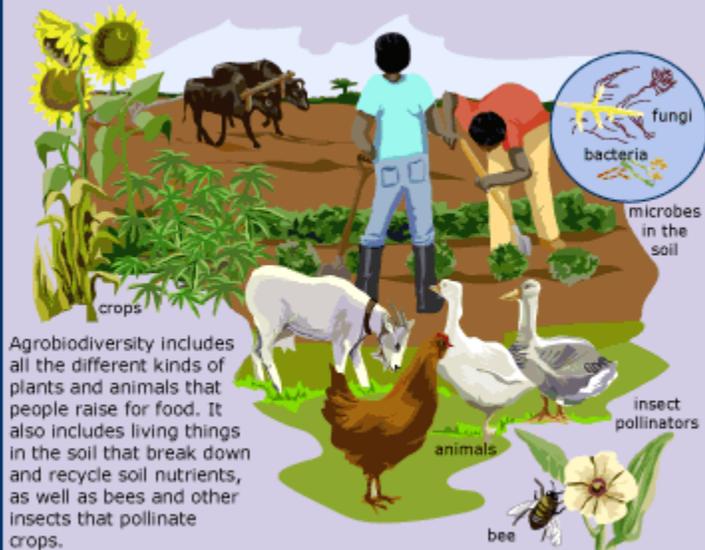




Agrobiodiversity

WHAT IS AGROBIODIVERSITY?

Agrobiodiversity refers to agriculture and biodiversity.



Agrobiodiversity includes all the different kinds of plants and animals that people raise for food. It also includes living things in the soil that break down and recycle soil nutrients, as well as bees and other insects that pollinate crops.

DID YOU KNOW?

In the Andes Mountains of South America, farmers grow over 3,000 different potato varieties!



HOW PEOPLE CREATE AGROBIODIVERSITY

Over the past 10,000 years people have created countless varieties of crops and livestock breeds.

Each growing season, farmers saved seeds or took cuttings from the plants that grew well in local soils and weather conditions, or that were best able to resist diseases and insect pests. Over time, they developed varieties that produced food under varying environmental conditions. Farmers also alter soils and other parts of the landscape, and this in turn affects biodiversity.

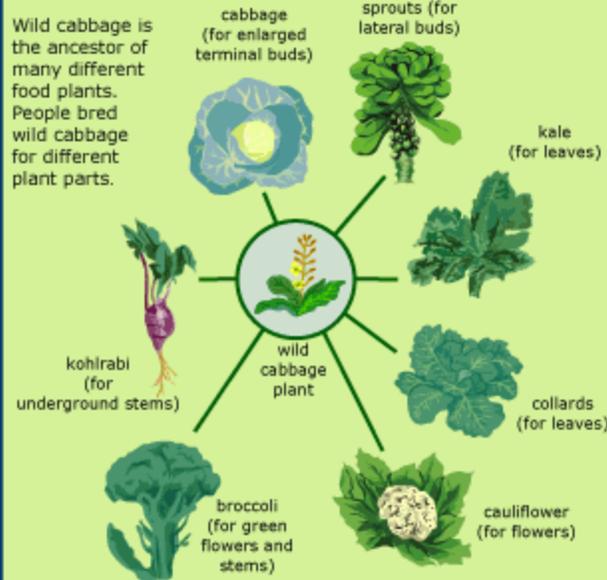


The knowledge traditional farmers have about crop varieties is astonishing. In India, women grow, harvest, and cook over 100 varieties of rice.

When people moved to different parts of the world, they took their seeds and farm animals with them. Farmers bred new varieties of crops and livestock that suited the new growing conditions.



As people select crop plants and livestock for different traits, they create new varieties.



Genes, together with the environment, determine the traits of living things. Add human ingenuity and experimentation, and you get the diversity of vegetables, fruits, grains, and meats we eat today!