

The Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research (PAR) was established in 2006. It provides a framework for collaboration and cooperation among those working to maximise agrobiodiversity's contribution to human well-being and to deal with global challenges such as climate change, water quality and land degradation. The overall goal of PAR is to enhance the sustainable management and use of agrobiodiversity by improving knowledge of all its different aspects.

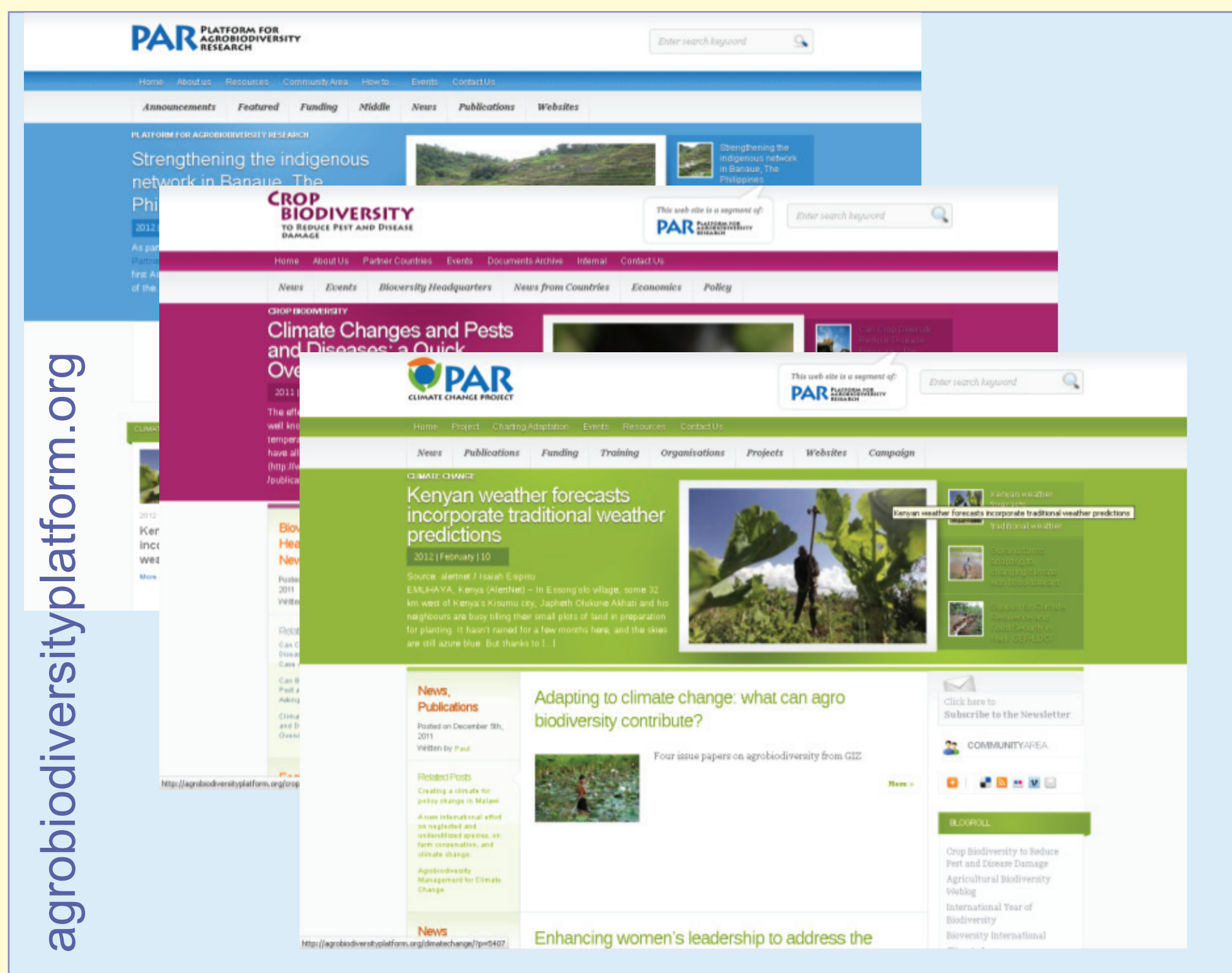
Why is PAR needed?

PAR brings together information on the maintenance and use of agrobiodiversity in order to strengthen its contribution to human well-being. PAR helps to identify and address knowledge gaps, and to strengthen collaboration between the different groups working on agrobiodiversity. It also helps to integrate and synthesize existing information on key topics of global significance and makes recommendations on research needed.

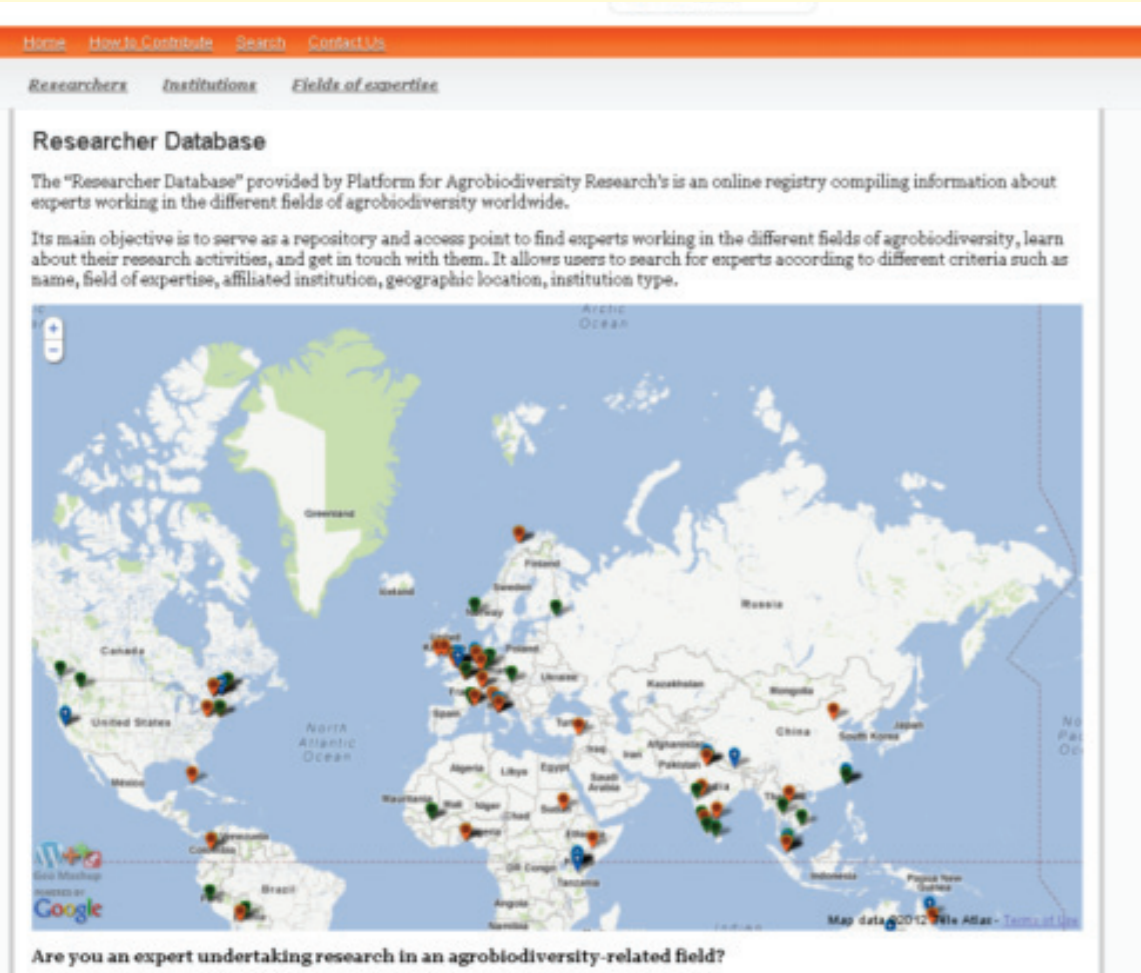
Objectives

- To support the development of an adequate agrobiodiversity knowledge base;
- To identify ways in which agrobiodiversity can contribute to addressing some of the major global challenges faced today;
- To identify and facilitate new and innovative research partnerships.

PAR Website



PAR seeks to maintain effective communications among agrobiodiversity practitioners through its website, www.agrobiodiversityplatform.org. As an up to date information provider, the Website features news, books and articles, case studies, on-going project activities, an annotated bibliography on different agrobiodiversity themes, a quarterly electronic newsletter, job opportunities and links to other organizations working in the same area. The Website also offers group information sharing and discussion opportunities, collaborative document writing and an online database of researchers.



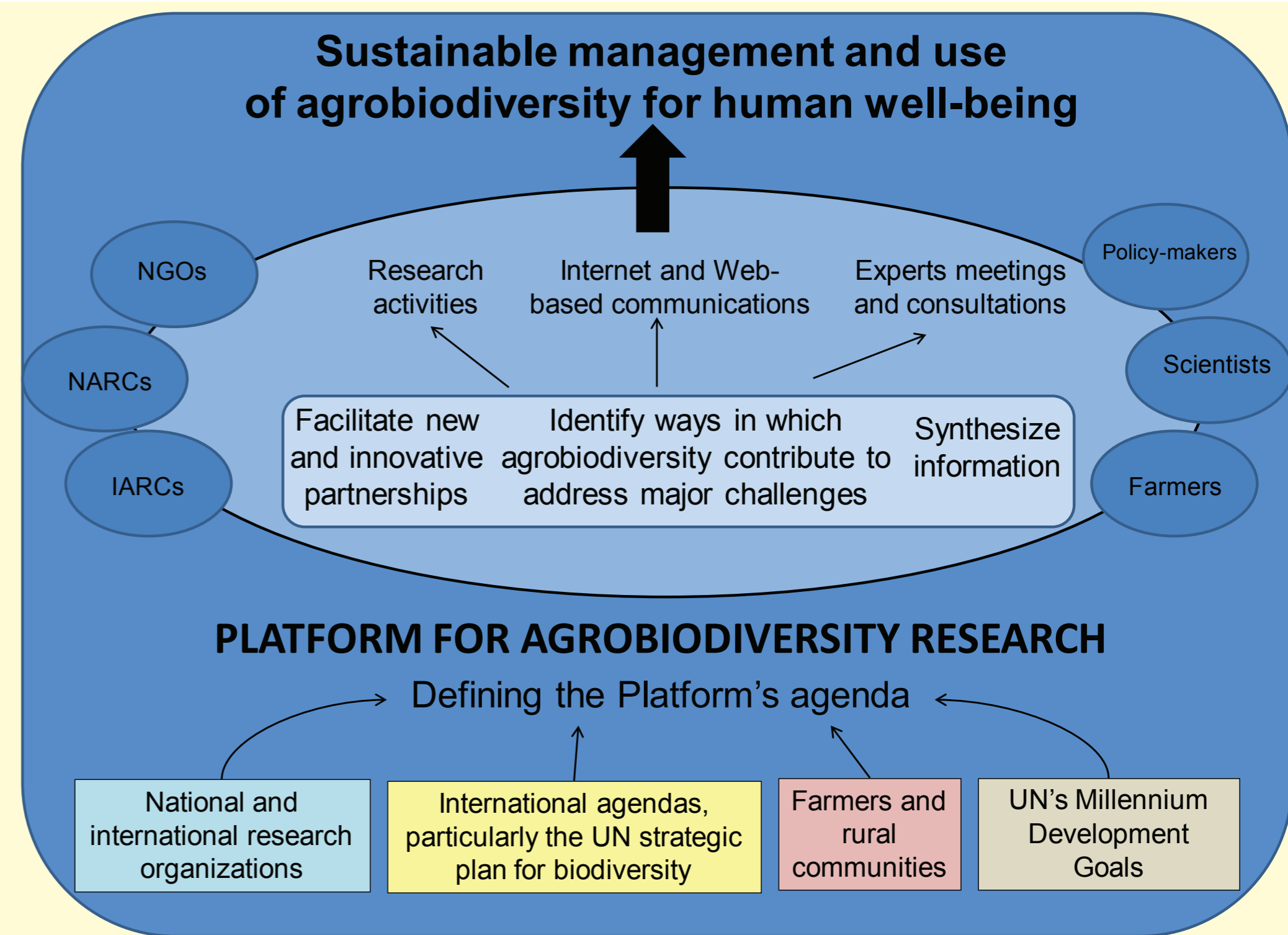
PAR Researcher Database

A worldwide network of researchers and experts working in the different fields of agrobiodiversity share their profile and experience with their peers.

Are you an expert undertaking research in an agrobiodiversity-related field? Visit <http://agrobiodiversityplatform.org/database/> and complete the "Register a Researcher" form.

Suggest a researcher to be included in the registry by compiling the "Suggest a Researcher" form.

Search the database by geographic location on the map and/or explore the dataset by searching for researchers, institutions or fields of expertise.



Current activities

1. The use of agrobiodiversity by indigenous peoples and rural communities in adapting to climate change:

An analysis on how indigenous peoples and rural communities are using agrobiodiversity to cope with climate change, revealed that the use of both traditional crop and livestock species and varieties along with newly adapted materials is a common feature. PAR is working in Bolivia and Malaysia with indigenous peoples, research organizations and local genebanks to improve access to traditional crop varieties and identify new varieties adapted to changing needs. The indigenous communities define the goals and strategies of the work.



Farmer to farmer training on participatory varietal evaluation in Sarawak, Malaysia

2. The Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty:

PAR hosts and supports the Indigenous Partnership for Agrobiodiversity and Food Sovereignty which aims to foster an alliance between indigenous peoples and local communities, with international research and advocacy organizations. This alliance will support and empower indigenous peoples to enhance the use of agrobiodiversity, strengthen the maintenance of diverse local food systems and sustain sovereignty.

3. Knowledge synthesis and sharing, supporting communities of practice in agrobiodiversity:

Together with FAO, PAR convened an Expert Workshop to assess the contribution that agricultural biodiversity could make to food security and sustainability. The resulting analysis points to the importance of biodiversity in improving productivity and the sustainability of production under changing conditions by enhancing agro-ecosystem functions, thus supporting the livelihoods of farmers and rural communities around the world.

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