AGRO-BIODIVERSITY: KENYA SITUATION

Kenya has a rich culture of agro-biodiversity comprising c.35,000 known species of animals, plants and micro-organisms.

Including 24,995 animal and 6,817 plant (excluding 299 algae spp.) fully described spp, (Government of Kenya, 2001)

Includes many species of agricultural/food significance.

Is spread across many ecological zones/habitats;

- **A. Crop biodiversity**
  - **Food crops include** maize, wheat, sorghum, millets, cassava, Irish and sweet potatoes, bananas, fruits and vegetables.
  - **Industrial crops include** coffee, tea, pyrethrum, horticultural crops and cotton
  - + diverse germplasm of vegetables, fruits, oil crops, forages, tubers, cereals and pulses.

- **Livestock/animal genetic resources:**
  - Common species include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, horses, camels, donkeys, rabbits
  - Emerging livestock – ostrich, guinea fowl, quail, snakes and crocodiles.

- **Fisheries Resources:** Mainly composed of freshwater (lakes, rivers and dams), coastal and marine (Indian Ocean) and aquaculture.
  - Common types – tilapia, African catfish, trout, olanda, carpfish, gold fish, koi fish, etc.

- **Forest resource**
  - Currently at 6%.
  - Important ecologically, economically, socially and culturally, e.g., protection of biodiversity and water resources; + climate change mitigation/adaptation.
Loss of agro-diversity

- Pressure on biodiversity continues to increase causing serious threat to biodiversity
- Loss of habitat due to expansion of agric and L/stock grazing
- Currently several spp of plants and animals (159 tree spp., 71 bird spp., and 34 mammals) are threatened
- 1976-1991—85% and 97% of elephant and rhino pops, respectively, lost thro’ poaching
- c.5000ha of forest reserves lost annually ➔ 50% standing volume already destroyed

- Climate change/variability, deforestation, pollution from agric and industry, land degradation, introduction of alien species and loss of critical habitats negatively affect livestock and fish production.
THANK YOU