

## **CFS Policy Convergence Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition Private Sector Mechanism comments**

The PSM welcomes this report, and considers that, in general, it is an excellent basis for future policy convergence work on this topic. That being said, the below points represent issues of paramount importance that we very much hope will be reflected in the policy recommendations developed by the CFS, in order to ensure that they are timely, relevant, and useful. Many of them are already well represented in the initial report. However, the PSM feels that, in broad terms, there is insufficient emphasis on the contributions forestry products make to FSN as sources of fuel, and as a means of generating income and improved livelihoods. In order for the eventual CFS policy product to have as great an impact as possible with regards to fostering food security and nutrition, we believe it should highlight:

### **1. The need for increased investment in forestry research**

Establishing and promoting best practices with regards to forestry and agroforestry will depend upon the availability of a solid knowledge base. Increased investment is needed from both private and public sources, including businesses, agricultural ministries, and intergovernmental organizations, in order to enable this base to be expanded and to build capacity for data collection both among researchers and producers. This will allow the development of innovative techniques and technologies to make forest-related agricultural activities more sustainable, more efficient, and more lucrative. *This in line with recommendation 1. of the HLPE report, particularly points c, d, and e.* Specific areas in which investments for further research are needed are:

- Resource-efficient, resilient, and high yield varieties
- Integrated land use planning
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation techniques
- Assessments of the sustainability of start-up plantations (beyond the scope of existing forest certification schemes), and projections of their eventual social, environmental, and economic impacts
- More efficient, effective, and sustainable processing techniques for forestry products.

### **2. The need to improve provision of technical support and training**

In order to ensure that the forestry and agroforestry sectors continue to play a positive part in maintaining and improving food security and ecological systems, it is important that science-based technical support and extension services be available to those working in this sector, particularly smallholders and other vulnerable groups. Specific areas in which training and technical support may yield large improvements in efficiency and productivity in several contexts include:

- Raising seedlings
- Tree planting
- Agro-forestry techniques
- Wood harvesting practices
- Forestry product processing techniques

- Soil and water management, and land-use models
- Landscape restoration/reforestation
- Transportation

### **3. The need to improve financial support and access to markets for forestry products**

The financial needs of those working in the forestry sector tend to differ from those of more conventional agricultural practitioners, due to the generally much longer timeframes for returns on initial investments and the unique ecosystem services provided by forests. Financial support for the forestry sector is in many cases underdeveloped in comparison with those for livestock and crop commodities. We would therefore suggest that:

- Where appropriate, support in the form of grants, subsidies, and tax exemptions be made available for the purposes of investing in the establishment of sustainable forestry plantations, and of harvesting and processing operations, particularly for smallholders and other marginalized groups.
- Support be provided for the development of sustainable, more efficient, and more inclusive value chains for forestry products, for example through the provision of macro-economic stability, infrastructure, and investment-friendly development strategies.
- Access to financial literacy and business management extension services be provided, particularly for smallholders, to allow producers to become entrepreneurs.
- Innovative financial products be developed to address the particular needs of start-up plantations (for which credit history or financial statements may not be available, and who may not be able to offer collateral).

### **4. The need to enable agricultural producers to diversify production systems to integrate forestry and agro-forestry techniques into their operations**

Given the important role that forests play in the provision of ecosystem services, it is essential that producers be provided with the necessary skills, resources, and incentives to be able to diversify their production processes and integrate elements of forestry and agro-forestry into other production systems. *This is in line with recommendation 4 of the HLPE report.* This can be achieved by:

- promoting policy coherence across sectors and governance levels to ensure that incentive gradients are properly aligned.
- ensuring that agricultural producers, in particular smallholder farmers, have access to appropriate training and extension services to allow them to diversify their production techniques.
- Investing in research into contextually suitable mixed production techniques and the environmental benefits of mosaic landscapes.

## **5. The need to integrate forestry sustainability programmes into food security and nutrition frameworks**

Forestry sustainability programmes, including certification schemes, can be useful tools for monitoring forest use practices and helping to ensure that they contribute to the socio-economic wellbeing of the communities involved. However, the forests in which most of these programmes operate are currently located in developed regions, meaning there is ample scope for their expansion in areas where food security and nutrition concerns may be particularly acute. *This is in line with recommendation 7 of the HLPE report.* Improving the positive impacts of these programmes could be achieved by:

- Ensuring that food security and nutrition issues are incorporated into their operational frameworks, as facets of development interconnected with and inseparable from environmental and socio-economic goals.
- Ensuring that technical support and educational resources are available to enable producers and other members of the value chain to enroll in these programmes, thereby avoiding the creation of segmented markets or barriers to market access.
- Ensuring that adequate chain of custody requirements are in place, so that these programmes are effective and correctly incentivized.
- Ensure that gender is mainstreamed throughout these programmes, for example by making sure that certification statements issued to groups and households are issued in the name of women members, not just men.
- Ensure that these programmes take into account the customary rights of stakeholders, as well as their legal rights.

## **6. The need to address tensions and trade-offs with regards to resource use, including land use and water use**

Growing demand for food as a result of the earth's increasing population will inevitably mean that the socio-economic trade-offs between the resource use demands of the forestry and conventional agricultural sectors will need to be managed. This will entail either the extensification or intensification of agricultural systems ("land sharing" or "land sparing"), as well as increased pressure on existing resources to be used more productively in order to conserve natural habitats and biodiversity. It is essential that these trade-offs be handled effectively in a manner that is appropriately tailored to local socio-economic and ecological contexts, and that ensures that policymakers do not neglect the positive impacts of the forestry sector for health and the environment. This could be achieved by:

- Implementing and promoting market-based approaches to the valorization of forest products, including certification schemes, sources of credit, and trade information systems.
- Updating regulatory systems to reflect current contexts, e.g. by revisiting colonial era tree protection policies that still persist in many regions.
- Minimizing and re-using forestry waste products, for example through the promotion of the recycling of post-consumption wood and paper materials, or the use of pre-consumption waste as fuel.
- Providing training on agro-forestry and crop-livestock-forestry integration.
- Exploring creative and innovative forest stewardship solutions, for example preserving forest corridors for ecosystem services and biodiversity.

**7. The need to establish consistent legal frameworks which recognize and respect legitimate tenure and resource use rights.**

Clearly and consistently applied legal norms surrounding governance of tenure and access to forest resources are essential to enable the sector to contribute effectively to food security and nutrition, and to peacefully manage disputes between stakeholders. A stable and regular legal environment is vital to ensuring that the private forestry sector is incentivized to make the investments necessary to produce more environmentally sustainable and efficient production systems. *This is in line with recommendation 6 of the HLPE report.*