



Dear participants of the 58th session of the ACSFI,

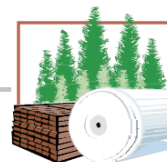
Enclosed you will find a package of documentation to the session.

Longer reports will be distributed during the rest of the week and will also be posted on the ACSFI web page <http://www.fao.org/forestry/industries/9808/en/>

Looking forward to seeing you in Berlin!

- 1 Agenda
- 2 Participants Berlin
- 3 Bio-Technology Regional Workshops
- 4 Promoting the use of wood in construction
- 5 Communication networks for the forest sector
- 6 Bio-based packaging
- 7 ACSFI recommendations to FAO, July 2016

1 Agenda



58th session of the ACSFI, 17 May 2017, Berlin Agenda

08:30 – 09:00 ACSFI Steering Committee Meeting

09:15 - 17:30 ACSFI Session

Item 1 Opening of the 58th Session of FAO ACSFI

Welcome remarks

- David Rhodes ACSFI Chair
- Eva Muller, Director Forest Policy and Resources Division, FAO
- Dr. Gerhard Stiens, Regierungsdirektor, German Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Item 2 Organizational matters

- Adoption of the Agenda
- Chair's remarks on the conduct of the Session
- Membership developments

Item 3 Keynote presentation from the Region

- Klaus Windhagen, Director-General, German Pulp and Paper Association

Refreshment break

Item 4 FAO report on Implementation on ACSFI 57th Session's recommendations, and from the Steering Committee meeting in Rome

- Bio-technology
- Promoting the use of wood in construction
- Communication networks for the forest sector
- Promoting bio-based packaging
- The zero-net deforestation concept and its implications for the forest industry

Item 5 Inputs of the ACSFI to FAO's Programme of Work 2018-19

- Outcomes of key events with impact on forestry and forest industries: COFO 23, UNFCCC COP 22, CBD COP13
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SOFO 2018
- Programme of Work 2018-19, Medium Term Plan for 2018-21
- New initiatives with implications for the next biennium
- Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World - Global Workshop promoting forestry and wood products in reaching sustainable development goals
- Good examples of industry financing forest management in developing countries

Lunch break (approximately 12:30-14.00)

Item 6 ACSFI work planning

- Emerging future issues
- ICFPA meeting recommendations for the work of the ACSFI
- ACSFI work planning
- ACSFI's input to COFO 24

Item 7 Closing Session

- Election of Officers
- Date & venue of ACSFI 59th session
- Any other matters
- Closing summary of the ACSFI Chair

End 17.30

2 Participants to ACSFI 58th session

David Rhodes	CEO, New Zealand Forest Owners Association, New Zealand
Timo Jaatinen	President and CEO, Finnish Forest Industries Federation
Masataka Hayama	President, Japan Paper Association
Klaus Windhagen	Director General, German Pulp and Paper Association
Bernhard de Galember	Innovation and Bioeconomy Director, Confederation of European Paper Industries
Naci Gungor	Brand and Corporate Communications Manager Kastamonu integrated wood-based panel company
Carina Hakansson	Director General Swedish Forest Industries Association
Kwame Asamoah Adam	CEO, Ghana Timber Millers Organization
Maria Teresa Arana	Gerente General, Corporación Chilena de la Madera, Chile
Elizabeth de Carvalhaes	Executive President IBA, Brazil
Donna Harman	President and CEO, American Forest and Paper Association, United States of America
Paul-Antoine Lacour	Director General, Union Française de l'industries des papiers, cartons et cellulose
Shobhan Mittal	CEO, Greenply Industries, India
Jane Molony	Executive Director, Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa
Lorenz Klein v. Wisenberg	IFFA-International Family Forestry Alliance
Natalia Canova	IBA, Brazil
Sylvain Lhote	Director General, Confederation of European Paper Industries CEPI
Naoto Haraguchi	General Manager for International Affairs, Japan Paper Association
Jake Handelsman	Senior Director, International Trade at American Forest & Paper Association
From FAO's side:	
Eva Muller	Director Forest Policy and Resources Division, FAO
Mats Nordberg	ACSFI Secretary, FAO
Till Neeff	Consultant, FAO

3 Biotechnology Regional Workshops

To the Steering Committee in Rome 17 January 2017, Mr Jarkko Koskela reported that FAO's work on biotechnology is run by inter-departmental working groups, which in turn organize regional workshops.

In February 2016, FAO organized an international symposium encompassing the crop, livestock, forestry and fishery sectors on "The Role of Agricultural Biotechnologies in Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition". The symposium covered a broad range of biotechnologies, including low-tech approaches, such as those involving artificial insemination, microbial fermentation and biofertilizers, as well as high-tech approaches, such as those involving advanced DNA-based methodologies and genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Based on the symposium, a number of key areas requiring further dialogue were identified and it was decided to bring them from the global to the regional level by organizing a series of four regional consultation meetings in 2017 (Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia-Pacific) and 2018 (Latin America-Caribbean and Near East), providing a dialogue forum for governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors, including the private sector. Target number of participants per meeting was set to 2-300. To support this work a Task Force has been created, where the Forest Department is represented by Mr Koskela. Also, Regional Advisory panels will be formed, each with 10 experts, collaborating with the Task Force.

The Steering Committee greeted the initiative. ACSFI had hoped for a stronger and more explicit effort on forestry, but understanding FAO's obligation to remain neutral in questions of controversy, it was positively acknowledged that FAO provides a forum for a discussion rather than avoiding the issue.

The Steering Committee discussed whether the ACSFI would also propose a desk study to be conducted on the State of the Art over the world concerning biotechnology in forestry, a question which may be brought up again at the Berlin session.

In May 2017, the situation is as follows: The first two regional cross-sectoral consultation meetings are planned for Kuala Lumpur (September 2017), Malaysia and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (November 2017). During 2018, meetings are planned to take place in Latin America and the Near East.

Before each meeting, it is planned to perform regional background studies. One possible way to bring forth forestry on these issues, could be to organize a consultancy for writing a report on biotechnology in forestry. In the background study on Latin America, the work performed on genetically modified Eucalyptus could be highlighted.

Also, a study can be made on other bio-technological advances, such as:

- Use of biotechnology for wood-based production of bio-fuel (e.g. Metsa, Finland)
- Use of biotechnology for wood-based production of textile (e.g. Domsjo, Sweden)
- Use of CRISP technology for turning off genes (This method is not considered GMO in several countries, including Sweden and Finland. The position of the EU is as yet uncertain).

4 Promoting the use of wood in construction

A joint UNECE/FAO report has been published 2016 on policies surrounding wood houses (www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/sessions/docs2014/75th_session/day_2_presentations/9_04_Florian_Steierer_sustainable_building_materials.pdf). This report focuses on Europe and North America. In January 2017, FAO asked for ACSFI Steering Committee's advice on how to continue this work.

The Steering Committee responded by recommending a further study, looking at good examples of new wood constructions worldwide, including also other construction uses than houses and how and why these wood-positive policies were being put in place. Also, deterring policies should be described and discussed. In many countries, building rules and insurance rules actually make large wood constructions difficult or impossible, although modern wood constructions are not per se more likely to catch or be destroyed by fire than other alternatives.

A consultancy is planned for a new study. This study has not yet been initiated, which gives the session possibilities to provide further input to the advice given by the ACSFI Steering Committee.

5 Communication networks for the forest sector

During the Steering Committee in Rome, 17 January, 2016, Maria De Cristofaro informed the Committee about the work of the Regional Forest Communicators Networks for the forest sector.

There are currently six regional networks covering five regions, and Maria explained the role of the networks' more than 500 members in disseminating key messages and communications materials on forests and forestry across the world.

Maria also explained the role of the Global Group, which meets once a year to assist with the coordination of the networks. The group has an advisory function, and Maria gave the example of a recent European Forest Week, for which the Global Group devised a communications strategy and products including an EFW ambassador as a spokesperson and a video spot that was aired by a number of television broadcasters.

An example of an important communication opportunity on which the networks collaborate is the International Day of Forests, for which FAO and network members produce different materials to share and promote.

The Steering Committee looked positively on the fulfilled and planned activities, and advised FAO to increase collaboration with the ICFPA communication specialists. Contact persons will be provided to ACSFI secretary (Ms Natalia Canova).

There was a proposal to ask the networks for support to produce key messages to promote sustainable forest management that could be used for different communication products, e.g. social media, throughout the year, as well as for input on key messages and communication tools in connection with the planned Global Workshop described by Thais Linhares Juvenal. The networks are also available to periodically promote good examples within the forest industry across the world. A request was made that ACSFI members should be on the information list of the communication network.

FAO proposes the following actions to strengthen positive communication on forest products, in collaboration with the Regional Forest Communicators Networks, ACSFI and ICFPA:

- ACSFI and ICFPA could identify key messages they would like to disseminate regarding the positive role of wood products in the bio-economy and for sustainable development.
- FAO could help design such messages and visuals for social media and the Regional Forest Communicators Networks could serve as a channel for disseminating such messages at country level through social media networks.
- The event on “Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World” provides an opportunity for a social media campaign on sustainable wood.

6 FAO video on sustainable bio-based packaging (Version 05-05-2017)

PURPOSE

FAO is preparing a video, duration 7-9 min, with the aim to raise awareness among involved stakeholders about benefits of sustainable bio-based packaging as a means to reduce marine and land pollution, and to invite interested stakeholders to join forces to establish a dialogue on this issue.

Specific objectives include:

- to promote sustainable bio-based packaging made of wood and agriculture residues as a solution
- to demonstrate good examples of sustainable wood-based packaging to replace conventional plastics and to show-case FAO work on reduction of land and marine plastic pollution

KEY AUDIENCE

Governments (National, cities), industry players (food and packaging sector), industry consortiums, IGOs, NGOs, consumers.

KEY MESSAGES

1. **Background information**

1.1. Why this is important:

- Food is the largest use for global packaging products (51%)
- It is estimated that 37 % of the packaging products are made from rigid and flexible plastics, which makes plastics the most commonly used packaging material

1.2 Environmental impact of plastic materials:

- 6% of global oil production is devoted to plastic production
- Annually, 8 million tons of plastics leak into environment (32% of produced total), resulting in 13 billion USD losses.
- Plastics can take up to 500 years to decompose
- Only 10% of plastics is recycled
- Plastic production gives rise to GHG emissions with costs of \$23 billion USD.

2. **Proposed solution:**

2.1 Bio-based packaging (focus on packaging made from wood fiber or bio-plastics)

- Life cycle analyses show that bio-plastics can reduce CO2 emissions by 30-80 %, compared to conventional plastics
- Life cycle analyses indicate that fiber-based packaging can reduce CO2 emissions by 28-70 % compared to glass and conventional plastics

2.2 Rationale: Why bio-based packaging is a sustainable substitute for plastic packaging

- Decoupling food packaging from fossil feedstock
- Biodegradable and compostable
- No public health issues – the material is non- toxic when used for food contact
- Value chain development – more volumes of products can be produced from the same volume of raw material

3. Why do we need to support to sustainable bio-based packaging and how we can overcome barriers

3.1 Key barriers

- Higher production costs and costs of mobilizing biomass for bio-based food packaging
- Technological barriers
- Poor policy support for bio-based food packaging, including lack of regulated standards for bio-based packaging and food contact, limited quantity and quality of impact studies on bio-based food packaging
- Inappropriate waste management facilities for bio-based packaging materials (40 % of all composting facilities in the EU and 70% in the U.S. only address garden waste; Few composting facilities in developing countries; Limited separate collection of bio-waste)

3.2. Policy recommendations to overcome barriers

- Mobilize resources for R&D on bio-based food packaging
- Improve and secure access to sustainable biomass resources
- Demand side instruments
- Establish adequate waste management facilities for bio-based food packaging

CASES AS SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF SUBSTITUTION OF PLACTICS WITH WOOD-FIBER BASED PACKAGING

Location 1: Corsica

- Municipality of Northern Corsica, Office in Bastia, Ms Elisabeth Gillio – Communication officer – Interview at City Hall re challenges and history of the very first ban on plastic packaging in Europe, lessons learnt, ecological and financial advantages.
- Corsica, Bastia area – short interview with local people at the beach and customers at supermarkets re cleanliness of beaches and plastic packaging ban (people opinion on advantages of plastic packaging ban passed in 1999).

Location 2: Barneveld, Netherlands

- Barneveld, the Netherlands, PaperFoam HQ, Interview with Mr Mark Geerts, CEO. Brief history of the company’s innovative products that successfully replace Styrofoam, policy challenges, and lessons learnt. Footage of production facilities in Malaysia will be shared by the company.

Location 3: San Francisco, USA

- The San Francisco Department of the Environment Francisco Environment. Interview with Ms. Julie Bryant, City Government Zero Waste Coordinator. The Zero wastes 2020 program, the city's success story of a ban on plastic packaging (eliminations of waste in tons, saving city funds on cleaning of land and marine pollution).
- Epsilon Prairie Organics, Vacaville, CA – largest composting facility in CA. Interview with Mr Scott Pardini on benefits from their self-financed composting business model (why and how this model worked) + footage of composting facilities.

TIME-PLAN

Shooting of the video locations 1 and 2 to take place in May 2017, and of location 3 during June 2017. Editing will take place during summer and September, allowing also for additional shooting if necessary. Launch is planned for October 2017.

CONCLUSION

The video encourages co-operation between stakeholders to:

- Promote bio-based food packaging as a means toward sustainable development, especially food packaging made of paper and other materials originating from sustainable forestry
- Propose policy framework to overcome economic barriers to commercially produce packaging materials from sustainable biomass (agro/forestry residues, plants and trees, industrial food waste)
- Develop international guidelines for sustainable utilization of biomass residues.

The particular role of FAO in such co-operation will be to:

- Facilitate collection and aggregation of sustainable biomass sources to improve economic feasibility of using available biomass from agriculture/ forestry for bio-based products, and with inclusion of smallholders.
- Exchange information on appropriate bio-conversion technologies for bio-based food packaging for low-income countries
- Facilitate partnerships along the value chain for bio-based food packaging to involve smallholders and farmers.

7 ACSFI recommendations to FAO, Sydney July 2016

- Continue to appropriately resource the forest work programme particularly given the role of forestry identified in 2015 through the Paris INDC process, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Investigate and report on the policies and programs in place at the global level to promote the use of Wood in construction (the so-called Wood encouragement policies)
- Extend the useful work undertaken by FAO on the bioeconomy with a particular focus on increasing the awareness and visibility of the role of the forest industry
- Build on the forest communication network initiative and make available this information to industry including establishing links with the International Council of Forest and Paper Associations (ICFPA) communications network
- Consolidate, and sharpen the focus of, the bio-based packaging report with a view to more widely disseminating for decision-makers the key messages of wood-fibre based packaging versus alternatives
- Carry out a more-in depth evaluation of the implications of the deforestation free report specifically those associated with the net zero deforestation definitions with the objective of producing guidance for stakeholders
- Expand the dialogue on biotechnology beyond the international arena to focus on regional multi-stakeholder engagement