened delivery mechanisms, an enabling policy and institutional environment through regulatory frameworks, partnerships and investment to achieve impact at scale over time.

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Something to Think About **5**

Conservation measures can affect who is allowed to farm, graze animals, fish or collect forest products. If land-use restrictions are introduced without consulting people who depend on those resources, livelihoods and customary rights may be harmed. How can governments involve small-scale producers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in designing measures, recognize legitimate rights and resolve disputes while still protecting habitats?

Definition **1**

A costed action plan estimates how much each proposed measure will cost; a budgeted plan identifies money to pay for it. For example, a promise to restore wetlands becomes more realistic when officials estimate the costs of planting, monitoring and maintenance and identify responsible agencies and funding sources. Without these steps, a national biodiversity target can remain a statement of intention rather than an implementable programme.

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3 Ensure under-represented agrifood sectors and approaches with high potential to deliver on the KMGBF are better understood and mobilized.

While forestry and fisheries are widely covered, the aquaculture sector remains underrepresented. Likewise, key approaches are inconsistently reflected including the ecosystem approach to fisheries and aquaculture, bycatch reduction, and measures addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, as well as agroecology and diversification in production systems. Strengthening the inclusion of these interventions–including for emerging interventions such as agricultural OECMs–would help unlock high impact opportunities for biodiversity outcomes across agrifood systems.

4 Strengthen enabling conditions in NBSAPs by reinforcing inclusive, accountable and rights-based governance for agrifood systems interventions.

While NBSAPs strongly emphasize agrifood-related enabling actions in areas such as policy and governance, technical cooperation, data for decision-making, and participatory approaches, gaps remain in ensuring equitable access to land and natural resources and the integration of rights-based approaches. Strengthening inclusive governance and equity-focused implementation would improve the legitimacy, effectiveness and sustainability of biodiversity outcomes across agrifood systems.

5 Support the transformation of agrifood systems by strengthening sustainable financial mechanisms and scaling up investments.

With over one-third of actions in NBSAPs targeting agrifood systems, biodiversity finance plays a critical role in enabling this transformation. This includes increasing investments, redirecting harmful subsidies and strengthening positive incentives for biodiversity across agrifood systems, to increase the sustainability of food production, restore degraded wild and productive ecosystems, and reduce food loss and waste.

6 Strengthen agrifood implementation readiness in NBSAPs by adopting evidence-based planning, monitoring and reporting processes.

Consistent with CBD guidance, this includes ensuring that agrifood-related national targets and actions in NBSAPs are measurable, supported by robust data and monitoring systems, and aligned with national policies, budgets and institutional frameworks. Enhanced spatial prioritization, efforts to close key data gaps, and sustained investment in delivery capacity (including extension and advisory services) are critical to achieving effective, targeted and accountable implementation at scale of agrifood-related commitments in NBSAPs.

How FAO supports countries in implementing and monitoring NBSAPs

FAO has the mandate, expertise and experience to help countries to operationalize the agrifood-related commitments included in their NBSAPs. Through the Agri-NBSAPs Support Initiative, FAO assists countries to (1) increase policy coherence and strengthen institutional capacity to implement NBSAPs, (2) adopt biodiversity-friendly practices, (3) access finance, and (4) improve knowledge for implementation, monitoring and reporting, including through the FAO Biodiversity Knowledge Hub.

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Something to Think About 5

A subsidy is financial support from a government, such as payments, tax benefits or reduced prices for inputs. Some subsidies may unintentionally encourage activities that damage biodiversity—for example, making it cheaper to expand production into sensitive habitats. Changing support can create resistance if farmers or fishing communities depend on it. How could governments redesign incentives to reward habitat protection and sustainable production while preventing sudden losses of income or food security?

Definition 1

Extension and advisory services provide farmers and other producers with practical guidance, training and technical support. For example, an adviser might help a farmer select locally suitable crop varieties, reduce soil erosion or create pollinator habitat without sacrificing production. These services help translate national biodiversity policies into changes that producers can actually make. Their reach can be limited by staffing, travel costs and access to rural communities.

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