

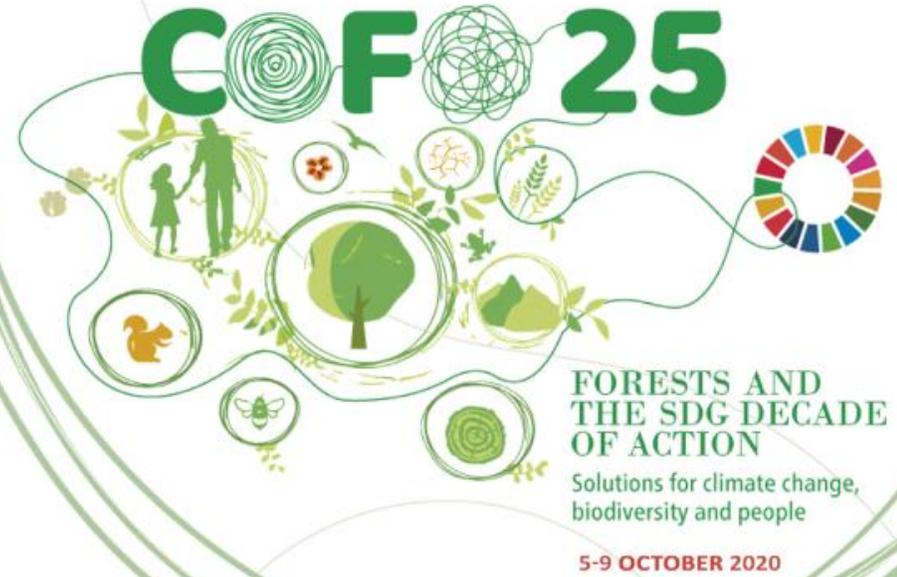


Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Item 7.1

## TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS:

*Halting deforestation and promoting  
sustainable production And consumption of  
forest products*



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October 2020

# Summary

## **Forests and trees make multiple contributions to sustainable agriculture and food systems:**

- forested watersheds provide three-quarters of accessible freshwater,
- trees on farms providing shade and fodder for livestock, forests are habitats for pollinators,
- wild foods – in particular for rural people and indigenous communities; wood and non wood products for income; energy.

**Forest conversion from agriculture accounts for an estimated 73% of tropical deforestation;** concerted action and strategies are needed across sectors to address local specificities and drivers of deforestation.

**Halting deforestation must be an integral element in the sustainable transformation of food systems,** along with promoting legal and sustainable forest value chains.

**The private sector needs to act at scale, and governmental leadership is vital to steer change** by aligning incentives, ensuring enabling regulation, and strengthening monitoring and enforcement.

The report outlines actions to deliver a food systems transformation, emphasising the need to capitalise on digital innovations & data, ensure policy coherence, strengthen governance and re-direct private/public investment.

# Suggested action by the Committee on Forestry

The Committee requests FAO to:

**Integrate forestry in FAO's work on food systems** and promote synergies and address tradeoffs to achieve the SDGs, including through consideration of forestry in COVID-19 pandemic recovery measures and in FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

**Enhance FAO's cross-sectoral work on transforming food systems to feed the planet without deforestation**, contributing to the UN System-wide efforts to "Turning the tide on deforestation" co-led by FAO, and to include an action area on halting deforestation under the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

**Engage with public, private sector and civil society stakeholders and initiatives aiming at halting deforestation** and at promoting legal and sustainable forest and agriculture commodity value chains.

# Suggested action by the Committee on Forestry

The Committee invites countries to:

Ensure **policy coherence and align public incentives** across sectoral environmental and economic policies to halt deforestation, promote deforestation-free supply chains, and transform food systems.

Promote **responsible production and consumption** of forest and agriculture products and their contributions to the circular economy,

- including through the adoption of policy and technological innovations for increased tenure security, legality,
- enhanced efficiency in production,
- improved market access and inclusion of smallholders and forest communities in sustainable forest value chains

# COF 25



**Thank you.**

**FORESTS AND THE SDG  
DECADE OF ACTION**

Solutions for climate change, biodiversity and people

**5-9 OCTOBER 2020**