

African Farm/Family Forestry Producer Organizations Conference: *Forestry for improved livelihoods*

NAIROBI, KENYA 9-11 JUNE 2015
LAICO REGENCY Hotel

Concept Note

Introduction

In most of Africa, 70% of the population lives in rural areas. This population depends on natural resources including forests for their livelihoods. Most natural forests are still controlled by Government agencies, and although some provisions exist for community forestry, these rarely grant sufficient *commercial* control over those community forests to incentivise sustainable community forest management and restoration – or to allow financially viable associations of community forest businesses to develop. Yet, as natural forests get depleted, people are beginning to see a commercial opportunity in planting trees on their own farms to fill a growing demand-supply gap. However, in many countries, forest farmers are not given the legal and institutional recognition that they deserve. The result is that forest policies and laws do not take into account this important segment of forest stakeholders. In particular family farm forest owners face the following challenges: lack of: secure tenure; fair market access; access to financial services, good quality extension and capacity building support services; and effective local and national producer groups.

This conference is designed to discuss and share experiences of locally controlled forestry with a special focus on family farm tree growing groups and their national organizations/federations. To ensure that important aspects of family farm forestry are covered, a focused background paper will be prepared and presented at the conference.

The conference aims to bring together 100 participants from organizations, which represent farm/family forestry in Africa, as well as government forest managers, forest technical agencies, NGOs, donor agencies, academic institutions, and general forestry groups who are committed to encourage the development of family farm forestry producer organizations and federations in their countries.

Further, the conference is expected to produce resolutions which will feed into the XIV World Forestry Congress, 7-11 September, 2015; Durban, South Africa. The main theme of the Congress is “*Forests and People: Investing in a Sustainable Future*”. The African Family Farm Forestry Conference will therefore provide a good opportunity to have African farm/family forestry voices heard at the international level and also provide a platform for networking.

Background

In many African countries, the natural forests are being degraded. This is usually a function of there being inadequate local control over forest resources, which undermines incentives to manage and restore them. This degradation is creating an increasing demand-supply gap that increases commercial returns to tree growers. As a result, an important change is beginning to happen: families are deciding to plant more trees on their own farms. This has led to the formation of forest farm producer organizations and federations. However, these organisations have faced many challenges that threaten their sustainability. One such challenge has been to ensure that their members access markets and financial services for their forest products. The other one has been the ability to engage with government forest agencies to solve conflicts that arise out of unclear tenure arrangements.

To ensure the strengthening and sustainability of these family farm forest organizations, it is necessary that they share information among each other and use this information to articulate their views and influence policy formulation by government agencies. Further, through their networks, they should be able to access resources that can build their capacity to serve their members more effectively.

Objectives

- Strengthen networking among African family farm forest owners and producer organizations.
- Provide a forum to discuss policy and legal frameworks for locally controlled forestry development and emerging forest producer federations.
- Emphasize and help to understand the importance, potential, policy and legal challenges, and opportunities that forest farmers encounter in efforts to establish and develop effective forest producer organizations and federations.
- Produce resolutions for the XIV World Forestry Congress.

Outputs

- African family farm forest producer organisations network with each other to enable them to continue to communicate, share best business practices and to influence family farm forestry policies and legislation in their countries.
- Opportunities to encourage the establishment or strengthening of new family farm forest producer groups, or national organizations/ federations are identified.
- Background paper.
- Summary report of Conference outcomes including statements and important messages on farm / family forestry and their producer organizations in Africa; These will be used in important international events such as the XIV World Forestry Congress at Durban, South Africa in September 2015.

Participants

This conference is expected to attract a total of 100 participants and is intended for family farm forest business organizations, broader locally controlled forestry networks, forest and farm producer organizations, associations and federations, policy-makers, universities, researchers, non-government organizations, (NGOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs) working with family farm forestry groups. Further, it is expected that the discussions will be highly pertinent to those working on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), legality assurance schemes linked to the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, smallholder forest certification, and regional attempts to restore degraded forests and lands such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel Initiative.

Publicity

The conference will be publicised in advance through mainstream and social media, websites, and fliers. Further, the media will be invited to cover the conference.

Venue:

The conference is planned to start on 9 and conclude on 11 June 2015 at **Laico Regency Hotel Nairobi, Kenya**. Participants arrive on 8 and leave on 12 June 2015.

Languages:

The languages of the conference are English and French.

Potential Partners and co-sponsors:

The meeting will be coordinated by IFFA, the Forest Action Network (FAN), African Forest Forum, Kenya Forest Service in close collaboration with FAO and the Forest and Farm Facility¹ and FF-SPAK, The Great Green Wall Initiative, FLEGT and EU-ACP.

Contact persons:

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¹ FFF is a partnership is a partnership between FAO, IIED and IUCN

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Conference timetable

| Day 1 | Time | Activity | Responsible |
|----------------|--|---|---|
| 8 June | All day | Participants arrive | FAN / Participants |
| 9 June | 8:30 a.m. | Registration | FAN / IFFA |
| | HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT | | |
| | 8:45 a.m. | Arrival of Guests | |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Opening Remarks | Peter deMarsh (Chairman IFFA) and Geoffrey Wanyama (Director FF-SPAK) |
| | 9:10 a.m. | Presentation of the Background Paper | Julius Chupezi |
| | 9:30 a.m. | Remarks by the Kenya Forest Service | Emilio Mugo (Ag. Kenya Forest Service Director) |
| | 9:40 a.m. | Remarks by FAO | FAO Representative in Kenya |
| | 9:50 a.m. | Remarks by Forest Farm Facility | Jeff Campbell (Manager of FFF Rome) |
| | 10:00 a.m. | Welcoming Remarks | Dr. Richard Lesiyampe (Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources) |
| | 10:10 a.m. | Official Opening | Prof. Judi Wakhungu (Minister of Environment, Water and Natural Resources) |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Group Photo followed by Coffee / Tea Break | Hotel |
| | 11:00-11:10 | Securing Tenure and enabling policies: Introduction | James Makori, Environmental Lawyer, Kenya |
| | 11:10 -11:45 a.m. | Roundtable discussions: Securing Tenure and enabling policies | Roundtable groups |
| | 11:45-12:30 | Plenary discussions | James Makori, Environmental Lawyer, Kenya |
| | 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. | Lunch Break | |
| | 1:30 – 1:40 | Gaining access to markets and effective service provision and organizational strengthening in the different African contexts: Introduction | Serge Razafimahatratra, Partage, Madagascar |
| | 1:40-2:15 p.m. | Roundtable discussions: Gaining access to markets and effective service provision and organizational strengthening in the different African contexts | Roundtable groups |
| | 2:15-3:00 p.m. | Plenary | Serge Razafimahatratra, Partage, Madagascar |
| | 3:00 – 3:10 pm | Forming and strengthening effective organizations/federations: Introduction | Makweti Sishekanu, Zambia National Farmers' Union |
| 3:10- 4:00 | Roundtable discussions : Forming and strengthening effective organizations/ federations | Roundtable groups | |
| 4:00-4:30 p.m. | Plenary | Makweti Sishekanu, Zambia National Farmers' Union | |
| 4:30 p.m. | Field trip logistics | Oscar Simanto / Geoffrey Wanyama | |
| 4:45 p.m. | Coffee / tea break and end of day | | |
| Day 2 | Time | Activity | Responsible |
| 10 June | 9:00 a.m. till 6:00 p.m. | Field trip to selected farm/family forestry sites → three groups | Oscar Simanto / Geoffrey Wanyama |

| Day 3 | Time | Activity | Responsible |
|-----------------|--|---|--|
| 11 June 2015 | 8:15 a.m. | Arrival participants | FAN |
| | 8:30 -9:30 a.m. | Reflections on field trips | Oscar Simanto / Geoffrey Wanyama |
| | 09:30-0:30 a.m. | Role of government including state forest services (from policy to extension services) | Panel: Representatives of the Government Gambia; of the Kenya Forest Service, Zambia Forestry Department, Liberia Forest Development Authority |
| | 10:30 -11:00 a.m. | Coffee / Tea Break | |
| | 11:00 -12:00 | Linkages with other important programmes in Africa. | Justin Kanga, FODER, Cameroon : "le lien entre le processus FLEGT et les petits producteurs forestiers (Forêts communautaire)". Serge Zoubga, TIIPALGA, Burkina Faso : «Contribution de l'Association Tiipaalga à la mise en œuvre de la Grande Muraille Verte (GMV) au Burkina Faso : cas des forêts familiales de Djibo dans la province du Soum» Sarah Price (PEFC): "Utilizing PEFC forest certification to support locally controlled forestry" |
| | 12:00 a.m. -1:00 | Roundtable discussions Moving family farm forestry ahead: secure tenure, fair market access, extension services, effective FFPO's and next steps for practical information exchange and networking | Roundtable groups with an introduction by George Onyango (WE-Effect) |
| | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Lunch Break | |
| | 2:00-3:00 | Reporting back in Plenary: Moving family farm forestry ahead: secure tenure, fair market access, extension services, effective FFPO's and next steps for practical information exchange and networking | George Onyango (WE-Effect) |
| | 3:00 -4:00 p.m. | Roundtables discussions: Messages from farm/ family forestry to XIV World Forestry Congress | Introduction by FAO followed by Roundtable groups |
| | 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. | Plenary: Groups present their findings / resolutions – Messages to XIV World Forestry Congress | Groups Leaders Facilitated by the African Forest Forum |
| 4:30 -5:00 p.m. | Closing session | Dominic Walubengo (FAN), Jeff Campbell (FFF), Lennart Ackzell (IFFA), Emilio Mugo (Kenya Forest Service), Producer Organization from Burkina Faso | |
| 5:00 p.m. | Coffee / Tea Break and end of Conference | | |
| 6:00 p.m. | Cocktail and entertainment | Mwajuma Abdi | |

| Day | Time | Activity | Responsible |
|-----------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|
| 12 June 2015 | All day | Departure | FAN / Participants |