### Study #4010

**Contributing Projects:**
- P1782 - Sustainable food systems through managing diversity (SustainableFoods)

**Part I: Public communications**

**Type:** OICR: Outcome Impact Case Report  
**Status:** On-going  
**Year:** 2020

**Title:** At least six private sector partners use WLE/A4NH/Alliance’s Agrobiodiversity Index products to guide more holistic decision-making

**Short outcome/impact statement:**
The Agrobiodiversity Index was developed by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT with support from WLE, A4NH and partners. Its adoption has contributed to changes in behaviour and discourse by at least six private sector partners. They are increasingly including agrobiodiversity dimensions in their decision-making for more sustainable consumption, production and conservation along the food chain. The process of co-developing applications has broadened their usability and actionability.
Outcome story for communications use:
Agrobiodiversity Index guides decisions in the private sector

Any entity that wants to enhance and maintain agrobiodiversity for sustainable food systems – whether it’s a national government or a future-conscious private company – needs a way to track progress as time goes by. To make that kind of assessment possible, the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) developed the Agrobiodiversity Index, with support from the CGIAR Research Programs on Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) and Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH). Its adoption has contributed to changes in behavior and discourse by at least six private-sector partners.

The Agrobiodiversity Index is the first standard way of measuring agrobiodiversity in consumption, production and conservation. It helps assess performance and progress towards managing agrobiodiversity for sustainable food systems, through 3 commitment indicators, 4 action indicators and 15 status indicators. These are structured in three pillars supporting healthy diets, sustainable production and conservation, and also align with nine of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To make the Index actionable, the researchers have engaged with a variety of partners to co-develop the framework and tailor applications for their needs. Initially, most demands came from public partners, and the researchers responded with country profiles, co-investments, and agrobiodiversity layers for the policy-oriented Food Systems Dashboard.

More recently, private companies have taken a serious interest in Agrobiodiversity Index products for their monitoring, assessment and decision making. These users stand ready to play a catalytic role in food system sustainability. As they and their clients are global players, their actions can benefit consumers, producers and communities around the world.

Through a co-development process, the company HowGood has incorporated Agrobiodiversity Index layers in its sustainability assessment tool and applied this with at least one client, Danone, assessing and guiding the development of over 1,000 products with global supply chains. Also through co-development, the Food Accelerator FACT has incorporated agrobiodiversity measures into a supply chain tool to increase transparency and traceability of agrobiodiversity.

The company Wholechain has incorporated Agrobiodiversity Index metrics into its blockchain-based technology for traceability of supply chains and will apply this in Peru and Vietnam under an EU project. Another company, Olam, has been co-developing case studies applying Agrobiodiversity Index applications. Meanwhile, the Index has been included in the EU’s Business@Biodiversity Platform metrics and aligned with the One Planet Business for Biodiversity Initiative of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

Links to any communications materials relating to this outcome: <Not Defined>

Part II: CGIAR system level reporting

Link to Common Results Reporting Indicator of Policies: No

Stage of maturity of change reported: Stage 1
Links to the Strategic Results Framework:
Sub-IDOs:
- Increased capacity for innovation in partner development organizations and in poor and vulnerable communities

Is this OICR linked to some SRF 2022/2030 target?: Too early to say

Description of activity / study: <Not Defined>

Geographic scope:
- Global

Comments: <Not Defined>

Key Contributors:
Contributing CRPs/Platforms:
- WLE - Water, Land and Ecosystems
- A4NH - Agriculture for Nutrition and Health

Contributing Flagships:
- FS: Enhancing Sustainability Across Agricultural Systems (ESA)

Contributing Regional programs: <Not Defined>

Contributing external partners:
- EU - European Union
- Wholechain
- Olam - Olam International

CGIAR innovation(s) or findings that have resulted in this outcome or impact:
The Agrobiodiversity Index (ABDI) is the first standard way of measuring agrobiodiversity in consumption, production and conservation, and helps identify concrete actions to achieve diverse, sustainable and resilient food systems. The ABDI has 22 indicators, comprising 3 commitment indicators, 4 action indicators and 15 status indicators across three pillars, which are aligned with nine of the Sustainable Development Goals. The ABDI aims to assess performance on a regular basis and help companies and countries track their progress towards managing agrobiodiversity for sustainable food systems.

Innovations:
- 2054 - Agrobiodiversity index for supporting public and private sector decision-making on biodiversity in food systems, for healthy diets, sustainable production, and conservation
Elaboration of Outcome/Impact Statement:
Building on WLE, A4NH and other partners’ research (1-11), the Agrobiodiversity Index (ABDI) team has been compiling multiple dimensions, metrics and data on agrobiodiversity, structured in three pillars that follow a food systems approach: agrobiodiversity for healthy diets, sustainable production and conservation. To make this information actionable for different stakeholders, the ABDI research team has engaged with a variety of partners to co-develop the framework and tailor applications for various needs (6).

Initially, most demand came from public sector partners. This led to a first series of country profiles (5), the integration of agrobiodiversity layers in the global Food Systems Dashboard (12) and country co-investments. More recently, the private sector has become increasingly interested in leveraging agrobiodiversity for more sustainable solutions and considering related measures in their monitoring, assessments and decision making.

Through a co-development process, the company HowGood (13) has now incorporated ABDI layers in its sustainability assessment tool and has applied this with at least one client, Danone, assessing and guiding the development of over 1,000 products with global supply chains. Also through a co-development process, the Food Accelerator FACT (‘Food, Agrobiodiversity, Clarity and Transparency’), bringing together companies, NGOs, public sector actors and researchers, has incorporated agrobiodiversity principles and measures into its supply chain tool, which is used for increasing transparency and traceability of agrobiodiversity in food supply chains (14). Related to this, the company Wholechain has incorporated ABDI metrics into its blockchain-based technology for traceability of supply chains. A new partnership with Wholechain has been set up to apply this in Peru and Vietnam as part of an EU Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development project (15). Olam, another company, has been co-developing three case studies applying ABDI applications to guide its sustainability efforts (16). During this process, ABDI has also been included in the EU Business @ Biodiversity Platform metrics for business and finance (17) and aligned with the structure of the One Planet Business for Biodiversity Initiative of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (18).

These users of the ABDI products are private sector partners that are able to play a catalytic role in transforming food system sustainability. As these companies and their clients are global players, the ultimate beneficiaries are consumers, producers and communities around the world.

Agrobiodiversity contributes to resilience, including climate change adaptation, and potentially to greenhouse gas reduction by increasing soil and above-ground biomass biodiversity (1, 9).

References cited:

Quantification: <Not Defined>
Gender, Youth, Capacity Development and Climate Change:

**Gender relevance**: 0 - Not Targeted  
**Youth relevance**: 0 - Not Targeted  
**CapDev relevance**: 1 - Significant  
Main achievements with specific **CapDev relevance**: The Agrobiodiversity Index strengthens the capacity of companies to monitor and consider agrobiodiversity in their decision-making (1, 4, 6).

**Climate Change relevance**: 1 - Significant  
Describe main achievements with specific **Climate Change relevance**: It is demonstrated that agrobiodiversity contributes to resilience, including climate change adaptation, and also has the potential to contribute to greenhouse gas reduction by increasing soil and above-ground biomass biodiversity (1, 9).

**Other cross-cutting dimensions**: <Not Defined>  
**Other cross-cutting dimensions description**: <Not Defined>  
**Outcome Impact Case Report link**: Study #4010  
**Contact person**:  
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