



INITIATIVE ON Nature-Positive Solutions

ISSD Africa Conference on Advancing the transformation of Africa's seed sector: Emerging insights and perspectives, Kigali October 17-19 2022

Who & where?

• CGIAR Centers, international organizations, national agencies, non-government organizations, and civil society
Coordination: Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT, and IWMI

Nature-Positive Solutions for Shifting Agrifood Systems to More Resilient and Sustainable Pathways (NATURE+)

Setting the scene

- The mass production of cheap and plentiful food has taken a toll on both the environment and humans. Industrial agriculture drives 80 percent of deforestation and threatens 86 percent of species to become extinct. It contributes to significant crop and genetic diversity losses, and up to 37 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. It has accelerated land degradation and land-use change and is a heavy burden on global water resources.
- The homogenization of food sources and diets impacts smallholder farming families through an increase in pests and diseases, reduction of nutrition diversity, and loss of farming income.
- These problems are compounded by misaligned public policies and economic incentives; and a lack of an alternative, nature-positive development strategy.

Guiding questions

1. How to co-design a decision-support platform to help users identify and implement nature positive solutions that are adapted to their local contexts and integrate their needs?
2. How to generate multiple benefits and minimizes tradeoffs for communities and their natural environments in selected sites?
3. What are the barriers in the local political economy that hinder social-inclusive adoption of nature positive solutions? How to shape a more inclusive enabling environment through policy and finance to incentivize adoption of NPS by rural communities?
4. What are the financially viable business models and blended, market-responsive, socially inclusive investment plans for nature positive solutions?
5. What can be learned from the action research and development interventions to support wider adoption of nature positive solutions at global, national, and local levels?

Drawing on CGIAR's 50 years of research experience as well as the experiences and perspectives of a wide network of partners who understand local needs and contexts, the following actions will help realize this Initiative's objectives:

- Identifying, testing, and implementing nature-positive solutions for more effective conservation of interlinked agrobiodiversity, water and soils systems, focusing on the intersection of agrobiodiversity conservation and water and soil resource management
- Working with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure nature-positive recycling solutions are used more effectively by small- and medium-sized enterprises to generate increased resources that benefit poor farming households in rural areas and contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Working with smallholder communities to ensure the sustainable, nature-positive management of biodiversity and other natural resources and improve production systems through nature-positive innovations, learning, and technologies
- Engaging key actors in creating an enabling environment for nature-positive solutions, by identifying the true cost of food, including the hidden costs of women's labor; valuing and shaping different types of incentives; and building mainstreaming implementation and scaling capacity
- Providing the scientific evidence base and capacity to monitor and quantify ecosystem service delivery and maximize efficiency of interventions, to help local restoration stakeholders establish innovative nature-positive solutions that attract investment and break the degradation cycle

Photo 1: Engaging farmer groups and communities is central to identifying and testing nature positive solution (Ma village, Vietnam).
Photo 2: Neglected and underutilized species, such as Amaranth (grown in Vihiga, western Kenya), have good potential to contribute to nature positive solution given their multiple benefits: nutritional, economic, adaptive capacity.

Photos: Bioversity International/R. Vernooy

PHOTO 1



PHOTO 2



Future perspectives



Environmental Health and Biodiversity: In the five focus countries of Vietnam, India, Kenya, and Burkina Faso, food, land, and water productivity will be increased by 30 percent and biodiversity by 50 percent, while reversing soil degradation



Nutrition, Health, and Food Security: Consumers will have access to a more diverse diet, with women and children in particular benefitting from nutrient-dense crops and varieties



Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods, and Jobs: Value chains that offer nature-positive solutions will help create jobs and income opportunities, particularly for women and youth



Gender Equality, Youth, and Social Inclusion: The needs of women and indigenous people must be at the heart of nature-positive solutions, including ensuring opportunities for training, community engagement, and management.



Climate Adaptation and Mitigation: Nature-positive adaptation measures will help communities build resilience to climate shocks and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while ensuring financial incentives align with environmental goals