



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
STRATEGY FOR  
BIODIVERSITY  
MAINSTREAMING

Agriculture  
Sector  
(2016-2022)



# INTRODUCTION

In recent years, biodiversity mainstreaming in the Mexican agricultural sector has moved forward through the inclusion of objectives, goals and course of actions linked to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use within plans, sectoral programs and legal framework. However, there are still great challenges and opportunity areas to strengthen current institutional structures and Federal programs in order to guarantee productive activity success and long-term biodiversity conservation, by promoting real options for rural community development to guarantee food security.

The Special Program for Concurrent Sustainable Rural Development (PEC), derived from the Law on Sustainable Rural Development, specifically acknowledges natural resources and biodiversity degradation caused by primary activities making a non-sustainable use of them, and the threat hereof for rural areas. Likewise, it acknowledges the agricultural border expansion on the forests and woods as an ecosystem and biodiversity deterioration cause, and the entailing risk for medium-term production sustainability, including the recognition of a financial cost of 6.3% of the GDP caused by environmental exhaustion and degradation. In turn, Sectoral Program for Animal Husbandry, Agricultural and Fisheries Development (PRODAPA) acknowledges agriculture impact on natural resources, and considers that the great global challenge is increasing food production by productivity improvement.

The sectoral assessment made for this Strategy highlights that there is a great opportunity to improve biodiversity mainstreaming through changing rules of operation that precisely add better agricultural practices and selection criteria of the recipients. Moreover, it concludes that, while legal and regulatory framework of the Mexican agricultural sector has important improvements on biodiversity mainstreaming, there are still improvement opportunities, especially on promoting sustainable agriculture, inter institutional coordination and integrated management of rural landscapes with an ecological perspective.

This Strategy represents the joint work of the agricultural sector, through close collaboration with Federal government branches, civil organizations and scholars, thanks to which we have gathered a wide and congruent perspective on biodiversity conservation. It is important to highlight the work done by sectoral institutions, particularly the Under-Secretariat of Agriculture at the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), in collaboration with the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) and the support of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN-Mexico) and the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ).



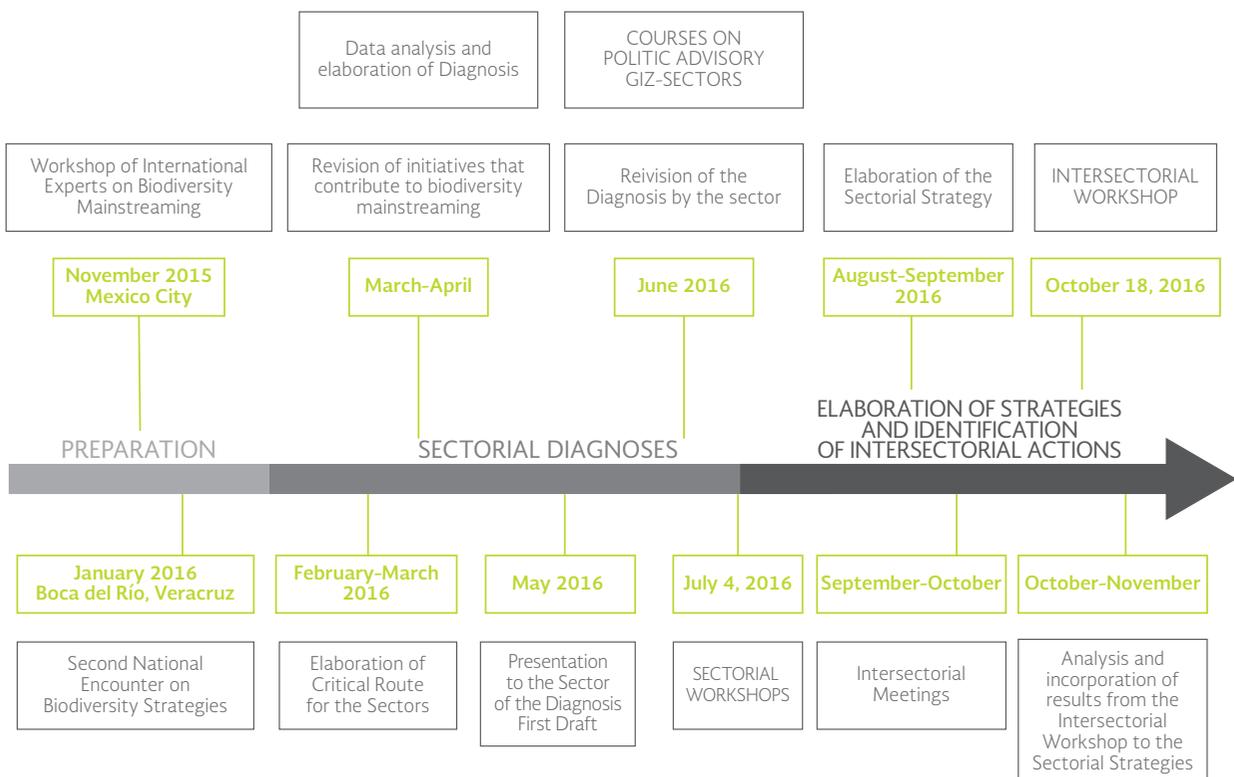
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# CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The current strategy was made within the framework of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, Cancun, 2016 (COP13) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). CONABIO, German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN-Mexico) -along with the agricultural, forestry, fishery and tourism sectors- developed a series of assessments revising the public policy instruments and identifying the opportunities for the mainstreaming of conservation and

sustainable use of biodiversity in each one. With the support of those assessments, four sectoral workshops for biodiversity mainstreaming were made, with the objectives of strengthening and complementing the sectoral assessments; to socialize and make the assessments inclusive; to identify the instruments with the better opportunity for biodiversity integration and to identify the key elements in order to generate a work and coordination program for the follow-up of actions.





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Finally, these four areas were able to share their acquired knowledge during the “Intersectorial Workshop for the Integration of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity”, which had the support of SAGARPA, SECTUR, CONAPESCA, CONAFOR, SEMARNAT, CONANP, CONABIO, GIZ and BIOFIN-México. During this workshop, all four Sectoral Strategies for Biodiversity Mainstreaming were presented, and the participants worked to identify the best opportunities and mechanisms of inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration with spatial focused initiatives that contribute to achieve biodiversity integration.

## VISION

At 2022, Mexico’s agricultural sector efficiently incorporates sustainable use and biodiversity conservation within its plans, programs and actions to guarantee sectoral contribution to food security and development of the country; contributing to the well-being of the society and to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

## OBJECTIVE

To guide the works and decision making of SAGARPA and other important stakeholders in the Mexican agricultural sector, in order to achieve sustainable development and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, through the permanent improvement of Federal Government actions and the articulation of strategies and policy instruments.

# AXES AND STRATEGIC LINES

Nine axes, grouped in three categories (substantive, coordination and support) and thirty-eight strategic lines for the Agricultural sector were identified:

## SUBSTANTIVE AXES

They relate to the main tasks to achieve biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in this Sector; namely, those actions needed to achieve the aforementioned vision, which cover public policies alignment with the programs, projects and actions thereof.

**Participation:** Actions aimed at establishing cooperation and co-responsibility schemes for sustainable use of biodiversity and environmental services, through the active participation of producers, service providers and society.

- To establish collaboration mechanisms among NGOs, private and public sectors, allowing better practices for sustainable agriculture.
- To take into consideration traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and communities within sustainable production processes encouraged by the sector.
- To secure the participation of all involved actors in the planning processes aimed at biodiversity mainstreaming in the agricultural sector.
- To create incentives and acknowledgments for the successful participation of society in biodiversity mainstreaming actions (i.e. Agricultural National Award of Sustainable Use of Biodiversity).

**Sectoral Impact on Biodiversity:** Actions that directly help eliminating, decreasing or reverting the impact of the productive activities on biodiversity, by encouraging production and provision services and by using sustainable methods that promote technical development and procuring the strengthening of sectoral technical capacities.

- To impulse the use of sustainable practices in agricultural sector and farming diversification, encouraging a comprehensive farming management that promotes efficient water and energy usage and preserves soil biodiversity.

- To include knowledge and innovation derived from scientific research in the design of programs, promoting the use of technology focused in sustainable productivity of this sector, under an agricultural planning scheme.
- To promote the diversification of farming production, especially with native species linked to environmental services maintenance, allowing to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and to promote genetic diversity, pursuing a higher performance without affecting the profits of productive activity.
- To promote projects for the management and sustainable use for biodiversity components that contribute to agricultural productivity (i.e. forage, nectar-pollen producing plants, pollinators and integral use of wildlife in Rural Production Units) within the sectoral planning framework.

**Instruments and Mechanisms for Management and Development:** Actions encouraging sustainable production and the creation of incentives through products and services of added value that consider criteria for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, alternative technology development, promotion of good practices, market opening and chains of value.

- To encourage incentives for added-value products and schemes like labeling, certification, collective brands, integrated services and organic production taking into account criteria for the sustainable use of biodiversity.
- To promote the valorization and payment of the ecosystem services made by Rural Production Units, production and chains of value, by promoting the support to producers that manage and sustainably use biodiversity.
- To create economic incentives that support the productive diversification of Rural Production Units, sustainable use of natural resources in agricultural lands, such as alternative tourism, alternative technologies and capacity building for the management and sustainable use of biodiversity and chains of value.
- To promote a comprehensive ecological land management as foundation for agricultural activity planning at regional level.

- To create awareness about Centers of Origin and Genetic Diversity of native species and to generate actions for its protection, by revising the legal framework to ensure conservation and sustainable use.

## COORDINATION AXES

Actions promoting linkage and inter-relation of different branches and institutional instruments to facilitate the integration of both sustainable use and preservation of biodiversity at all instances.

**Institutional Capacity and Arrangement:** Impulse to inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination, institutional capacity strengthening for an effective execution of conservation integration and sustainable use of biodiversity among sectors.

- To implement effective inter-institutional and inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms, by clearly identifying competences and strengthening capacities at operational and budgetary levels.
- To strengthen the implementation of existing coordination instruments, as the National Seeds System (SNS), SINAREFI and CIBIOGEM, which are fundamental for the achieving the biodiversity mainstreaming goals.

**Instruments for Sectoral Planning:** Elements considered in institutional programs and policies, influencing on production processes and services, which directly or indirectly support the mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- Impulse to new planning instruments modifying the incentive schemes to promote agricultural production based on the comprehensive and sustainable management of natural resources.
- To incorporate an approach focused on integrated landscape management in sectoral planning, identifying the areas with major biological diversity in order to encourage productive schemes, suitable for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- To include explicitly the concept of biodiversity in all sectoral planning instruments, taking into account different levels, beyond genetic resources.
- To incorporate management criteria and sustainable use of biodiversity in the incentive programs for productivity, subject to operating regulations.
- To encourage agricultural development models fitting within the 2010-2019 Revised Strategic Framework of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- To prepare input information for planning and policies instruments, both domestic and sectoral.

**Communication and Divuligation:** Actions encouraging knowledge transmission as a key tool to create a culture that values biodiversity and the services it grants to productive areas.

- Impulse to divulgation actions within the COP 13 framework and other international commitments for the positioning of the agricultural sector as a key actor for biodiversity mainstreaming in public policies.
- To promote education and awareness campaigns for producers and society, about the importance of promoting agricultural sustainable practices.
- To promote awareness campaigns, aimed at sectoral employees and technicians, about the importance of promoting agricultural sustainable practices and encouraging biodiversity conservation.
- To take actions on the dissemination of the results of programs, plans and practices favoring sustainable productivity and biodiversity mainstreaming for the well-being in the agricultural sector.
- To incorporate a biodiversity mainstreaming subject in programs within study plans linked to the agricultural sector.
- To impulse inter-sectoral campaigns promoting food waste reduction; consumption, production and sustainability of supply chains.
- To incorporate academic and research institutions to the Communication and Divuligation programs emerged from these approaches.

## SUPPORT AXES

Actions and required elements to achieve input supply and enabling necessary features at institutional level to integrate effectively the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

**Financing:** Actions related to location of economic resources for sustainable productivity and biodiversity mainstreaming achievement, considering both the budget of authorities, and support and incentive programs for producers and service providers who follow practices in accordance with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- To manage specific economic resources to impulse the sustainable use and management of biodiversity in the agricultural sector; and to encourage financing mechanisms with indicators for measuring biodiversity mainstreaming.
- To encourage financing schemes that attract and allow synergy with domestic and international entities aimed at the implementation of biodiversity mainstreaming actions in this sector.

**Legal Framework:** Establishment of strong and coherent legal instruments that promote and facilitate the execution of the goals of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, enabling the relationship of sectors with different elements of biodiversity.

- To explicitly incorporate biodiversity and biodiversity mainstreaming concepts to the area's legal framework, including management criteria, usage, sustainable use and natural resource restoration.
- To make an assessment and upgrade of the Mexican Official Standards of this area, to include management criteria, usage and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- To adjust incentive schemes and operating regulations to include criteria for the sustainable use of natural resources, conservation of biological diversity and prevention of ecosystem degradation.
- To promote the revision of the laws related to the sector in

- order to include the concept of biodiversity mainstreaming.
- To formalize the legal establishment of a domestic resource genetic system for agriculture and food, dependent from the Under-Secretariat of Agriculture, to preserve and sustainably use genetic diversity.
- To present a law about agricultural genetic resources in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol.

**Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:** Creation and strengthening of information systems needed to the monitoring and evaluation of the fulfillment of the goals indicated in the biodiversity mainstreaming strategic lines,, including base lines and indicator design.

- To create mechanisms for linking with research institutions that provide key information for a proper monitoring and evaluation of the sector's impact over biodiversity.
- To incorporate indicators aimed at assessing the impact of the sector on biodiversity within the Agricultural and Fishery National Information System.
- To create an evaluation system for the agricultural activities ecological footprint.
- To incorporate the base line information monitoring and evaluation indicators, established by international organisms, to the programs of the sector to encourage sustainable practices.



# Strategy for biodiversity mainstreaming. Agriculture Sector (2016-2022)

**SEMARNAT**  
SECRETARÍA DE  
MEDIO AMBIENTE  
Y RECURSOS NATURALES



**CONANP**  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL  
DE ÁREAS NATURALES  
PROTEGIDAS



**CONABIO**  
COMISIÓN NACIONAL PARA EL  
CONOCIMIENTO Y USO DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD

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