

13-15 | FAO  
MAY 2013 | ROME

INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE

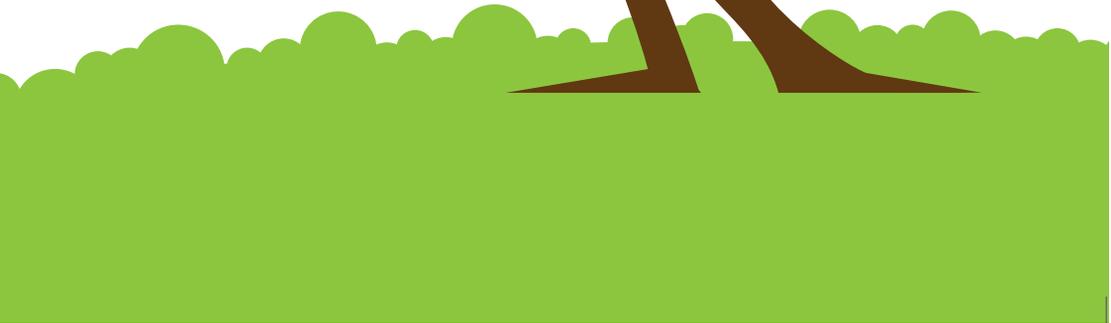
*on*

# Forests for Food Security and Nutrition

*Increasing the benefits  
for rural people*



13-15 | FAO  
MAY 2013 | ROME



# Forests for Food Security and Nutrition

## PARTICIPANTS

Participants in the conference will include policy-makers (e.g. from ministries in charge of forestry, environment, agriculture, rural development, finance and planning); scientists; practitioners (e.g. those involved in forestry, land-use planning, food security, nutrition and climate change); the private sector; United Nations agencies and other international organizations; non-governmental organizations; community and farmers' organizations; and indigenous peoples' groups. Wide geographic representation and the participation of women will be encouraged.

## OUTCOMES

A policy brief, complemented by a more detailed proceedings, will synthesize the knowledge generated by the conference, highlight key aspects of the role of forests, trees on farms and agroforestry in providing food security and nutrition, and identify key messages and recommendations. The key messages and recommendations will be communicated to and integrated into broader policy dialogues on food security and nutrition at the global, regional and national levels. The launch of two related publications at the conference and other associated media and outreach work will increase the visibility of the issue internationally.

# *Increasing the benefits for rural people*

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The **International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition** will increase understanding of the crucial role that forests, trees on farms and agroforestry systems can play in improving the food security and nutrition of rural people, especially in developing countries. It will propose ways to integrate this knowledge in policy decisions at the national and international levels. Specifically it will:

- highlight the ways in which forests, trees on farms and agroforestry systems contribute to food security and nutrition;
- identify key challenges and bottlenecks hindering that contribution;
- explore policy options and innovative approaches for increasing the role of forests, trees on farms and agroforestry systems in food security and nutrition.

The conference will make recommendations that will be integrated into broader policy dialogues on food security and nutrition at the global, regional and national levels. The outcomes of the conference will support FAO's new strategic approach to addressing food security and nutrition in an integrated and cross-sectoral manner.

# Forests for Food Security and Nutrition

## INCREASING THE BENEFITS FOR RURAL PEOPLE

Worldwide, nearly a billion people go hungry every day. With the world population projected to exceed nine billion people by 2050, global agricultural output must expand by an estimated 60 percent to meet global food needs.

Yet, in many places, deforestation triggered by escalating demand for food, fibre and fuel is degrading ecosystems, diminishing water availability and limiting the collection of fuelwood – all of which reduce food security, especially for the poor.

Natural forests are critical for the survival of forest-dwellers, including many indigenous peoples, and they help deliver clean water to agricultural lands by protecting catchments.

Farmers increase food security by retaining trees on agricultural land, by encouraging natural regeneration and by planting trees and other forest plants. For most of the year, herders in arid and semi-arid lands depend on trees as a source of fodder for their livestock.

Forests, trees and agroforestry systems contribute to food security and nutrition in many ways, but such contributions are usually poorly reflected in national development and food security strategies. Coupled with poor coordination between sectors, the net result is that forests are mostly left out of policy decisions related to food security and nutrition.

# *Increasing the benefits for rural people*

## ORGANIZATION

The conference is being coordinated by the FAO Forestry Department with inputs from Decentralized Offices and in close collaboration with relevant departments in FAO, including those of Agriculture, Fisheries, Natural Resources, Economic and Social Development and Technical Cooperation. Partnerships have been established with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the World Bank and Bioversity International. Funding for the conference is provided through the generous contributions of the UK, Germany, Norway and the United States.

*For more information contact:*

**Eva Muller**

Director  
Forest Economics, Policy  
and Products Division (FOE)  
FAO

[Eva.Muller@fao.org](mailto:Eva.Muller@fao.org)

[forests-foodsecurity@fao.org](mailto:forests-foodsecurity@fao.org)  
[www.fao.org/forestry/food-security](http://www.fao.org/forestry/food-security)

