FAO Remote Sensing Survey reveals that 89.8% of the world’s deforestation is due to agricultural expansion and infrastructure development. Tropical rainforests are under high pressure as agricultural expansion drives global deforestation.

### ALMOST 90 PERCENT OF DEFORESTATION WORLDWIDE IS DUE TO AGRICULTURAL EXPANSION

**Deforestation** is the conversion of forest to other land uses, such as agriculture, mining areas, urban areas and infrastructure.

- **Conversion of forest to farmland or grassland for livestock grazing** are the major causes of deforestation.
- **Rural-to-urban migration** is a key factor in the conversion of forest into farmland.
- **Livestock grazing** was found to be responsible for 95% of deforestation.

### RESULT OBTAINED USING FREELY AVAILABLE DATA AND INNOVATIVE PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

A participatory effort conducted in close collaboration with the countries to produce novel remote-sensing based information about land use change dynamics and their key drivers at a global, regional and biomes levels.

### MAIN DEFORESTATION DRIVERS DIFFER ACROSS THE WORLD’S REGIONS

- **Urban areas** and **agriculture** are the main drivers of deforestation in all regions except for Europe, where urban and infrastructure development are a higher priority.
- **Conversion to cropland dominated deforestation in Africa and Asia**, with over 75% of the forest area lost converted to cropland.
- **In South America**, almost three-quarters of deforestation were due to livestock grazing.

**Regional differences in deforestation drivers - 2000-2018**

- **Africa**: Agriculture and urban areas
- **Asia**: Agriculture and cropland
- **North and South America**: Agriculture and urban areas
- **Europe**: Urban areas and infrastructure
- **South Asia**: Agriculture and urban areas

**Percentage of deforestation by region**

- **30%** in Asia
- **52%** in South America
- **44%** in Africa
- **38%** in Europe
- **6%** in South Asia

**Results obtained using freely available data and innovative participatory approach**

- **A network of more than 800 national experts from 126 countries**
- **A methodology focused on land use changes and empowering capacities at national level**

**The Remote Sensing Survey was part of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020**

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