

# PROMOTING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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# RESILIENCE

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*“The ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organization and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.” (IPCC AR-4, 2007)*

- ❖ *Disturbances, shocks:* economic, political, environmental, natural hazards, climate change, etc.

# ROLE OF INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE IN BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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- ❖ Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge are collectively evolved by communities through generations in response to actual needs and situations: integral to community identity
- ❖ Role in building community resilience does not just depend on how useful indigenous knowledge are in the discovery or improvement of new technologies, but how communities use them to cope with economic, political and environmental shocks
- ❖ Communities themselves as the source developer and innovator of knowledge that builds resilience





# FOOD SECURITY: TRADITIONAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK BREEDING



- Indigenous and local communities have bred 2.1 million varieties of over 7,000 domesticated plants worldwide, most are now kept *ex situ*
- 80-90% of seeds used by smallholders are informally saved, shared, exchanged or locally traded
- Indigenous peoples and farmers have domesticated at least 34 livestock species and bred and continue to nurture 8,774 rare breeds of these species
- This diversity as source of diet diversity, resistance to pests and diseases and broad agronomic traits





# FOOD SECURITY: TRADITIONAL FARMING SYSTEMS, AGROECOLOGY



- Farm diversification based on maximization of synergies between species
- More diversified farming systems contribute to household food security, increases diet diversity and nutrition for the family, and increases resilience from shocks in food supply and prices
- Multiple crops and integration of poultry, livestock and freshwater fish production improves household nutrition, increases farm income and provides insurance from economic and climate shocks
- Agricultural diversification as climate adaptation and mitigation strategy



# AGROECOLOGY: HARNESSING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS IN AGRICULTURE

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- Agroecology is farming that “*centers on food production that makes the best use of nature’s goods and services while not damaging these resources.*”
- Builds on indigenous, traditional and local knowledge systems and complementing with formal knowledge in agriculture
- As a strategy for climate adaptation and mitigation



# PROMOTING INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE FOR COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

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- ❖ Recognition of diverse sources of knowledge, indigenous knowledge as on par with others
  - ❖ Malawi: government policy on crop diversification, integration of gender perspective
- ❖ Providing enabling environment
  - ❖ Brazil: National Policy on Agroecology and Organic Agriculture (2012)
  - ❖ Thailand: law on Community and Farmers' Rights to Seeds (2002)
- ❖ Support and promotion
  - ❖ India: National Innovation Fund (NIF), institutional support for scouting, spawning, sustaining and scaling up the grassroots innovations across the country
  - ❖ Philippines: government partnerships with NGOs and community in Climate Resiliency Field Schools (CRFS)
- ❖ Defense and protection
  - ❖ India: Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), patent challenges in biopiracy cases
- ❖ Recognize and protect the rights of local and indigenous communities to land and resources

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