

A Global Strategy

for the conservation and use
of Coconut Genetic Resources

2018-2028

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- Managing and Sustaining Crop Collections (the 'Genebanks CRP');
- Excellence in Breeding;
- Water, Land and Ecosystems;
- Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security.

This Strategy document also describes how links between coconut research, CRP-FTA and the other abovementioned CRPs and research platforms could be strengthened.

This Strategy also aligns with Bioversity International's delivery of scientific evidence, management practices and policy options to use and safeguard agricultural and tree biodiversity to attain sustainable global food and nutrition security. The scope of this Strategy falls within Bioversity's research initiative *Effective genetic resources conservation and use*.

1.3 Process for developing the Global Strategy

This Strategy is the result of a long process of consultations involving more than 100 genetic resource specialists, crop researchers and other coconut stakeholders. The Strategy was developed as a specific output for the CRP-FTA under the coordination of COGENT. The first draft document was progressively built on:

- the former Coconut Global Strategy published in 2008 and the Cocoa Strategy published in 2012 by CacaoNet and Bioversity International;
- the four international surveys targeting COGENT country-members; two of which conducted in 2012 prior to the 16th Steering Committee, the third held from May to August 2013, and the last one held from December 2014 to January 2015;
- the ten international recommendations emitted in 2012 by the COGENT Steering Committee³¹;
- the numerous interviews conducted from 2011 to 2013 during visits of the COGENT secretariat to ten countries - namely Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Italy (donors), Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Sri Lanka;
- the participation of the COGENT coordinator to the ACIAR meeting on Coconut Research and Development held in Samoa in November 2012;
- the recommendations arising from the APCC ministerial meeting held in Fiji in January 2013;
- meetings with Bioversity International and CIRAD researchers in March 2012;
- the available scientific documentation.

A new outline for the Strategy was drafted using inputs from the above consultations and the Cocoa Strategy. Based on this proposed outline, coconut scientists and

³¹ Available at the URL: <http://www.cogentnetwork.org/53-news/149-10-rec-2012>

stakeholders were contacted for technical documentation, advice, and direct contributions to the writing.

This consultation was conducted via:

- the 78 COGENT representatives and alternative representatives ;
- the members of the six COGENT International thematic action groups;
- the APCC and SPC;
- the 950 members of the Coconut Google Group;
- International experts, most of them members of the coconut Google Group.

For each section of the Strategy, three co-author-contributors were identified according to their expertise and their geographical location. Where possible, contributors for each section were chosen from three distinct regions of the world. As shown in Annex 2 and 3, 85 contributors from 38 countries were solicited in this writing process, and many others provided useful advice. Senior researchers were selected from different regions (Pacific, Americas, Asia and Africa) to read and edit one of the three main chapters of the Strategy.

Thus, the whole document was reviewed by a committee of three international experts, two of whom had little or no authorial involvement.

It is expected that the continuous review and updating of this Strategy will take place within the framework of COGENT and that this document will serve as the basis for the direction of the global system on the conservation and use of coconut genetic resources.