

CFS Forestry – Comments on the Rapporteur’s Proposal – 2 October 2017

Comments from FAO

FAO welcomes the reduced number of recommendations. However, we feel that the current formulation of the recommendations is somewhat unbalanced and does not sufficiently capture the shifts in agricultural and land use policies required to strengthen the contribution of sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition. The recommendations should be clearly addressed to all relevant sectors including agriculture, food security and nutrition and forestry. Therefore FAO suggests that:

1. the current recommendations, many of which are forestry focused and addressed to the forestry-sector, should be improved by strengthening and giving priority to recommendations related to land use and agriculture policies;
2. recommendations made to the forestry sector should be clustered to facilitate their forwarding to the relevant forestry governing bodies and fora;
3. the terminology of “forest-dependent communities” should be replaced with “communities” which encompasses all communities relevant to the topic and which are not limited to forest dependent communities; and
4. smallholder farmers’ should be included as they play an equally important role as communities and indigenous peoples in managing rural landscapes in an integrated way.

CFS POLICY CONVERGENCE PROCESS ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION RAPPORTEUR’S PROPOSAL

CONTRIBUTION OF FORESTS TO FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Forests and trees contribute directly and indirectly to food security and nutrition (FSN) in numerous ways. Forest foods are a regular part of healthy diets 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 quality 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 flows, stabilizing soils, maintaining soil fertility, regulating the climate and providing habitat for wild pollinators and predators of agricultural pests.

However, land use conversion for agriculture remains the main cause of global deforestation, accounting for approximately 80 percent of total forest loss and putting at risk the environment and millions of communities directly dependent from forests. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition cannot be achieved at the expense of and without forests. Better coordination of land use policies is needed to promote a sustainable agriculture that benefits from healthy and productive forest and tree ecosystems.

The following recommendations have been elaborated building upon the main findings of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts' report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. They aim to **improve land use and to** strengthen the contribution of sustainable forestry to the achievement of food security and nutrition and contribute to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, 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 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In addition and within this context, the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring their equal access to natural resources, including agriculture and forests, capacity building and fostering women's equal participation in decision making, should be mainstreamed across all policy 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 products.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF AND ENCOURAGE STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FORESTS AND TREES FOR FSN

All stakeholders to:

- a. Recognize and enhance the contribution of forests and trees to the four dimensions of FSN, including by building resilience;
- b. 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, including regulation of climate, water and nutrient cycling, water quality, conservation of biodiversity, limitation of soil erosion and land degradation, and pollination;
- c. Recognize the key contribution of ~~forest dependent~~ communities, ~~and~~ indigenous people and **smallholder farmers** in managing sustainably **and in an integrated manner** their **land, their** forests and trees while achieving FSN.

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

All stakeholders to take measures to inform ~~and train~~ FSN policy makers and practitioners about the importance of sustainable forest and tree management for FSN, using participatory methodologies that enable the co-construction of knowledge about the contributions of forests and trees to FSN, at different spatial and temporal scales;

In particular, to:

- a. Build the necessary capacities, **conduct** professional training and **institute** organizational changes needed for participatory ~~expertise and~~ research for better data collection.

- b. Design metrics and collect data that are **disaggregated** by gender, ethnicity, social class, age, and other social parameters, to measure the multiple, direct and indirect, contributions that forests and trees make to FSN through production, ecological processes, income and livelihoods, cultures and well-being;
- c. Improve trans-sectorial, systemic data collection in FSN, **agriculture** and forestry monitoring systems, on the use of wild foods (animals, plants, mushrooms) and forest products, including for dietary quality and diversity, poverty alleviation, health and medicinal purposes, as well as harvest impacts;
- d. Perform more research on Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) and on other biological relations between trees and agricultural production~~s~~ in agroforestry systems.

III. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT POLICIES FOR INTEGRATED AGRICULTURE AND FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED AND SUSTAINABLE FSN

States to:

a. Strengthen policy coherence across forestry, agriculture, water, energy, education and other sectors at different scales, by reinforcing cross-sectoral coordination through a participatory and inclusive process;

b. Develop land use policies in the agricultural sectors that promote the integration of forests and trees for sustainable and productive agro-ecosystems and for enhanced food security and nutrition;

c. Provide the institutional and financial requirements to integrate and implement resilience-enhancing dimensions of forests and trees into **agricultural and food security** policies and programs;

d. Promote forest restoration of unproductive, abandoned and degraded agricultural land;

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

f. Develop and strengthen forest policies for:

1. ~~c. Develop and promote~~ participatory forest and trees ~~policies and~~ management planning and measures that enable access to nutritionally important forest foods, in particular for ~~forest dependent~~ communities, ~~and~~ indigenous peoples **and smallholder farmers**;
2. ~~d. Ensure~~ **ing** access to and use of forest and trees resources and access to markets for ~~forest dependent~~ communities, ~~and~~ indigenous peoples **and smallholder farmers** for the realization of their right to adequate food;

~~e. Promote forest restoration of unproductive, abandoned degraded forest and deforested areas;~~

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

All stakeholders to:

g. Promote integrated planning and local adaptive management of landscapes acknowledging the multiple functions and uses of forests and trees that contribute to enhance resilience of **agricultural** landscapes, communities and livelihoods;

h. Promote a nutrition-sensitive approach to integrate the multiple goals of FSN, sustainable forestry, land use, and biodiversity conservation;

i. Ensure the availability of appropriate technical support, extension services and training **to stakeholders on integrated land use practices** ~~to stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups;~~

j. Increase agricultural productivity through diversification, improved varieties and technologies to lessen the pressure put on forests.

~~**h.** Increase investment in research to establish, promote and upscale good practices in agriculture, forestry and agroforestry systems within integrated landscape mosaics;~~

k. Promote and support mainstreaming of forests and trees into food security and nutrition by:

- 1.** ~~**g.** Promote and~~ **enabling** income generation and livelihoods opportunities in ~~local~~ communities, **indigenous people and smallholder farmers** through the sustainable management and use of forest **and tree** resources;
- 2.** **integrating** low-carbon, renewable energy schemes in forest management plans to achieve multiple benefits, including adequate access to fuel for food preparation; and **investing** in social and technical innovations to minimize health risks associated with the use of fuelwood;.
- 3.** **increasing** responsible public and private investments to support community-driven, forest-based enterprises for sustainable livelihoods, culture and well-being as well as adaptation and mitigation to climate change;

~~**j.** Increase investment in research to establish, promote and upscale good practices in forestry and agroforestry systems within integrated landscape mosaics;~~

- 4.** **contributing** to increasing population sizes and diversity of trees species that are relevant for food and nutrition;
- 5.** **ensuring** that forest certification and environmental schemes address FSN concerns of all stakeholders by facilitating their full and effective participation;

IV. SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES ON THE RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES, AND FORESTS IN THE CONTEXT OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY (VGGT) TO SECURE ~~FOREST-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES'~~ AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' **AND SMALLHOLDER FARMERS' TENURE RIGHTS FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE PRODUCTIVITY AND RESILIENCE OF THEIR LANDS.**

All stakeholders to:

- a. Ensure that policies, legislation and programmes, based on the principles of the VGGT, that affect forests, trees and farmlands respect and secure the rights of communities ~~and~~ indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers;
- b. Collaboratively develop VGGT-based initiatives with ~~forest dependent~~ communities ~~and~~ indigenous peoples ~~and~~ smallholder farmers to enhance the productivity and resilience of forests and tree-based agricultural systems, and incorporate these initiatives into policies, programmes and practices.
- c. Apply the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (RAI) to all types and sizes of agricultural investment including fisheries, forests and livestock for enhancing food security and nutrition and supporting the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

The Committee encourages these policy recommendations to be forwarded to relevant policy processes including the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), the Committee on Forestry (COFO), the FAO Regional Conferences, other relevant governing bodies of International Organizations, the UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).