

Small Farmers, Farmer Seeds Systems and Sustainability



2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
COP15: C-91/MOP10-NP/MOP14
Ecological Civilization—Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING – MONTREAL

Linking indigenous communities with science & multiple stakeholders via local NGOs platform for collaboration, innovation, and adaptation

COP15 SIDE EVENT

13:15—14:45, December 9, 2022

Asia and the Pacific Meeting Room, 511C-F

Photo by Qiubi



EVENT INFORMATION



农民种子网络
FARMERS' SEED NETWORK(CHINA)



UN International Ecosystem Management Partnership
国际生态系统管理伙伴关系



iiED International Institute
for Environment
and Development



INMIP
International Network of
Mountain Indigenous Peoples



樂施會
OXFAM
World
Without
Poverty
無窮世界



万科公益基金会
VANKE FOUNDATION



千禾社区基金会
Harmony Community Foundation



恒生銀行
HANG SENG BANK

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Small farmers, farmer seeds systems and sustainability

Linking indigenous communities with science & multiple stakeholders via local NGOs platform for collaboration, innovation, and adaptation

This side event co-hosted by Farmers' Seed Network (FSN-China), United Nations Environment Programme-International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP), Foodthink, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), ANDES, International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP), and Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT)

Small farmers and Indigenous communities are unsung heroes in biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and food system transformation in different ecosystems globally. They produce a third of the world's food and these smallholder farmers not only provide food, but also act as stewards for a diversity of plants, animals and forest on and around their farms (FAO 2021, FSN 2022, IIED 2022). These small family farms and indigenous communities are more climate resilient and acting as base for human and nature interaction, evolution and adaptation.

Asia is the continent with the largest population of small farmers. China is the world's biggest smallholder farming country of 260 million farming households, with an average farming area of less than 0.6 hectares. These small farmers and their indigenous communities have worked in farmer seed systems to adapt to social and climate change for generations. The community led farmer seed systems sustain traditional culture, knowledge and genetic diversity as an important basis for food security, climate resilience and sustainability. However, small farmers and people in indigenous communities are the majority of poor and hunger population and their bio-cultural knowledge and genetic resources in farmer seed systems need more recognition and support in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



This is a comprehensive side event with joint efforts from multiple partners, including indigenous communities from Asia, Africa, South America and social organizations from both the south and north, aiming to share our long-term collaboration in community-based action results in farmer seed systems enhancement for food security, climate adaptation and sustainability, as well as contributing to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework with the following specific objectives:

1. Display the roles and contribution of smallholder farmers, indigenous people and communities in farmer seed systems enhancement and utilization for addressing the interlinked issues of biodiversity, food and livelihood at the grassroot level in the context of climate change from Southwest China, Himalaya-Hindu Kush mountains, African Zambezi River valley areas, Andes mountains to coastal and dryland ecosystems.
2. Demonstrate the possible linkage and collaboration among local communities, scientists, local governments, enterprises and other stakeholders via local NGO networks and platform for dialogues and interaction for mutual understanding and joint actions in sustainable conservation and adaptation at local level.
3. Launch a **“Montreal Declaration on Small-Scale Women Farmers for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use”** for enhancing a diverse cross-border platform with includes local communities, scientific research institutions, social organizations, and enterprises. This declaration aims to promote multi-stakeholder groups to share good practices and knowledge, and jointly carry out exchanges and cooperation in farmer seed systems enhancement for sustainable biodiversity and traditional knowledge conservation and utilization for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity targets and SDGs.

Agenda



Moderator: **Xin Song**, Farmers' Seed Network of China

13:15-13:25 **Opening Remarks**

Linxiu Zhang, Director, UNEP-IEMP

Yongping Yang, Director, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden of Chinese Academy of Sciences (online)

13:25-13:30 **Goal and Objectives**

Yiching Song, Founder, Farmers' Seed Network of China;
Senior Research Fellow, UNEP-IEMP

13:30-14:00 **Panel I: Conservation: Bio-culture Approach and Farmer Seed Systems**

Panel Chair: Chemuku Wekesa

Krystyna Swiderska, IIED

Chemuku Wekesa, Kenya Forestry Research Institute

Regis Mafuratidze, CTDO, Zimbabwe

Leticia Ama Deawuo, SeedChange

Liwei Hong, Oxfam Hong Kong

Q&A: 5 minutes

14:00-14:30 **Panel II: Protection in Utilization: Collaboration and Marketing**

Panel Chair: Ebony Holland

Yunzhu Chen, Global Environmental Institute

Dan Wang, Hang Seng Bank (China) Limited (online)

Yokeling Chee, Third World Network (online)

Tianle Chang, FoodThink (online)

Ebony Holland, IIED

Q&A: 5 minutes

14:30-14:45 **Launch and Celebration**

Yiching Song

"Montreal Declaration on Small-Scale Women Farmers for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use"