



Developing a toolkit for facilitation of support for small forest enterprises



Revised agenda of a first international workshop 2-4 July 2008 Edinburgh, Scotland

Venue: National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Rationale

Small forest enterprises and their associations offer particular advantages for poverty reduction. They accrue wealth locally, empower local entrepreneurship, strengthen social networks and engender local social and environmental accountability. But in many countries, structures that connect small forest enterprises and their associations to markets, service providers and policy processes are weak. An international alliance supported and co-managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) called Forest Connect has formed to address this lack of connectedness in Burkina Faso, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Laos, Mali, Mozambique and Nepal.

New support from PROFOR and the FAO hosted NFP Facility aims to draw on the emerging experiences of this alliance **to develop a toolkit for the facilitation of support for small and medium forest enterprises**. The idea behind this toolkit is to spread lessons on best practice in better linking small forest enterprises: (i) to each other; (ii) to emerging markets; (iii) to service providers; and (iv) to national forest programme (nfp) processes.

The anticipated outcome is less constrained and more sustainable small forest enterprises, served by flourishing financial service and business development service markets. At this first international workshop, participants from Forest Connect partner countries, together with other small forest enterprise experts are invited to develop the toolkit framework, including revision and refinement of the proposed toolkit modules. These will then form the basis for the development of substantive content through action learning in Forest Connect partner countries between July 2008 and June 2009.

Agenda – Day 1

2 July 2008 – Sharing what we know of enterprise support in different Forest Connect country contexts

8.30 Coffee and registration

9.00 Welcome to the Forest Connect alliance and introductions – James Mayers, IIED and Duncan Macqueen, IIED

9.20 FAO's support to small scale forest enterprises, NFPs and the NFP Facility (hosted by FAO) – Sophie Grouwels, FAO

9.40 Structure of the meeting and initial presentation sharing on day 1 – Duncan Macqueen, IIED

10.00 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Ghana – Joseph Faniyan, Tropenbos International, Ghana

10.20 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Nepal – Ram Subedi, ANSAB

10.40 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Burkina Faso – Yarri Kamara, TreeAid

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in China – Xinjian Luo, Chinese Academy of Forestry

11.50 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Ethiopia – Tsegaye Tadesse, Farm Africa and Ararsa Regasa, Oromia State Forest Enterprise Supervising Agency

12.10 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Guatemala – Mario Rafael Rodriguez Palma, National Forest Institute, and Victor Lopez.

12.30 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in India – Leena Chakrabarti, CEFI and Rohit Magotra, CEC

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Guyana – Sharon Ousman, Iwokrama and Vanda Radzik

14.20 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Mali – Sophie Grouwels on behalf of Lassiné Sidibé, AOPP

15.00 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Mozambique – Alda Salomão, Centro Terra Viva

15.30 Tea

16.00 Opportunities and constraints to supporting small forest enterprises in Lao PDR – Vu Phuong Thao, EDC

17.00 Close followed by dinner at Howies (20.00)

Agenda Day 2

3 July 2008 – Identifying what challenges we face and what guidance might be most useful

8.30 Coffee

9.00 Introduction to the PROFOR project and the draft 'toolkit' modules – Duncan Macqueen, IIED

9.30 Group work – brain storming about the root causes of 'small forest enterprises not delivering to their potential' – using a problem tree analysis

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Report backs

12.00 Prepared response on rural finance – Jennifer Heney, Edinburgh, UK

12.15 Prepared response on producer organisation – Chris Penrose-Buckley, Twin and Twin Trading, UK

12.30 Prepared response on business tools – Daphne Hewitt, Rainforest Alliance

12.45 Prepared response on market access – Cyril Lombard, Phytotrade Africa

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Poster session in two groups – "Areas in which guidance on support to small and medium forest enterprises is most needed and why"

15.30 Tea

16.00 Report backs on poster session – main areas in which toolkit guidance is needed

16.30 Plenary discussion on proposed toolkit modules and how to capture guidance through ongoing in-country work

17.00 Close

Agenda Day 3

4 July 2008 – Planning how we might use in-country work to provide lessons for others facing similar constraints to small forest enterprise development

8.30 Coffee

9.00 Introduction to day 3 – Duncan Macqueen, IIED

9.20 Supporting producer groups – the work of Agricord, Jukka Peltola

9.40 Supporting small forest enterprises – the work of Ford Foundation, Ryan Temple

10.00 Group planning – capturing lessons for revised toolkit modules

11.00 Coffee

12.00 Report back – commitments to capture lessons of success and failure

12.30 Summing up next steps and close

13.00 Closing lunch

Draft toolkit framework

A cross-sectoral review of best practice in supporting small forest enterprises carried out by the Forest Connect alliance has shown how an approach called 'market system development' is proving successful, both within and outside the forest sector. This approach encourages potential supporters of small forest enterprises to move away from direct attempts to supply financial and business development services or advocate policy reform. Instead they are encouraged towards a facilitation role: improving information on small forest enterprises sector, catalysing collective action, mapping out financial and business service providers, developing service provision capacity by training trainers, spreading information about policy bottlenecks and supporting public-private dialogues that allow small forest enterprise voices to be heard.

The needs of different actors for guidance on supporting small forest enterprises obviously vary. Two main audiences are contemplated by the proposed toolkit: (i) international or national donor agencies wishing to fund small forest enterprise work, and (ii) national agencies that have both a vision and mandate to carry out practical facilitation tasks. At this initial stage, a draft framework for the potential toolkit modules has been prepared (below). The objective of this first workshop is to refine and revise these modules.

AUDIENCE 1. EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Module 1. How to identify institutional host to facilitate market system development?

Module 2. How to introduce the facilitator to market system development?

Module 3. How to help facilitators select and apply value chain analysis tools with different 'lenses'?

Module 4. How to build international knowledge networks to share findings and revise the tool?

Module 5. How to exit in such a way that support for small forest enterprises is sustainable?

AUDIENCE 2. NATIONAL FACILITATORS

Module 6. How to develop framework indicators and a process for monitoring progress?

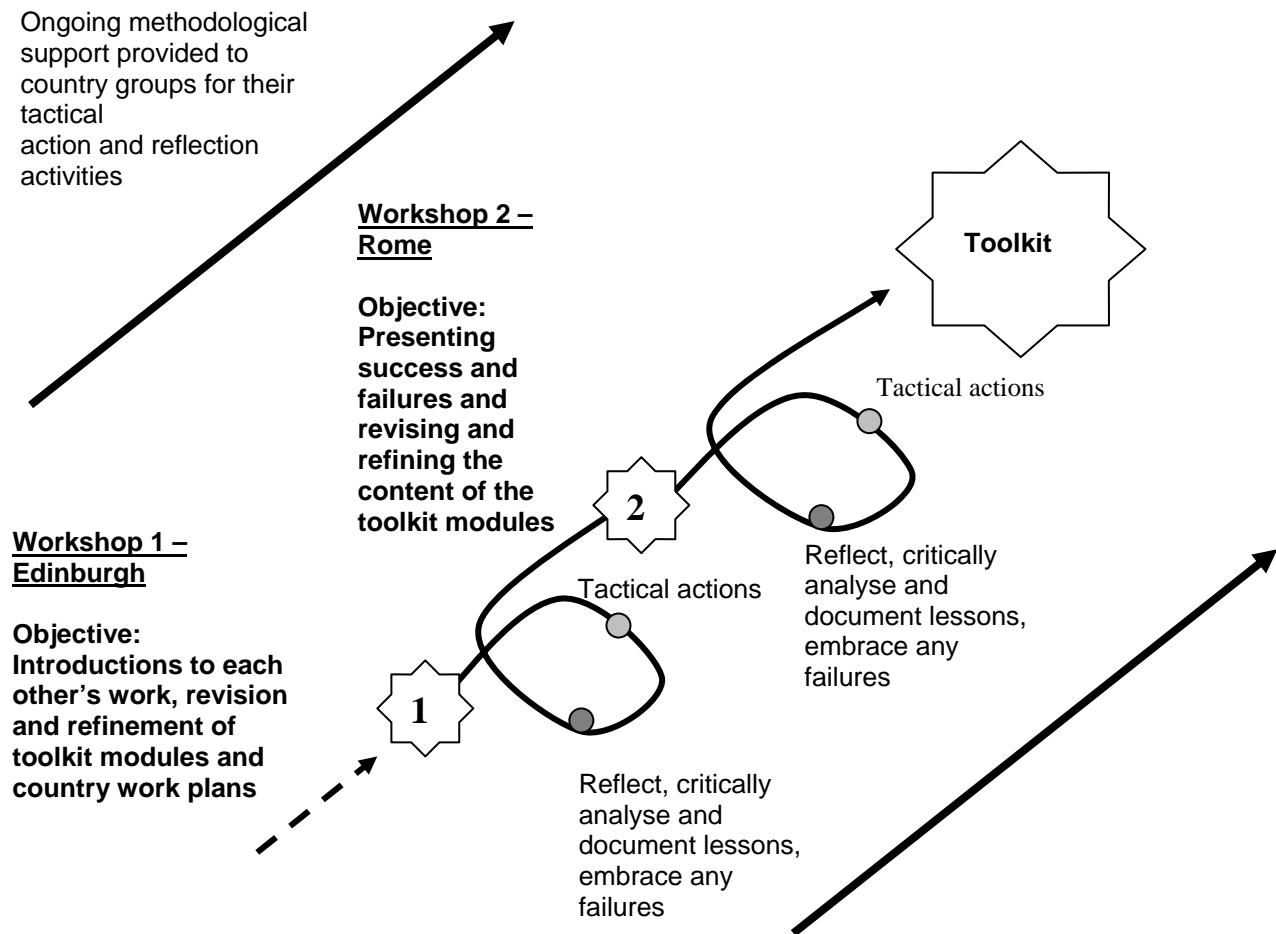
Module 7. How to use sub-sector knowledge to strengthen inter-firm organisation?

Module 8. How to analyse financial services and business development services needs and facilitate better service provision?

Module 9. How to identify business environment bottlenecks and strategies to overcome them?

Module 10. How to set up national communication platforms linked to international knowledge networks?

Iterative process of action learning of which this workshop forms part



Further information

Duncan Macqueen
IIED, 4 Hanover Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 2EN
Tel: +44 131 226 6860
Email: duncan.macqueen@iied.org

Sophie Grouwels
FAO, Room C-463, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100, Rome, Italy
Tel: +39 06 570 55299
Email: Sophie.Grouwels@fao.org

For any queries concerning travel, accommodation or other practical details, please contact the workshop administrator:

Marie Jaecky
IIED, 4 Hanover Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 2EN
Tel: +44 131 226 7040
Email: marie.jaecky@iied.org