



Advancing Biodiversity for Resilient Agrifood Systems

Advisory services

The Challenge

The global loss of biodiversity threatens the foundations of agrifood systems and undermines their resilience. More than 7,000 plant species are edible, spanning a vast range of varieties, while more than 8,800 livestock breeds have been documented. Approximately 60,000 species are used for medicine, food and/or spices. Ecosystem services such as pollination, fertile soils, natural pest control, clean water and genetic diversity ensure agricultural productivity and food security. Pollination alone contributes a global annual market value of between 200 and 500 billion euros. At the same time, agrifood systems are a major driver of biodiversity loss: Changes in land-use, monocultures, deforestation, overfertilization and the excessive use of pesticides destroy habitats, lead to soil degradation and pollute water bodies. 86% of threatened terrestrial species are at risk due to agriculture-related habitat loss.

Our approach

We at GIZ work with governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the private sector and civil society to transform agrifood systems towards sustainability, resilience and biodiversity conservation. Our vision is to strengthen agrifood systems that enable healthy diets, protect ecosystems and biodiversity, providing good living conditions and income opportunities. To this end, we provide advisory services advancing the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services as the foundation for resilience and productivity. We support the development and implementation of national agriculture and agroecology strategies, and promote farmer-centred incentives that reward producers for their stewardship of biodiversity and natural resources. Together with our partners we navigate trade-offs and develop solutions suited to local needs that advance fairness, inclusion and food security.

Our services

In collaboration with different partners GIZ provides advisory services and capacity development by:

- **Introducing and scaling diversified and agroecological production systems** (e.g. crop rotations, intercropping, agroforestry) with sustainable soil management and resource-efficient solutions.
- **Safeguarding agrobiodiversity and improving nutrition** through conservation and use of locally adapted crop varieties and livestock breeds and by promoting diverse, nutrient-rich foods.
- **Protecting and restoring landscapes** through advisory services for partners on sustainable land management, preventing deforestation and integrating natural and semi-natural habitats into agricultural landscapes.
- **Supporting biodiversity-friendly and deforestation-free supply chains** by advising producers, businesses and their partners on traceability, managing environmental risks and preparation for the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).
- **Strengthening knowledge and capacity development**, including organisational development and training on measures to conserve biodiversity, whilst integrating diverse knowledge systems.
- **Shaping policy and finance** through advisory services for governments and other partners on mainstreaming biodiversity into agricultural and land-use policies, including the development of incentives and finance mechanisms, that reward nature-positive production and investments.



The benefits

Biodiversity-friendly agrifood systems are better able to withstand climate change, soil degradation, water scarcity and other risks to agricultural production. They are also less dependent on external inputs. Thus, meeting sustainability standards can help businesses remain competitive and tap into new markets. GIZ has built strong, trusting relationships with public and private stakeholders around the globe. Our vast portfolio covers a wide range of expertise - from agriculture and nutrition to biodiversity and natural resource management – encompassing policy advice, capacity development and the development of practical, field-tested solutions.

Examples from the field

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is implementing the project [Knowledge Centre for Organic Agriculture and Agroecology in Africa \(KCOA\)](#) which promotes the adoption of organic and agroecological farming across Africa. By working with partner organisations through five regional knowledge hubs, the project gathers and shares practical knowledge, trains multipliers and connects organisations across many regions. It also supports advocacy and policy dialogue to advance sustainable agrifood systems. To date, KCOA has trained around 7,000 multipliers and over 40,000 families. Furthermore, it has helped establish over 80 Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups that bring together more than 1,600 farms, in developing affordable and locally driven certification processes responsible for bridging producers with their consumers. Above all, KCOA is a strong multi-stakeholder partnership that connects over 900 organisations and has so far reached more than 50 million people - from consumers to producers and all actors along the value chain across Africa.

The [CompensACTION initiative](#), launched by BMZ, promotes innovative financing mechanisms that reward smallholder farmers and local communities for their contributions to conserve ecosystems and their services. GIZ hosts the CompensACTION Secretariat, which coordinates efforts together with its partners, CompensACTION implements pilot projects across Africa, Asia and Latin America. In Himachal Pradesh, India, for example, women-led groups and other local organisations help sustain the pollination services essential to apple production, yet often lack a reliable income. To address this, GIZ is supporting the design of a Pollination Service Agreement, together with a financing mechanism and a monitoring, reporting and verification framework, to reward their contribution to this vital ecosystem service. Likewise, as part of Germany's International Climate Initiative and with EU-cofunding, GIZ works in five Latin American countries to protect natural ecosystems and to adapt productive systems to safeguard pollinator ecosystem services ([Poli-LAC](#)).

In [Mexico](#), GIZ works with agricultural and financial institutions to mobilize public and private financing for sustainable farming that restores soils, uses water efficiently, and diversifies production. These efforts help protect biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, and improve rural livelihoods. By strengthening rural organizations and access to digital information, GIZ also helps producers participate in value chains and improve production and marketing. More than 40,000 people have received training in sustainable production – including native maize, cacao, coffee, and honey – with women and young people participating throughout.

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