

Specific definition of underutilized species for human consumption for the purpose of reporting on the two nutrition indicators for biodiversity:

The development of **Nutrition Indicators for Biodiversity** is a collaborative international process, led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), together with Bioversity International and other partners. The task is part of the Cross-Cutting Initiative on Biodiversity for Food and Nutrition. It is expected that these indicators will become an advocacy tool to promote awareness of the importance of food biodiversity, including wild, indigenous and traditional foods, while contributing to nutrition security and the conservation and sustainable use of food biodiversity.

Two Expert Consultations developed the food composition (Indicator 1, FAO, 2008¹) and food consumption (Indicator 2, FAO, 2010²) Nutrition Indicators for Biodiversity, and detailed criteria were developed to guide users in reporting on Indicators 1 and 2. These general and specific criteria are available on line at "[Foods counting for the Nutritional Indicators for Biodiversity on food composition and consumption \(Indicator 1 and 2\)](#)"

- The Nutrition Indicators for Biodiversity (Indicator 1 and 2) should include foods that are described at the genus, species and subspecies level and below.
- Wild (i.e. not cultivated/reared/farmed) and/or underutilized foods can be counted for the Indicators even if only described at genus/species level and/or with local name.

As underutilized foods are not clearly defined it was decided, for the purpose of the indicators, to define specific criteria and a reference list. The underutilized foods counting for the Indicators must therefore be recorded on the 'list of underutilized species counting for food biodiversity'³.

Some specific criteria were developed in order to establish the reference list of underutilized foods counting for food biodiversity indicators.

Of the following criteria, the first one is compulsory, and several of the others should be met for a species to be included in this list:

- The food was/is/could be used for human consumption;
- May have great potential for contributing to food security and nutrition;
- Mainly local and traditional crops/animals (including insects, amphibians and reptiles) whose distribution, biology, cultivation and uses are poorly documented;
- Receive little attention from research, farmers, policy and decision makers, technology providers and consumers;
- Have weak or no formal seed/animal germplasm supply systems;
- Farmed, reared, gathered or caught in small scale;
- The species must be grown/raised in the country/region where it is underutilized;
- Species that are imported do not count as underutilized in that region.

Furthermore, information on country/region of origin should be given.

¹ FAO, 2008. Expert Consultation on Nutrition Indicators for Biodiversity – 1. Food composition. Rome: FAO. (also available at <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/010/a1582e/a1582e00.pdf>)

² FAO, 2010. Expert consultation on nutrition indicators for biodiversity-2. Food Consumption. In press. Rome: FAO. (Soon available at www.fao.org/infoods/biodiversity/index_en.stm)

³ The reference list for underutilized foods for food biodiversity can be found on the websites of the Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species (GFU) at www.underutilized-species.org/species/about_species.asp or at the INFOODS website www.fao.org/infoods/biodiversity/index_en.stm.

The integration of these specific criteria and the reference list of underutilized foods counting for food biodiversity will be uploaded on the websites of the Global Facilitation Unit for Underutilized Species at www.underutilized-species.org/species/about_species.asp and of the INFOODS at www.fao.org/infoods/biodiversity/index_en.stm.