

Agricultural biodiversity includes the diversity of tens of thousands of species, and innumerable sub-species, varieties and breeds, which are used directly by humans, for food, fibre, feed, fuel, shelter and medicines, as well as the diversity of the species which support production. The scope of agricultural biodiversity was summarised in a workshop organised by FAO and the CBD Secretariat in 1998: 'Agricultural biodiversity encompasses the variety and variability of animals, plants and micro-organisms which are necessary to sustain key functions of the agro-ecosystem, its structure and processes for, and in support of, food production and food security'

Agricultural biodiversity also has vital, but often under-recognised, linkages with culture and spirituality (Pimbert 2006 Pimbert, M. 2006. Transforming Knowledge and Ways of Knowing for Food Sovereignty and Bio-Cultural Diversity. IIED.

Hence, the term is most commonly described in English as AgriCULTURAL Biodiversity¹¹. The font formatting with 'CULTURAL' in capitals is deliberate to emphasise the cultural dimension of AgriCULTURAL Biodiversity.

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to emphasise the cultural dimension of this vital sub-set of biodiversity, as opposed to the more reductionist term agrobiodiversity used by some.

