

AFRICAN FARM/FAMILY FORESTRY AND PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS FOR IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS AND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Presentation Background
Paper

Julius Chupezi Tieguhong
Jolien Schure

African Farm/Family Forestry
Producer Organizations
Conference
Nairobi, 9 -11 June 2015



Introduction

- What is the current status of farm/family forestry and Forest and Farmer Producer Organizations (FFPOs) in Sub-Saharan Africa?
- Literature (125), policy documents (15), interviews (13) with key informants and representatives of FFPOs



1 Setting the scene for Farm/Family Forestry in Africa

Farm forestry

Family forestry

Agroforestry

Community forestry

Small-scale forestry

Trees on farms

Forest-and-farm producers are:

“Women and men, smallholder families, indigenous peoples and local communities who have strong relationships with forests and farms in forested landscapes”

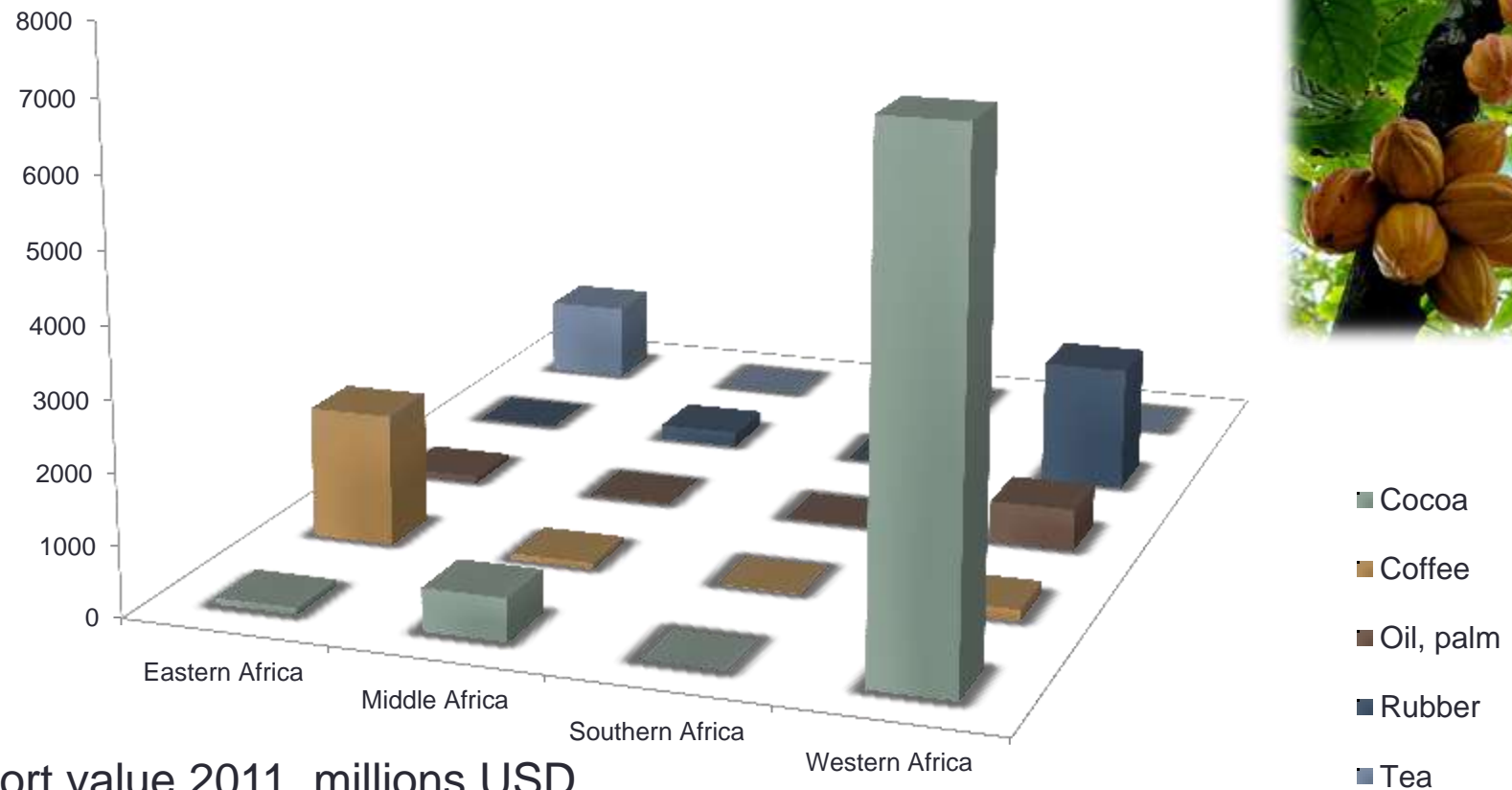
(Source: Forest and Farm Facility).

1.1 Setting the scene for Farm/Family Forestry in Africa: Status in national policies

- Locally controlled forestry through individual tree/land ownership and community forestry.
- Forest policies: agroforestry, trees on agriculture land, farm-forestry and integration with agriculture.
- Institutional frameworks for farm/family forestry in early stages, 'weakly developed', little transfer of rights to communities, unclear tree tenure, little awareness on legal rights, techniques, skills.



1.2 a Setting the scene for Farm/Family Forestry in Africa: livelihoods and economic development



Export value 2011, millions USD,
Source: FAOSTAT 2015



Photo credits: Jolien Schure



Photo credits: Verina Ingram



Photo credits: Verina Ingram



Photo credits: Verina Ingram

1.2/1.3 Setting the scene for Farm/Family Forestry in Africa: livelihoods and sustainable landscapes

Livelihoods	Sustainable landscapes
Subsistence: food, fodder, fuel, medicine, construction, etc.	Ecosystem services: biodiversity, carbon stock, erosion control, soil fertility, pest control
Cash income	Landscape restoration
Job creation	Climate change mitigation
Limitations: underdeveloped markets, vulnerable groups excluded	Limitations: transition to monoculture, replace other land uses, pressure on forestland

2.1 The enabling environment: Land tenure and enabling policies

Tenure rights and access to tree (products):

- Competing land claims
- Disconnect between official land law and customary rules
- Large-scale land acquisition
- Community forestry

Enabling policies:

- Facilitating market access
- Promote tree-planting and rural development
- Compensation mechanisms: carbon finance, biocarbon projects, REDD+, Payments for Environmental Services, sustainability certification, eco-tourism.



Photo credits: Jolien Schure

2.2 The enabling environment: market access

- Global and urban markets are expanding
- Limitations: low prices; lack of market information; limited value adding; limited access to finances; difficulties and bribes during transportation; competing illegally harvested produce; national and international initiatives may exclude smallholders.



2.3 The enabling environment: capacity and extension services

Capacity needs of forest farmers:

- Secure access to land and trees
- Training on sustainable techniques
- Materials for tree-planting
- Training and technology for processing and packaging
- Knowledge on market chain, business and negotiation skills

Initiatives:

- New types of partnerships
- Introduce tools and techniques
- Improve policy arena



3.0. Forest and Farm Producers' Organizations (FFPOs)

- Various kinds and sizes with varying objectives and responsibilities to their members
- Their formation is governed by district or provincial or national regulations
- Scale of operation ranges from community, national and regional levels. Depends on enabling legal, institutional & policy.
- Scale of FFPOs can also be influenced by the spatial distribution of the products of interest

3.1. Why FFPOs are important

- The importance of strength in numbers(IIED 2014),
- Challenges: inadequate skills for collective actions, record keeping, business management, access to information and often insufficient support
- Unleashing economic power and entrepreneurial potential of members by:
 - **Increasing their political “voice” to secure tenure and other rights to the natural resources on which their enterprises are based.**
 - **Increasing their negotiating power to obtain fair value for their products and environmental services.**
 - **Delivering business advice and services through partnerships with NGOs, private companies, governmental and development agencies.**
 - **Building their capacities to achieve financial, food and energy security, and boost their participation in policy processes (FAO 2014a&b).**

3.2. What a good producers organization looks like

- Clear sense of purpose with voluntary membership
- Well structured, using democratic governance tools, open and accountable leadership and administration, autonomous
- Sensitivity to social inclusion/gender equality, youths
- Strong grassroots support
- Respect for indigenous people rights and cultural perspectives.
- Well established communication strategies for visibility/outreach
- Collaboration between FFPOs through exchange visits
- Organization into federations at different levels (local, national, regional, international) (FFF, 2014)

3.3. How policy and resources can support FFPOs to better perform

- How much technical, financial, institutional or legal support do FFPOs need to sustain their activities?
- **Examples of policy and/or resources support to FFPOs:**
- **The Kenya Forest Act (2005)** recognizes the importance of Community Forest Associations (CFAs). CFAs are allowed to grow annual crops alongside the young trees. Sell seedlings to the KFS.
- In **Zambia**, the Citizen Economics Empowerment Commission (CEEC) provides loans for tree planting to individuals, cooperatives, SMFEs
- In **Gambia**, the new Forest Act has improved commercial forest rights to forest products for communities by its provision to develop community forestry and co-manage national park areas under Joint Forest Park Management.

4. FFPOs provide multiple services to address policy and market challenges

- **Multiple forms of FFPO in Africa**
 - **Individual product or service base** (Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Liberia, Zambia and Burkina Faso).
 - **around producer groups along the chain of custody** such as tree growers association, artisanal milling groups, or domestic lumber traders associations (Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique).
 - **Combination of these** (Gambia and South Africa). In Gambia, tree crop growers associations are based on Cashew production, ecotourism, fuelwood, honey/honey by-products as well as timber and other NTFPs.
 - In Zambia, FFPOs, such as the Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU), are loosely organized around timber and seasonal NTFPs.

4.2 Examples of services provided by FFPOs in Africa

- Lobbying for the rights of their members: In Kenya the Kenya Forest Working Group provides the platform for the engagement of tree growers, lobby for enabling legal/policy support and provide market access/partnership services.
- Strengthening bargaining /negotiating power: In Cameroon, FFPOs assist forestry farmers by bringing them to discussion tables with traders for price negotiation for their NTFPs linking them to markets, and capacity (Mala et al., 2012).
- Business advice: In Burkina Faso, Songtaaba facilitates the integration of their members in the fair trade market of shea butter or Karité.
- Capacity building: FAO and partners used the MA&D approach to build the capacities of 14 NGOs in DRC & Cameroon that in turn build the capacities of 233 NTFPs farmer groups, 3515 members including 1514 women on business development skills (EDPs, record keeping and savings) (Tieguhong et al., 2012).

5. What kind of future for farm/family forestry & FFPOs in Africa?

Farm/family forestry holds great potential for expansion throughout Africa while providing for people's livelihoods and sustainable land management.

- Land tenure insecurity
- Limits to markets
- Capacity and extension services
- Smallholders and international initiatives
- Strengthening the knowledge on farm forestry's contribution to economic development
- Inclusion of vulnerable groups
- Unintended environmental outcomes

Challenges and opportunities for FFPOs in Africa

- FFPOs receive **inadequate investments** from donors.
- Project-based funding to FFPOs is (too) **short-term** to build desirable long-term forestry initiatives.
- Initiatives to support FFPOs often include rather **fragmented initiatives** dealing with farm/family forestry.
- The **weak capacity of forestry services** and sometimes **contradicting messages** of forestry and **agriculture** extension impedes the work of FFPOs.
- **Uncertainties** on how to deal with **prospects for carbon sequestration and carbon finance**, obstructed by complicated tenure situations in most African countries, (Unruh, 2008)
- Overall weak capacity, lack of knowledge and organization of farmers require long term monitoring and capacity building (Interviews, May 2015).

Some opportunities to FFPOs in Africa

- FFPOs can **enhance their role** in providing benefits to forest and farm producers by: good governance, optimal group size, transparency, appropriate product types and market orientation.
- National policies provide FFPOs with types of associations and **official registration** is generally easy.
- **Present reforms** regarding land and tree tenure and community forestry and creation of multi-stakeholder platform offer enabling policy environments for FFPOs to take advantage and promote sustainable forest management with increased benefits to local populations.
- Global markets for forest products are expanding, which provide FFPOs with the opportunity to **create good market networks** and information centers for their members.
- FFPOs can benefit from **growing international attention on financial mechanisms**, such as REDD+ projects, Carbon finances, PES, to sustain their activities and increase benefits to its members.

FFPOs of tomorrow

E.g. Sontaaba women group in Burkina Faso: key functional and organisational attributes for a successful FFPO

- **Build trust, purpose and passion.** Start small , regular exchange visits and internal meetings are key to strengthen the cooperative spirit, share information and purpose and reduce internal competition.
- **Fullness in access, control, ownership of the natural resource base with full trade rights.** Fully registered with the relevant Ministries so that all transactions are legal. Well assured supply.
- **Access to technology for communication to reach potential customers, globally and knowledge, training, skills and technology to collect, process products to customer specifications.**
- **Optional certification of brand rendering it an assured outlet in which case control or at least influence over the outlets of the products.** Third party involvement can be great opportunity through pro-poor certification.

Organised women group selling Bush mango in Cameroon (Irvingia gabonensis)



Group sale of *Prunus africana* by MOCAP



Value added to forest products in Gabon



Thank you!

Acknowledgements

Jeffrey Campbell, Pauline Buffle, Sophie Grouwels, Dominic Walubengo and Lennart Ackzell, for guiding the study and their feedback.

Makweti Sishekanu, Alexander Asare, Edward S. Kamara, FFF-FUN Liberia and National Forests and Landscape Forum, Barthelemy Kaboret, Jaff Francis Agiamntebom, Sa Majesté MVONDO Bruno, Willy Nlandu Mbele, Useni Marcel, Mercy Serwah Owusu Ansah, Robert S. M. Bimba, Dominique Endamana, Ako Charlotte Eyong, Kale Charles Litie, for their expert inputs and time dedicated to the interviews.