



# COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

## TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION

Rome, 16 - 20 July 2018

### FORESTS FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION: FOLLOW-UP TO THE 44<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

#### SECRETARIAT NOTE

## I. BACKGROUND

1. FAO's *International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition* in 2013 was an important milestone for raising awareness of and recognizing the multiple contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition. The main outcomes of this conference and the recommendations of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO) in 2014, highlighted the importance of mainstreaming cross-sectoral forestry and food security policies and programmes and of developing country capacity in this regard.
2. In response to these recommendations, the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in 2014 requested the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) to conduct a study on "Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition"<sup>1</sup>.
3. The HLPE report<sup>2</sup> was officially launched on 27 June 2017 and served as the basis for the Policy Convergence process on this topic for the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the CFS in October 2017. CFS44 adopted the report of the policy convergence process and its policy recommendations and encouraged it to be forwarded to relevant policy bodies including, among others, the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Forestry.

<sup>1</sup> CFS41 report, para 41.d "... requested the HLPE to undertake a study on "Sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, including the role of livestock" to be presented to CFS Plenary in 2016 and a study on "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" to be presented to CFS Plenary in 2017".

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7395e.pdf>

4. The conclusions and policy recommendations of the Policy Convergence process on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, as adopted by the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of CFS<sup>3</sup>, as well as the recommendations by the CFS on this issue are attached in the Annex for consideration by the Committee.

## II. POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5. In view of the importance of sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition as highlighted by the CFS, the Committee may wish to:

- Recognize that the sustainable management of forests is essential for achieving SDG 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.
- Endorse the policy recommendations of the CFS on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition.
- Invite countries to:
  - strengthen the role of forests and trees in achieving food security and nutrition in its four dimensions (access, availability, utilization, stability) by taking into consideration the specific recommendations of the CFS in this regard;
  - improve data collection and strengthen capacities to generate the knowledge needed for mainstreaming the role of forests and trees in food security and nutritional policies;
  - promote policy coherence between land use sectors (agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, water) for integrated land management that optimizes forests’ contribution to food security and nutrition;
  - ensure forest tenure rights of local communities and indigenous peoples for the realization of their right to adequate food.
- Request FAO to:
  - compile and disseminate best practices on achieving policy coherence for mainstreaming the contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition;
  - support countries to:
    - develop cross-sectoral policies that integrate forests, agriculture and food security and nutrition objectives;
    - strengthen the capacity of government institutions and of local communities to integrate food security and nutrition objectives into their sustainable forest management practices;
    - monitor and collect data and information on effective forest management practices that contribute to improved food security and nutrition.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/bodies/CFS\\_44/MU742\\_4/MU742\\_Rev1\\_CFS\\_2017\\_44\\_4\\_en.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/bodies/CFS_44/MU742_4/MU742_Rev1_CFS_2017_44_4_en.pdf)

## **ANNEX: CFS 2017/44/Report, Item IV. Policy Convergence**

### **IV.A SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

20. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the HLPE report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition and the presentation made by Mr Terence Sunderland, HLPE Project Team Leader, on the main policy relevant evidence included in the report. H.E. Akram Chehayeb, Chairperson of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO), presented views on how the work and policy recommendations developed by CFS can be used in the context of COFO, and lead to greater coordination, noting the outcomes of CFS will be considered by COFO in its 2018 session. H.E. François Pythoud (Switzerland), Rapporteur of the CFS policy convergence process, presented the proposed policy recommendations resulting from the discussions between CFS Members and other stakeholders.

21. The Committee:

- a) Encouraged all stakeholders to disseminate the recommendations at the local, national, regional and global levels, and make use of and support their application when formulating strategies, policies and programmes, as appropriate;
- b) Noted the importance for CFS stakeholders to implement existing global policy instruments on forests, particularly the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 and relevant multilateral environmental agreements;
- c) Recommended that in the future, more time is allowed for the CFS policy convergence process following the launch of the HLPE reports;
- d) Encouraged the CFS Bureau to consider convening a specific meeting, inviting the Rome-based Agencies, to discuss the issues that were not sufficiently discussed during the policy convergence process, including the relation between commercial plantations and food security and nutrition, and requested the CFS Secretariat to map the recommendations with relevant SDGs and targets, subject to available resources and the workload of CFS;
- e) Encouraged these policy recommendations to be forwarded to relevant policy bodies including the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

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22. Forests and trees<sup>4</sup>, in their diversity of ecosystems and human perceptions and uses, contribute directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition (FSN) in numerous ways and at different levels. These contributions vary according to types of forests and the way they are managed. Forest foods contribute to dietary quality and diversity and serve as safety nets in periods of food scarcity to those directly depending on forests for their livelihoods. They also play a role as coping mechanisms in terms of shock and crises. Wild foods from forests provide nutritious food and diversity to diets to millions of rural women, men and children. Woodfuel is a primary source of energy for cooking and sterilizing water for one in three households globally. Forests generate income for local people and provide essential ecosystem services that are essential for sustainable agriculture by regulating water

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<sup>4</sup> The category trees outside forests gathers a diversity of agriculture systems with very divergent scales and impact on FSN.

flows, stabilizing soils, maintaining soil fertility, regulating the climate and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.

23. However, land use conversion for agriculture driven by increased demand and land degradation remains the main cause of global deforestation, accounting for 70-80 percent<sup>5</sup> of total forest loss and with adverse impacts on the environment and millions of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders. Sustainable agriculture, food security and improved nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy, sustainable and productive forest and tree ecosystems.

24. The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of CFS (HLPE) report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. They aim to strengthen the contributions of sustainable management of forests and trees to the achievement of food security and nutrition and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security in the overall context of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the essential role of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), and the role of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). The recommendations complement the recently adopted United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 and build upon the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as applicable.

25. In addition and within this context, gender responsive implementation of the recommendations is important and thus the promotion of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, respecting their rights, and access to forest and land tenure, agriculture and forestry support services, capacity building, and fostering women's equal participation in decision making is essential to achieving food security and nutrition and should be mainstreamed across all policy recommendations.

26. These recommendations are particularly important to address the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders especially forest-dependent people who have a spiritual, cultural, social, political and economic relationship with forests. These include forest hunters, gatherers and workers. They are part of the group of smallholders who contribute significantly to global food production.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recommendations are primarily addressed to governments for public policies, but are also addressed to all stakeholders with a role in achieving food security and nutrition. The recommendations are voluntary and non-binding and aim to complement and not restate related guidance previously provided in other CFS policy products and recommendations.

### **I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF, RAISE AWARENESS ON, AND ENCOURAGE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND TREES TO THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF FSN<sup>6</sup>**

- a) Recognize the need to strengthen the contribution of forests and trees, within landscape mosaics, in the provision of fundamental ecosystem services to support agricultural production and restore land productivity;

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<sup>5</sup> State of the World's Forests, SOFO. FAO, 2016. HLPE report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition, 2017.

<sup>6</sup> The four dimensions of food security are: access, availability, utilization and stability.

- b) Recognize and respect appropriate traditional practices and the key contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders when managing sustainably and in an integrated manner land, forests and trees while achieving FSN;
- c) Recognize the vital role of forestry for livelihoods and sustainable development around the world.

## **II. DEVELOP AND USE POLICY-RELEVANT KNOWLEDGE AND DATA ON THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORESTS AND TREES TO FSN**

- a) Take measures to inform and train FSN policy makers and practitioners about the importance of sustainable forest and trees management for FSN using participatory methodologies to generate knowledge about the contributions of forests and trees to FSN, at different spatial and temporal scales recognizing indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders as holders of traditional knowledge;
- b) Build the necessary capacities, and provide professional training and organizational changes needed for participatory research, better data collection and extension services;
- c) Design metrics and collect data that are disaggregated by gender, age, and other social parameters;
- d) Improve trans-sectorial, systemic data collection in FSN and forestry monitoring systems, on the use of wild foods (animals, plants, mushrooms) and forest products, including for nutritional content, dietary quality and diversity, poverty alleviation, health and medicinal purposes, as well as harvest impacts;
- e) Perform more research on the contribution of Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) to FSN and on relations between trees and agricultural productions in agroforestry systems, as well as knowledge on insufficiently explored diversity of forest genetic resources likely to meet human FSN needs.

## **III. DEVELOP, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR POLICIES FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE FSN**

### States to:

- a) Promote an integrated approach including the nexus among forestry, agriculture, water and FSN to strengthen policy coherence across sectors and at different scales, by reinforcing cross-sectoral coordination through a participatory and inclusive process;
- b) Provide the institutional and financial requirements and policy support to integrate resilience-enhancing dimensions of forests and trees into agricultural and food security and nutrition policies and programs;
- c) Respect, protect and fulfill the rights of women in the forestry and agricultural sectors and tackle gender disparities which negatively impact FSN;
- d) Develop and promote participatory forest and trees policies and management planning and measures that enhance access to nutritionally important forest food products for indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders;
- e) Promote forest conservation, regeneration of native forests and restoration of degraded forests, where appropriate, as well as the development of agroforestry systems;

- f) Provide incentives for the provision of forest-based ecosystem services that benefit sustainable agriculture and FSN.

All stakeholders to:

- g) Increase investment in research to establish, promote and upscale good practices in agriculture, forestry and agroforestry systems within integrated landscape mosaics;
- h) Promote integrated planning and local adaptive management of landscapes, including community systems, acknowledging the multiple functions and uses of forests and trees that contribute to enhance resilience of landscapes, communities and livelihoods;
- i) Promote a nutrition-sensitive approach to integrate the multiple goals of FSN, sustainable forest management, land use, and biodiversity conservation;
- j) Encourage appropriate technical support, extension services and training to stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups;
- k) Increase the coherence between agricultural productivity and forest conservation to lessen the pressure put on forests;
- l) Mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment throughout forestry institutions, policy and programmes to promote women's leadership and access to and control over forest resources and income opportunities for achieving FSN;
- m) Promote and integrate low-carbon, renewable energy schemes for FSN in sustainable forest management plans including on a small scale supported by the indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders to achieve multiple benefits such as adequate access to fuel for food preparation; and invest in social and technical innovations in particular to minimize health risks associated with the use of woodfuel;
- n) Increase responsible public and private investments to support community-driven, forest-based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods.

**IV. PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE FOOD IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES, AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (VGGT)**

- a) Promote forests, trees and farmlands-related policies, legislation and programmes based on the VGGT, that respect and secure the legitimate tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders and the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous peoples;
- b) Collaboratively develop VGGT-based initiatives with indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders to enhance the productivity and resilience of forests and tree-based systems, and incorporate these initiatives into policies, programmes and practices;
- c) Facilitate access and sustainable use of forest and trees resources as well as access to markets<sup>7</sup> for indigenous peoples and local communities and smallholders for the progressive

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<sup>7</sup> In line with the CFS recommendations on Connecting Smallholders to Markets

realization of their right to adequate food in the context of national food security, national laws and legitimate tenure and resource use rights;

d) Apply the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) to all types and sizes of agricultural investments including fisheries, forests and livestock for enhancing food security and nutrition.