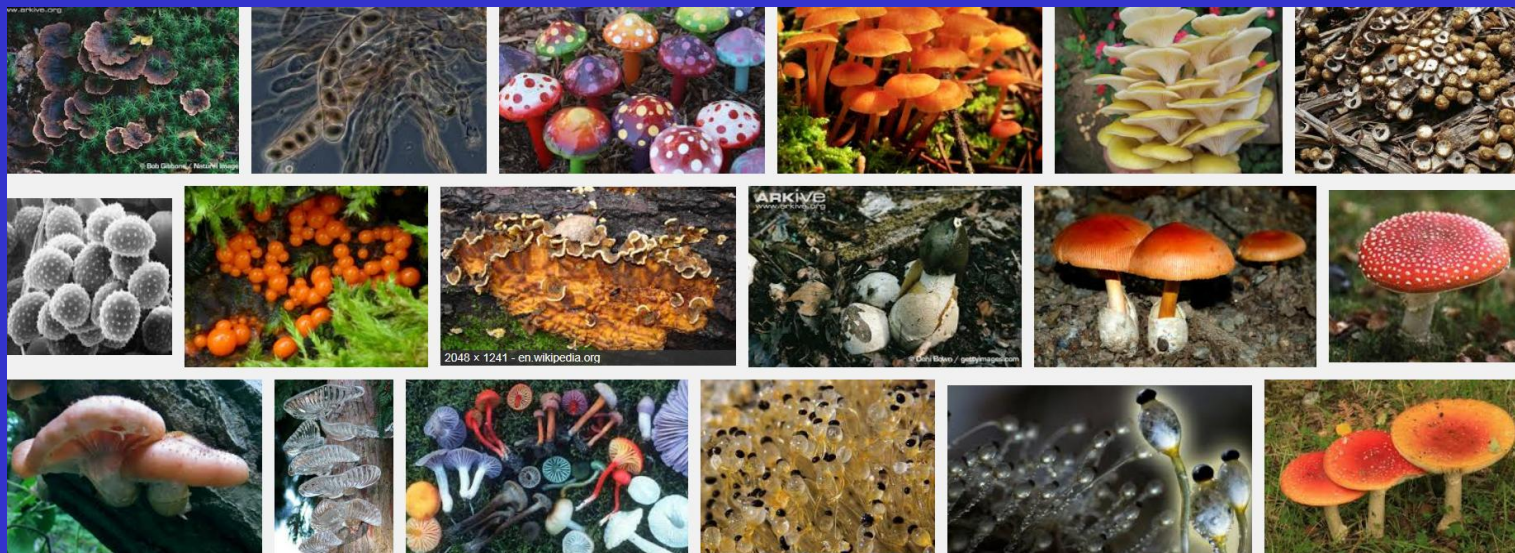


Ideas to complement FAO actions: MiGR conservation



Promoting and strengthening:

- *in situ* conservation
- public awareness and interdisciplinary communication
- existing MiGR networks and building on established guidelines

Promoting *in situ* conservation

Natural ecosystems containing rare, endemic and threatened microbial communities

important for soil fertility and therefore life in general

not many areas are protected land

knowledge on microbes in natural ecosystems is limited

Different MiGR conservation programmes (*in situ* and *ex situ*) need to link more strongly with an emphasis to protect existing ecosystems.

GIBA (guidelines for the conservation and exploitation of the agricultural biodiversity)

Promoting *in situ* conservation

Ex situ conservation of microbes are the main conservation method
the importance of biodiversity makes *in situ* conservation of mixed communities an important issue
ex situ conservation is difficult or even impossible for these mixtures

Limited tools available to measure the impact of changes in the environment
(eg. climate, erosion) on the microbial populations
some strains not culturable,
what is the necessity of interactions between the microbes
or between the microbes and plants/insects
in what ratio are the communities present

Promoting and strengthening public awareness and interdisciplinary communication

More efforts are needed to supply adequate up to date information on the full value of MIGR
to the general public
to policy-makers

The specialities, ideas and problems of the different MiGR stakeholder groups differ (multi disciplinary)
communication between the groups are difficult
collaboration challenging

Promoting and strengthening public awareness and interdisciplinary communication

Mediators are necessary to strengthen the collaboration between different sectors/stakeholders in such a way that the collaboration between the different parties can be improved

Awareness is not only necessary within the MiGR sectors but also among sectors in different GRFA groups

This will also assure a mutual understanding among the different groups and will lead to better conservation and sustainable use strategies of MiGR and others

Promoting and strengthening MiGR networks and building on established guidelines

Several national and regional MiGR network infrastructures in Europe
MIRRI, ECCO, GBRCN, GIBA, CNR, Q-collect, BCCM, INRA

Lack of coordinated networking

Some of these will/has finished with no prospect of future activities (eg. GBRCN, GIBA)

Many of these activities focus on the same issues/problems – collaboration and coordination, in stead of reinventing the wheel each time, will strengthen the outcome

