

Family Farmers, Community Foresters, and Indigenous Peoples Groups to Explore Common Interests in Forest and Farm Policy

This week, family farmers, community foresters, and Indigenous Peoples from Asia, Central America and Europe will meet to kick start the process of exploring synergies between their interests on forest and farm policy.

The goal is to help link the many national and various international networks that represent forest and farm producers and forest rights holders to share knowledge and experience and develop a shared agenda. By working together toward a common set of goals, the groups can better bring local success stories to the notice of global decision-makers, facilitate successful local-level investments, and help shape international and national policies and actions in the interest of local forest and farm producers.

“Whether a forest is family or privately owned or has been part of the community or culture for generations, the people who depend on its health have a common bond,” said Jeffrey Campbell, manager of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF). “We hope to identify their common interests and build a strong, unified voice that can have an impact on forest policy for years to come.”

The meeting brings together winners from the FFF’s call for proposal for grants to strengthen the role and voice of Forest and Farm Producer organizations at the regional and global level which it launched in March 2014. The grants targeted international or regional smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples networks, or alliances of forest forums, forest and farm producer organisations, associations or forest user groups. Out of the 79 applications, five organizations were selected to participate.

Regional grantees were the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), a regional alliance of 17 national federations and organizations of small scale women and men farmers and producers from 13 countries in Asia, and the Mesoamerican Alliance of People and Forest (AMPB), an alliance between different territorial authorities responsible for administering or influencing the major forested areas of Mesoamerica.

Three other grants were given to the Global Alliance for Community Forestry (GACF), a global umbrella network of federation, association and networks of community forestry across the world, the International Alliance of Tribal People of Tropical Forests (IAITPTF), a worldwide network of organizations representing indigenous and tribal peoples living in tropical forest regions of Africa, the Asia-Pacific and the Americas, and the International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA) which represents more than 25 million forest owners world-wide.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), one of the Forest and Farm Facility partners with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), will host the meeting in its headquarters in Gland, Switzerland on January 29-30.

[For more information of the regional and global grants, please visit the FFF website.](#)

###