GROW 2026 Programme

20-28 October 2026

DAY 1	**Module 1: Management of Agrobiodiversity**	
9:00 Rome time	**Welcome, introductions, presentation of participants**	
9:15	**Crop genetic diversity, domestication and traditional varieties** (Chapters 1,2,3) Introduction to traditional varieties (pag 1 - 11) The origins of agriculture and crops (pag 13 - 28) Centres of crop diversity and centres of origin (pag 28 - 33) Nature, biodiversity and genetic resources (pag 35 - 40)	T. Hodgkin (Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research - PAR) D. Jarvis (Platform for Agrobiodiversity Research - PAR) M. Turdieva (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT Uzbekistan) Kader Naino Jika (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)
11:15	**Diversity and its evolution in crop populations** (Chapter 4) The nature of diversity (pag 64 -66) Crops, varieties, and populations (pag 67 -70) Population genetic structure (pag 71 - 77) Evolution in crop varieties and populations (pag 78 - 84) Reproductive biology (pag 84 - 89) Crop varieties in production systems (pag 91 - 92)	
15:00	**Measuring diversity in crops** (Chapter 5) Exploring extent and distribution of diversity - Agronomic, Biochemical, Molecular (pag 92 - 107) Gathering data using participatory approaches (pag 108 - 118) Designing and investigation (pag 119 - 123) Practicum - Calculating on farm diversity indices: Richness, Evenness, Divergence	D. Jarvis (PAR) P. Colangelo (CNR IRET)
DAY 2		

9:15 Rome time	**Abiotic components of agricultural ecosystem** (Chapter 6) Abiotic and biotic components of agroecosystems (pag 126 - 137) Farmer characterization and classification of abiotic and biotic components (pag 137 -145) Reducing the dimensionality of complex data sets (pag 146 - 149) Ecosystem diversity and function (pag 150 - 153)	M. Reverberi F. Attorre (Sapienza) N. Bergamini (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)
11:15	**Diversity in, and adaptation to, adverse environments on farm** (Chapter 7)	P. Colangelo (CNRIRET)

14:00	Evolution of crop varieties in stress prone environments (pag 154-157) Abiotic stress and crop genetic diversity (pag 157 - 163) Biotic stress and crop genetic diversity (pag 163 - 169)	D. Jarvis (PAR) N. Bergamini (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT) Paola De Santis (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)
15:00	Farmer management of crop genetic diversity to cope with environmental stress (pag 169 - 172) Identifying where diversity is used to cope with environmental stress (pag172 - 180) Genetic diversity, damage, and genetic vulnerability (pag 181 - 190)	
16:00	**Who are the managers of diversity? Characterizing the social, cultural and economic environments** (Chapter 8) Farmers' roles and the management of crop diversity (pag 191 - 199) Social relationships and the distribution of diversity (pag 199 - 200) Social capital, collective action and property rights (pag 202 - 203) Tool and methods for documenting and relating farmer characteristics to crop genetic diversity (pag 203 - 211) Practicum – Who are the managers of diversity?	R. Nanyka (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, Uganda) P. De Santis (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)
DAY 3		
9:15 Rome time	**Measuring the values of on-farm diversity** (Chapter 9) Public and private values of diversity (pag 212 - 214) Varietal choice and diversity maintenance (pag 215 - 220) Econometric models and value chain actors (pag 220 - 226) Measuring non-market values of diversity (pag 226 - 231)	D. Gauchan (PAR)

11:00	Assessment and testing of guidelines for economic development of community managed institutions - Practicum	Eleonora Di Falcis, (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)
15:00	**Policy and genetic diversity on-farm** (Chapters 3, 10) The development and evolution of national programs on plant genetic resources (pag 41 - 44) The origins of an international commitments to plant genetic resources conservation (pag 45 - 46) Policy debates on conservation- ABS (pag 46 - 57)	I.L. Noreiga (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT Bioversity)
16:00	The use of genetic resources for plant breeding (pag 56 - 62) Policies and legal frameworks that have a negative impact on farmers' capacities to use diversity on-farm (pag 232 - 242) Policy processes: Overview on concepts and methods (pag 242 - 249) Developing policies that support farmers' role as generators, managers and conservers of crop diversity (pag 249 - 254)	
DAY 4		
9:15	**Genetic diversity and selection pressures at different social, spatial and temporal scales** (Chapter 11) The crop cycle (pag 225 - 258) Use of harvested materials and diversity of traditional varieties (pag 259 - 263) Selection during crop production and seed management (pag 263 - 264)	D. Jarvis (PAR) P Colangelo (CNR IRET) M. Turdieva (Alliance Bioversity CIAT, Uzbekistan)
11:00	Patterns of seed supply: The "Seed Systems" (pag 267 - 274)	

	Social, spatial and temporal dimensions of traditional varieties (pag 275 - 282)	
15:00	**Strategies for collaboration and intervention** (Chapter 12) Institutional and partner diversity (pag 283 - 285) Building trust and equitable collaboration (pag 286 - 290) Actions that incorporate genetic, ecological, social and economic concerns in support of on-farm management of crop genetic diversity (pag 291 - 303) Farmers benefit from the use and conservation of materials (pag 303 - 311)	P. De Santis (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT) Eleonora De Falcis (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)

16:00	**Traditional varieties and agricultural productivity** (Chapter 13) Socioeconomic, policy, environmental, biological and genetic dimensions (pag 313 - 320) The future value of traditional varieties (pag 320 - 323) Approaches to maintenance of traditional varieties (pag 323 325)	D. Jarvis (PAR)
Weekend		
DAY 5	**Module 2: Agrobiodiversity on the ground**	
9:15	**The Climate-Smart Agriculture Approach (CSA)** The CSA Approach - Challenges and opportunities for agriculture in the face of climate change	F. Matteoli J. Schnetzer (FAO CBC)
11:00	- CSA concept and 5 step-process to CSA implementation - Practices and production systems for CSA Tools and methods for evidence-based decision making in CSA: brief introduction	
15:00	**Tools and Methods for Evidence-based Decision Making in CSA: Examples & Exercise** - Introduction: Modelling System for Agricultural Impacts of Climate Change (MOSAICC) - Introduction: Ex-Ante Carbon Assessment Tool (EX-ACT)	R. Vuolo H. Kanamaru (FAO CBC) Isaac Guzman (FAO ESA)
16:00	Hands-on exercises in breakout groups (based on participant's preference):	
	MOSAICC / EX-ACT	
DAY 6		
14:00 – 14:45 Rome time	**Agroecology** The principles of Agroecology	A. Bicksler (FAO AGPM)
15:00 – 15:45	Agroecology as a science, practice, and social movement	
16:00 – 16:45	Agroecology for resilience and climate change adaptation	
17:00 – 17:45	Group Exercises and Discussions	
DAY 7	**Module 3: Agrobiodiversity values as market drivers**	
14:00 – 14:45 Rome time	**Slow Food** Agrobiodiversity as driver for rural development and the preservation of healthy ecosystems, Externalities, ecosystem services and common goods	F. Mattei E. Dughera (Slow Food)
15:00 – 15:45	Promoting market access and generating sustainable demand paradigms Education and awareness raising	

16:00 – 16:45	**NaturaSì** Organic products in Italy and in the world: growing market, more responsible consumers	C. Murer (NaturaSì)

	Effective and equitable farming techniques and distribution processes with low environmental impact Economic and social wellbeing of producers and their communities	
17:00 – 17:45	How to build long lasting relationships of trust between producers, retailers and consumers. Marketing and distribution strategies for small mountain producers. Organic farming: new approaches and research	
DAY 8		
14:00 – 14:45 Rome time	**IFOAM** Fundamental principles and definitions: Organic agriculture Organic agriculture and its relation and contribution to other sustainable agriculture initiatives	L. Luttikholt (IFOAM)
15:00 – 15:45	Organic 3.0: Towards truly sustainable food and farming systems The organic movement and its support systems - Organic and SDGs	
16:00 – 16:45	PGS (IFOAM) An overview/summary of current organic guarantee systems	
17:00 – 17:45	Locally appropriate and smallholder-friendly alternatives - an overview Participatory guarantee systems - principles and practice	

The course will be held in English, in person, at the FAO Headquarters in Rome and at the Rome Botanical Garden.