

Suggestions for the Recommendations of the HLPE Report on “Sustainable Forestry for food security and nutrition” (June 2017).

UNSCN would like to thank the authors of this Report for taking into account nutrition as essential element of the discussion about the role of forestry for food security and nutrition. This is of particular importance during the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition when policy development and programming for nutrition should intensify in order to fight malnutrition in all its forms and accelerate the achievement of all SDGs.

Overall UNSCN thinks that the Recommendations are very meaningful including in the way they take into account nutrition. UNSCN would like to emphasize the following issues for the upcoming negotiations:

- 1) Preamble to the Recommendations (p. 16, 3rd line): The sentence “Forests perform vital ecosystem services, including the regulation of the water and carbon cycles and protection of biodiversity that are essential to agriculture”. It is important in this respect to also link biodiversity with food security, healthy diets (one element of healthy diets is diversity) and nutrition.
- 2) Emphasize, with reference to Recommendation 1 c), d), e), the need to perform more research on Neglected and Underutilized Species (“NUS”) and to explore their potential for nutrition, considering their economic and nutritional value for forest-dependent people and specific indigenous groups. Indeed, NUS may contribute to decreasing the number of the “nutritional trade-offs” mentioned in Rec. 1 c), and may contribute to realising a win-win situation.
- 3) Recommendation 2 a): The importance of biodiversity for healthy diets and nutrition could be made more explicit.
- 4) Recommendations 3 a): This recommendations could highlight the fact that forests could also play a role as coping mechanisms (gathering of wild foods) in terms of shocks and crises. Recommendation 5 also refers to resilience (and coping mechanisms). However there is no direct notion that in times of crises the number of people depending on forests could increase with potential consequences for tensions between several users.

- 5) Recommendation 4: Tree products such as nuts and fruits (see table 7 on page 62) are an important source of micro-nutrients and contribute to a more diverse diet. Recommendation 4 does speak about the multiple functions of forests and trees, but it may help to specify the benefits of for example increased fruit consumption for better quality diets -Fruit consumption is too low in most regions, compared to WHO recommendations- .



United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition