

Implementation Conference: Stakeholder Action For Our Common Future

Title: ECOAGRICULTURE :

Promoting Land Use Systems that Increase Agricultural Productivity, Ecosystem Services, and Biodiversity

1. Background	
Relevant sustainable development agreement(s)	Convention on Biodiversity Agenda 21 Millennium Development Goals
Relevant components of the (draft) Johannesburg agreements	<p>6. (j) [Agreed] Transfer basic sustainable agricultural techniques and knowledge, including natural resource management, to small and medium-scale farmers, fishers and the rural poor, especially in developing countries, including through multi-stakeholder approaches and public-private partnerships aimed at increasing agriculture production and food security;</p> <p>(l) Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought and floods through such measures as improved use of climate and weather information and forecasts, early warning systems, land and natural resource management, agricultural practices and eco-system conservation in order to reverse current trends and minimize degradation of land and water resources, [including [full support]/[through the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources] to implement [inter alia] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa 5 [as one of the prime tools for poverty eradication;]]</p> <p>20. Human activities are having an increasing impact on the integrity of ecosystems that provide essential resources and services for human well-being and economic activities. [As the natural resource base is vital for sustainable development, the current trend in loss of natural resources must be halted and reversed, where appropriate, at global and national levels by 2015.]/[Managing the natural resources base in a sustainable and integrated manner is essential for sustainable development.] In this regard, it is necessary to implement strategies [which apply the precautionary principle] [based on an ecosystem approach] to protect all [types]/[classes] of ecosystems and to achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources, while strengthening regional, national and local capacities. [Concerns related to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources should be integrated in all sectoral policies, strategies and programmes as well as in sustainable development strategies or, where applicable, poverty reduction strategies. Existing environmental agreements and related instruments should be implemented fully and in a coherent manner.]</p> <p>(b) [Agreed] Develop and implement integrated land management and water-use plans that are based on sustainable use of renew-</p>

	<p>able resources and on integrated assessments of socio-economic and environmental potentials, and strengthen the capacity of Governments, local authorities and communities to monitor and manage the quantity and quality of land and water resources;</p> <p>(d) [Agreed] Promote programmes to enhance in a sustainable manner the productivity of land and the efficient use of water resources in agriculture, forestry, wetlands, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture, especially through indigenous and local community-based approaches;</p> <p>(s) [Agreed] Promote the conservation, and sustainable use and management of traditional and indigenous agricultural systems and strengthen indigenous models of agricultural production.</p> <p>40. (d) [Agreed] Implement the CBD and its provisions, including active follow-up of its work programmes and decisions through national, regional and global action programmes, in particular the national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and strengthen their integration into relevant cross-sectoral strategies, programmes and policies, including those related to sustainable development and poverty eradication, including initiatives which promote community-based sustainable use of biological diversity;</p> <p>(e) [Agreed] Promote the wide implementation and further development of the ecosystem approach, as being elaborated in the ongoing work of the CBD;</p> <p>(f) [Agreed] Promote concrete international support and partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including in ecosystems, World Heritage sites and for the protection of endangered species, in particular through the appropriate channelling of financial resources and technology to developing countries, as well as to countries with economies in transition;</p> <p>(g) [Agreed] To effectively conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, promote and support initiatives for hot spot areas and other areas essential for biodiversity and promote the development of national and regional ecological networks and corridors;</p> <p>(h) [Agreed] Provide financial and technical support to developing countries, including capacity building, in order to enhance indigenous and community based biodiversity conservation efforts;</p>
<p>2. Content</p>	
<p>Goal(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Raising the profile / awareness of the need for sustainable ecosystem management - through increased integration of biodiversity considerations within agricultural management systems ▪ Raise awareness of the need for sustainable ecosystem management through increased integration of biodiversity considerations within agricultural management systems; Promote the exchange of information about existing ecoagriculture systems among researchers, farmers, land managers, agribusiness, extensionists and conservation organizations; and ▪ Develop an "action plan" to develop and promote ecoagri-

	<p>culture systems in areas that are joint priorities for rural poverty reduction, food security and biodiversity conservation or restoration.</p>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-stakeholder coalition, comprising major investors (Private companies, multi-lateral organisations, regional organisations, NGOs etc) mandated to raise profile of 'Eco-agriculture' and mobilise both resources and political will. • An agreed initial work programme for the coalition • An agreement as to the formal nature of the coalition (to be adopted or to be subsequently developed)
Social, economic, environmental impact	
Contribution to: poverty eradication social inclusion and empowerment good governance gender equity	<p>Combine high and increasing agricultural productivity—especially in low-income rural communities—with the protection of wild biodiversity</p> <p>Community-community exchanges, best practice dissemination and capacity building for appropriate adoption of sustainable agricultural management practices.</p> <p>Support for community-based planning processes and institutions in agricultural landscapes to conserve ecosystem services like biodiversity, while supporting agricultural development.</p> <p>Promote agricultural landscapes that conserve strategic natural habitats for biodiversity of particular importance for livelihood security of women, landless and low-income households.</p>
Work programme: steps Including timetable	<p>Short-Term Goal (?)</p> <p>Organize a high-profile, multi-stakeholder Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Biodiversity Conservation, including the private business and financial sectors (following WSSD)</p> <p>Long-Term Goals / Work Programmes: TBD (see new York Proposals)</p>
Beneficiaries (including location / scope)	<p>Rural producers / communities – through realisation of longer-term benefits (improved productivity, ecosystem health etc).</p> <p>Benefits to global community of conserving wild biodiversity associated with those ecosystems and wild species of particular importance to the survival and quality of life of human populations.</p>

3. Organisational	
Who (incl. which stakeholders)	Business, Agribusiness, Researchers, NGOs / CBOs, Farmers Organisations, Trade Unions and Multi-lateral organisations, Local Government (?) , Conservation organizations,
Facilitating organisation	Stakeholder Forum (through Implementation Conference)
Potential Implementing organisations	Various: International level: IUCN / Future Harvest / Equator Initiative (UNDP) Local: CBOs (of various geographical origin)
Advisory organisations	
Potential donors	Non-profit foundations, bilateral donors, European Union? IFAD / GEF/ World Bank
Other: possible organisations to engage?	NGOs: WWF, CARE, IFOAM, ITDG, GRAIN, African Conservation Network, Counterpart International, Organisation of African Unity (Developed the Model Law), Winrock International Environmental Conservation Association of Zambia, Wildlife and Environmental Society of South Africa, The Nature Conservancy, World Resources Institute, Earth Institute, Rainforest Alliance Farmers Organisations: IFAP Trade Unions: IUF, National Union of Plantation & Agricultural Workers (NUPAW) Business: XN Institute, Conservation International's Center for Environmental Leadership in Business, Cocoa Institute; Chiquita Brands, Monsanto Youth: FAO Gambian (Youth Food Security Trust Fund) ENDA – Young farmers initiatives Research: International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, FAO, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute Foundations: Ford, Rockefeller and Moore Foundation To be confirmed
Monitoring	
Evaluation: intermediate; final	
Reporting	
Knowledge Management: before; during; after	
Finance	Possible funding sources? World Bank, GEF, IFAD, UNDP, FAO?

4. (Inter)governmental action	
Necessary government action? National level (which country/countries)	Potential governmental interest?
International level: necessary / desired commitments in Johannesburg (and/or beyond)	<p>Re-emphasis on need to integrate consideration for biodiversity into agricultural landscapes and management practices</p> <p>Ecoagriculture should be promoted as a high priority under WSSD, through broad-based partnerships between producer organizations, public and private conservation agencies, multilateral finance and development agencies, NGOs, the business community and agricultural and ecological research organizations.</p> <p>Committed support for appropriate capacity building / training to facilitate implementation.</p> <p>Designate additional funding from inter-governmental agencies to Future Harvest Centers to undertake collaborative research with conservation agencies and organizations to develop ecoagriculture systems in selected priority areas where agricultural supply, rural poverty and biodiversity conservation are all of critical importance.</p> <p>Encourage FAO to supporting members countries to enhance information exchange on ecoagriculture practices, systems and initiatives (??)</p> <p>Others to be developed as part of the Stakeholder Conference.</p>

Necessary steps prior to J'burg:

- Identify which of the objectives identified at New York¹ (see copy below) should be the foci of
 - The Implementation Conference work programme
 - The plan of action arising from the IC
- Identify and invite the individuals necessary for the work programme foci to be comprehensively addressed.
- Establish e-mail discussion forum for IC participants (and more widely) to enable consultation and iterative revision of the Action Plan

Objectives identified in New York

1) DOCUMENT AND RESEARCH ECOAGRICULTURE PRACTICES & SYSTEMS

¹ Please note that one of the other action plans under development for the IC is the initiation of a campaign against agricultural subsidies – and thus there seems to be considerable potential to feed the objectives of Item 7 into this action plan.

- Document existing successful ecoagriculture systems
 - Identify, document, highlight and widely disseminate “win-win” examples (“success stories”) of best practices for ecoagriculture
 - Demonstrate to farmers the labor efficiency, cost efficiency and profitability of ecoagriculture practices
 - Encourage data collection by and for farmers and conservationists
 - Undertake full cost accounting of agricultural systems, internalizing short, medium and long-term economic, social and environmental costs
- Promote ecoagriculture research and development
 - Use the “landscape approach”, including multifunctional models and data-bases
 - Develop high-precision agricultural techniques of an integrative nature
 - Undertake participatory research and innovation for agroecosystems
 - Undertake research on the links between rural composition (migration, urbanization) to ecoagriculture
 - Develop opportunities to promote carbon sequestration through agriculture as well as forests
 - Link knowledge of human population dynamics to ecoagriculture (e.g., using GIS)

2) ADAPT TOOLS TO SUPPORT ECOAGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Promote innovations in spatial analysis tools, including GIS
- Promote economic valuation of environmental services
- Develop participatory processes and tools for ecoagriculture development
- Develop working mathematical models that link policy instruments to biophysical and socioeconomic parameters
- Adapt policy models for application to real world problems

3) PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS

- Raise public awareness of the problems of farming & environment
- Raise public awareness of actual and potential environmental benefits of well-managed agricultural landscapes
- Raise visibility of ecoagriculture in media (major coverage of issues/examples in TV, in advance of and during WSSD)
- Increase networking and communications on the issue to raise awareness among farmers of potential benefits
- Encourage citizen awareness of accredited certification schemes (e.g., Forest Stewardship Council, fair trade)
- Use marketing tools to educate consumers and producers about sustainable production and consumption
- Raise awareness and educate actors about ecological services along the entire “value chain” of agricultural commodities
- Build awareness of the potential for carbon sequestration activities to benefit farming and biodiversity conservation

4) STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY FOR ECOAGRICULTURE

- Mobilize awareness and resources for ecoagriculture
- Give a stronger voice to farmers in developing ecoagriculture policy
- Create agriculture-environment alliances and coalitions (as those that have formed against urban sprawl and other negative land uses)
- Use public health concerns as a tool to leverage interest in environmental impacts of agriculture (e.g., water)

- Coordinate public awareness/education efforts among diverse institutions, to agree upon common messages and common language
- Build a political constituency to lobby for ecoagriculture action

5) EDUCATE FARMERS AND RESOURCE MANAGERS ABOUT ECOAGRICULTURE

- Integrate ecoagriculture in education
 - Increase education about environment and ecoagriculture through agricultural colleges (which are often now only business focused)
 - Educate practitioners
 - Develop curriculum on agriculture and biodiversity conservation
- Build farmer/practitioner capacity
 - Enhance South-South capacity building
 - Outreach to farmers on ecoagriculture issues/options
 - Disseminate available agricultural technologies to increase productivity on land cropped, to avoid new land taken to put under the the plough
 - Disseminate information on benefits of ecoagriculture systems and demonstrate them to farmers

6) DEVELOP INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICIES TO PROMOTE ECOAGRICULTURE

- Integrate biodiversity and natural resource conservation issues fully into mainstream decision making process (policies & mechanisms)
 - Encourage policy shift by donors (bilaterals, IFIs, ECA's, etc.)
 - Link ecoagriculture to equitable land tenure and land access
 - Engage decision-makers
 - Resolve conflicts and manage risks presented by existing regimes
- Integrate biodiversity and natural resource conservation issues fully into international policy agenda
 - Adjust trade policy to support sustainability criteria
 - Integrate biodiversity and natural resources into global conomic agreements
- Improve the "enabling environment" for replication of ecoagriculture (information, policy, institutions, partnerships)
 - Establish strong environmental impact evaluation policies for agricultural projects
 - Improve market infrastructure (distribution, communication, storage)
 - Promote wide adoption of ethical and fair trade
 - Endorse, implement, monitor and enforce CBD
 - Integrate CBD initiatives into other MEA's, work of UN, etc.

7) REMOVE OR REDIRECT PERVERSE SUBSIDIES

- Highlight examples of how economic policies are undermining sustainable development in agriculture and biodiversity areas
- Promote policies that respect natural limits and capacities
- Reduce perverse agricultural and other subsidies (e.g., for specific crops) and redirect them to increase positive incentives for ecoagriculture
- Mobilize resources to transform food production systems, including incentives and subsidies
- If new subsidies/payments for ecoagriculture are established, make sure sources of funding are sustainable

8) STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS TO SUPPORT ECOAGRICULTURE

- Address key challenge: institutional design of collaborative partnerships
- Create alliances between producers, industry in South, industry in the North (direct, indirect)
- The conservation/agriculture interface should be enhanced across the whole spectrum of agribusiness
- Expand linkages between conservation community and farmers so that more positive examples (e.g., APPTA in Costa Rica) can be promoted
- Foster coalitions of producer groups for landscape-scale collaboration
- Utilize multi-stakeholder processes
- Promote institutional changes to support landscape-scale implementation
- Promote governance mechanisms for sustainable development

9) FINANCE ECOAGRICULTURE

- Address means by which global public goods can be maintained (e.g., global “set-asides”; need for financial migration/compensation to allow custodianship of biodiversity)
- Develop systems of payments for ecosystem services
- Develop innovative mechanisms, such as biodiversity banking
- Develop more tools for private landholders and producers
- Develop insurance systems to facilitate farmers’ transition to ecoagriculture