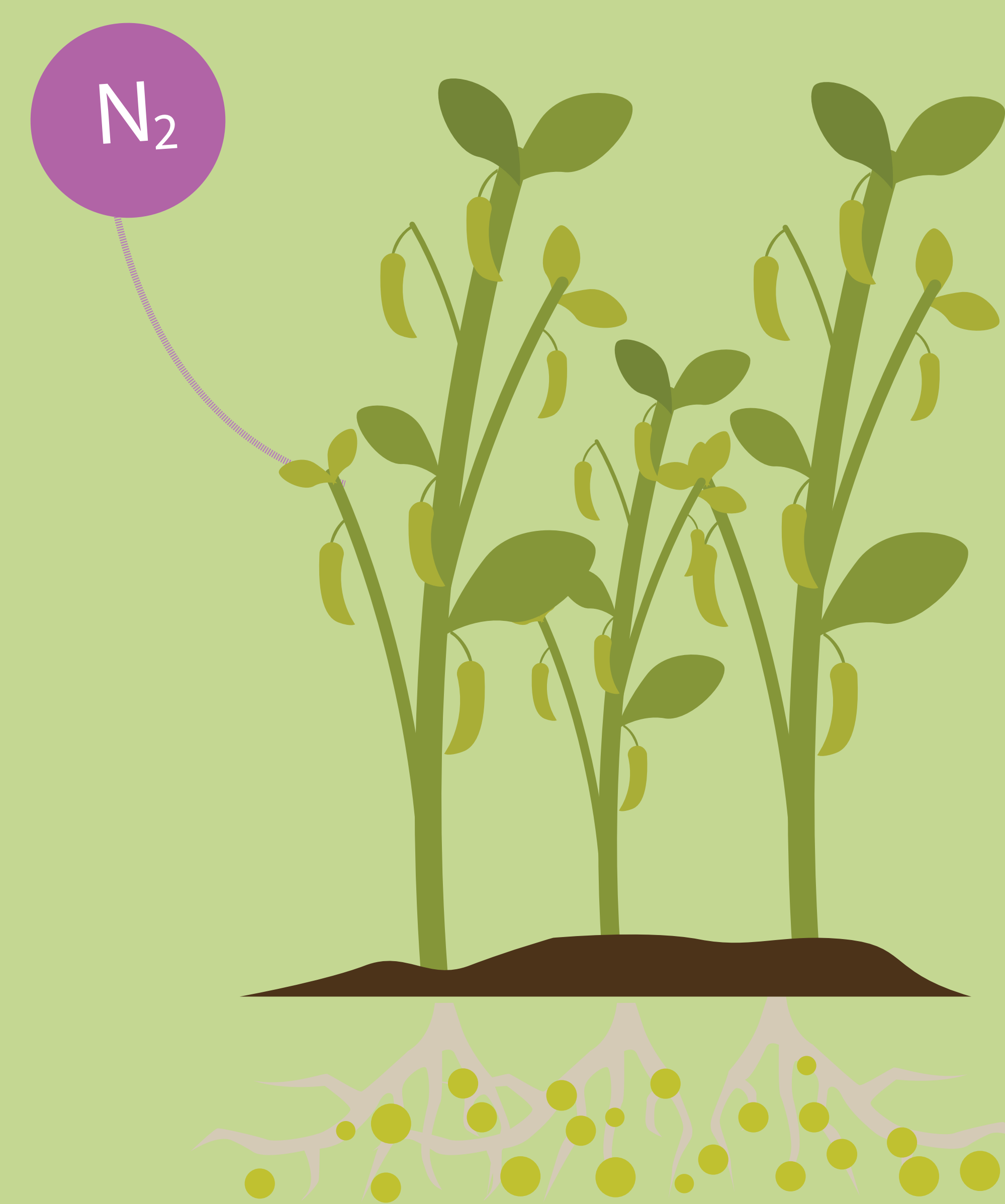


WORLD PULSES DAY

FEBRUARY 10

PULSES AND BIODIVERSITY



WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

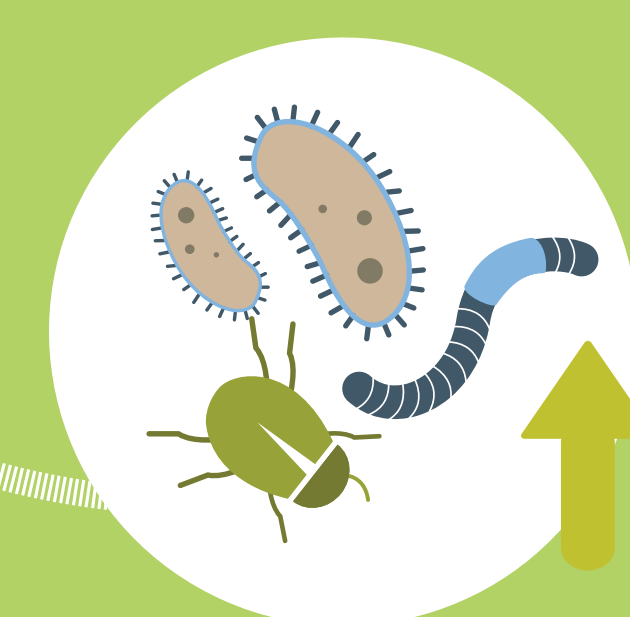
The variability among living organisms from all sources and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

PULSES HELP TO IMPROVE SOIL BIODIVERSITY

Nitrogen fixing bacteria establishes inside the root nodules of pulse crops; thus providing nitrogen for the plant and also improving soil fertility.



Pulses help to increase soil microbial biomass and activity, thus improving soil biodiversity.



PULSES' BIODIVERSITY

- High biological diversity -

Pulses have a broad genetic diversity from which many varieties have been developed, including local cultivars that are not exported or grown worldwide.

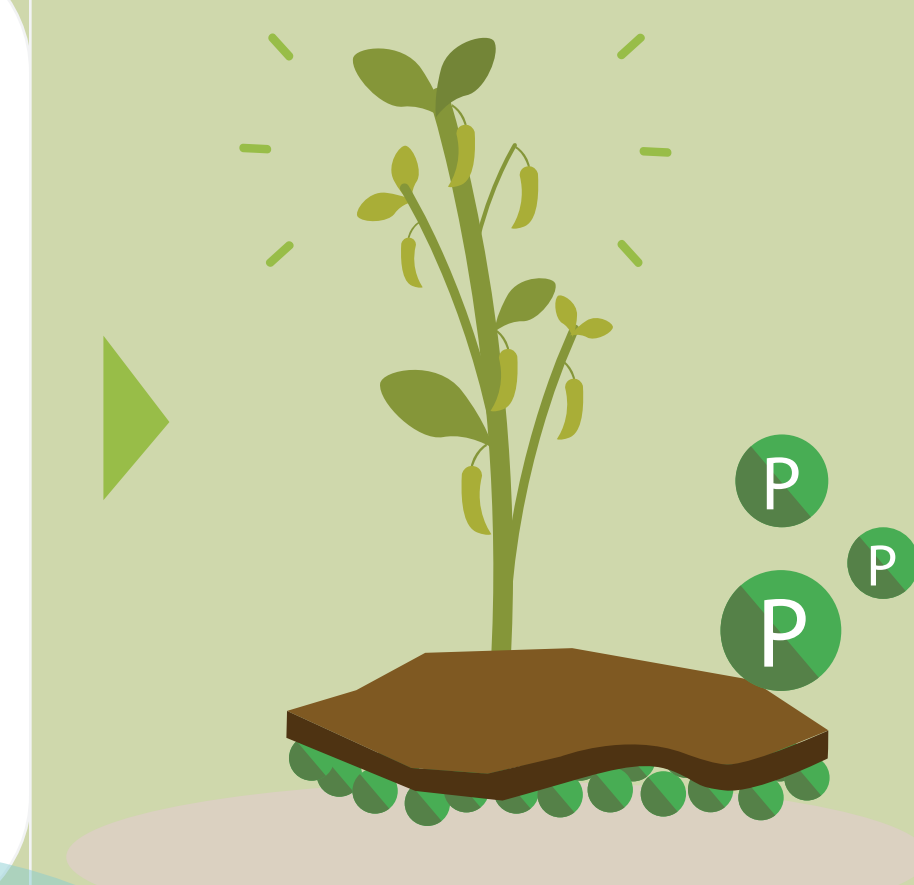


- The genetic -



The genetic diversity of pulses is an essential component for on-farm soil and pest management, especially for small-scale farmers.

Some varieties of pulses are also able to utilize soil-bound phosphorous. This element plays an important role in the nutrition of plants.



- Soil biodiversity -

A high soil biodiversity provides ecosystem with greater resistance and resilience against disturbance and stress.



MULTIPLE CROPPING SYSTEMS

Pulses are a crucial component of multiple cropping systems, e.g. **intercropping, crop rotation and agroforestry.**



- Including pulses in crop rotations -

This utilizes symbiotic bacteria to fix nitrogen, which is partly transferred to subsequent crops, thus increasing their yields.

