

COFO – WORLD FORESTRY WEEK

BIO's OF INVITED SPEAKERS “ FAMILY FORESTRY IS FAMILY FARMING”

Thursday, 26th June 2014, Iran Room B016

Name	Rev. Robert Saa Molly Bimba
Country	Liberia
Position	National Coordinator, Farmers Union Network of Liberia (FUN)
 <p>FUN is an Umbrella Organization working in Liberia since 2008 with smallholder farmers and a few forest farmers in the 15 sub-political divisions. The organisation is currently working with over 35,000 registered farmers across the country with 15 County Coordinators and 7 platforms. The organization is owned and run by producers and includes sectors like forestry, fishery and livestock. Key areas of priority for FUN are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating on policy issues relating to welfare of smallholders and agricultural related matters while working with smallholder farmers. • Capacity building for platform members in governance, leadership and bookkeeping. • Lobbying and campaigning in a way that influences policy with regards to smallholders and forest producers at county and national levels. • Promoting linkages between farmers and markets, and • Communicating through radio programs on national radio Title “Farmers Voices”. <p>The organization is working on supporting policy that aims to include these producers in other agricultural issues. They are also working on the inclusion of forest producers into FUN’s main programs and activities across the country</p>	
Name	Ethel Wion
Country	Liberia
Position	Gender responsible of Farmers Union Network and President of Women Colleague, FUN.
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Name	Apsara Chapagain
Country	Nepal
Position	Chairperson of the central Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)



Aspara Chapagain (Khatri) is the Chairperson of the FECOFUN, which is a forest civil society organization in Nepal. Established in 1995, FECOFUN is an autonomous and non-profit national federation of forest users that advocates for the rights of community forest user groups at different levels. FECOFUN's membership stands at about 11 million people from 17,808 Community forest user groups in 75 districts of Nepal.

Name	Alagie Basse Mboge
Country	Gambia
Position	President of the National Farmers' Platform of the Gambia (NFPG)



Description: the National Farmers' Platform of the Gambia represents over 200,000 farmers and contains 425 farmer organizations or groups in the agriculture, fisheries, (agro)forestry and livestock sector.

Name	Grecia Magdalena López Paralta
Country	Guatemala
Position	Leader of women producer group Ramón, Petén



This women producer group of Petén Guatemala focuses on the recollection, processing and marketing of Ramón (*Brosimum alicastrum*), a traditional tree nut, also known as the Mayan nut. The Ramón trees are common to find near the archaeological sites of Meso-America. The seed of the Ramón is delicious, nutritive, antioxidant, and easy to harvest, without harming the trees during harvest. The nut has a great potential to contribute to the food security of the country and enhance cash income of poor people involved in the value chain of Ramón.

Name	Manuel Garcia
Country	México
Position	President of the “Consejo Directivo de la Confederación Nacional de Organizaciones de Silvicultores” (CONOSIL).



CONOSIL is a national organization that brings together 670,000 forest producers and is conformed of 32 national associations, 218 regional associations and 52 local associations. Main purpose of CONOSIL is to strengthen the self-reliance of forest producer in the context of social participation. Principle objectives of CONOSIL are: 1) increase the production and productivity of forests, 2) conservation of natural forests and its biodiversity, 3) protect and rehabilitate areas for environmental services, 4) improve the livelihoods of forest owners and their families. Our mission is to promote sustainable forest management. CONOSIL promotes family forestry and the interests of forest owners at national level and strengthens its member organizations. It also supports the participation of forest owners in government programs and implements projects that promotes the sustainable management and utilization of forest resources, including through providing capacity development to its members.

Name	Bjorn Merzell
Country	Sweden
Position	Forest Policy Advisor



The Swedish Forest Agency is the government’s expert authority on forests and forestry in a broad perspective. They work for a sustainable utilisation of the Swedish forests according to the policies and strategies that have been decided by the Parliament and the Government. In this respect, they are balancing the economic, ecological and social aspects of sustainable forest management. Since more than 50% of the forest land in Sweden is owned by family forest owners, it is crucial that the Swedish Forest Agency have close contacts with those in the implementation of the forest policy. This includes law enforcement and an extension service to forest owners. The relationship between the authority and the forest owners has developed for more than 100 years.

Name	Lennart Ackzell
Country	Sweden
Position	Vice President of the International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)



Ackzell works at the Swedish Federation of Family Forest Owners - an umbrella of the four Swedish Family Forest Associations that covers the whole country. In total, the Federation has 110,000 members, and also has a long tradition of collaboration with family forest smallholdings. There are currently eight employers in the Federation, which represents one department of the Swedish Federation of Farmers (LRF). Ackzell is also engaged in the IFFA, which is the global umbrella for national Family Forest Federations. Nearly every farm in Sweden consists of forest and farmland, which is one of the main reasons why the Family Forest Federation is part of in the Farmer's Federation.

Name	Amauri Molina Alvarez
Country	Guatemala
Position	Deputy Director National Institute of Forests in Guatemala



The National Institute of Forests is the governing body and competent authority of the Public Sector Agriculture. The National Institute of Forests has one of its objectives the promotion of forest plantations, agroforestry systems and the protection of natural forests through forestry incentive programs PINFOR and PINPEP. These programs provide an affordable payment for work performed, fostering thus income for families as well as increased provision of goods and services from forests.

Name	Marcedonio Curtave
Country	Guatemala
Position	Executive Director of the Association of Community Forests of Peten (ACOFOP)



The community forestry concessions of the Maya Biosphere Reserve in the Petén, Guatemala has sustainably managed almost half a million hectares of tropical rainforest for over fifteen years, greatly reducing emissions from deforestation and providing livelihoods for thousands of local inhabitants. ACOFOP, a second tier organization that is composed of 22 local member organizations, has successfully led that process. The success of ACOFOP and the community forestry concessions demonstrates the potential of community forest management and represents an example for communities and governments throughout the world. Marcedonio is also founder and member of the Executive Committee of the Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forests.

Name	Patrick M. Kariuki
Country	Kenya
Position	Deputy Director, Forest Extension Services, Kenya Forest Service (KFS)



KFS is a state corporation responsible for promoting sustainable management of forests in private, state and community lands and the coordination of forestry development in Kenya. KFS is run by a 16 member board drawn from among communities, private and public sectors with the chairman coming from the private sector. The KFS runs three core forestry programmes namely: (i) Forest Extension Services; (ii) Forest Plantations and Enterprise Development; and (iii) Forest Conservation and Management. These programmes are designed to produce a continuous flow of forest goods and services. Patrick M. Kariuki is responsible for the management of Forest Extension Services (FES). FES has two main sub-programmes: (i) **dryland forestry development**; and (ii) **farm forestry development** which are well aligned to family forestry activities. His key work is to coordinate the delivery of extension services nationally for the development of farm forests through various actions.

Name	Tint Swe (Mr.) (on behalf of Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director-General, Forest Department)
Country	The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Position	Director, Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry



The Forest Department is responsible for the protection and conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of the forest resources of the country with 42 percent of the total land area still covered with various types of forest. Myanmar Forest Policy was revised and promulgated in 1995 to ensure the sustainable development of forest resources for social, environmental and economic purposes. Six imperatives identified in the Policy are; Protection, Sustainability, Basic Needs, Efficiency, People’s Participation and Public Awareness. In light of people’s participation in the management of the forest, Community Forestry Instructions were issued in 1995 as a policy instrument in addition to Forest Law 1992 and Forest Rules 1995. Establishment of Community Forests has been initiated in cooperation with some UNDP projects and followed by Japan International Cooperation Agency apart from country’s own initiatives. To date, nearly 1,200,000 acres have been granted to 753 forest users’ groups all over the country and many more are still on the process to enjoy the grant from Forest Department.

Name	Mr. Win Pe
Country	The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Position	Chairman, Alechaung Community Forest User Group



Alechaung Community Forest is situated in Southern Shan State, eastern part of Myanmar. It is a tropical deciduous forest and covers over 1200 hectares. The forest has been traditionally managed by the Alechaung Village for many years. However, the Alechaung Community Forest User Group (FUG) formed in 2000, and has since received Community Forestry Certificates from the Forest Department in 2003. The Alechaung FUG consists of 275 members, and the Community Forest is also managed and

conserved for water, which is a necessary resource for the production of timber and non-timber products.

With the support of Forest and Farm Facility through the NGO ECCDI, the Alechaung FUG is now looking for market-led products that are involved in producing and forming a Township level FUG Family Association.

Name	Aung Thant Zin (Mr.)
Country	The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Position	Chief Executive Officer, Myanmar Environment Rehabilitation-conservation Network (MERN)



MERN is a local environmental NGOs network consisting of 21 members. Even though MERN formed in 2009, some of its members already had around 30 years experience in the development of communities and the environment. MERN is mainly works in environmental rehabilitation and conservation, but it also works for capacity building and livelihood development of local communities.

MERN is a local partner that organizes and supports local NGOs working for FFF projects in Myanmar. In the formation of forest family groups (user groups) and forest family associations,