Item 7.1
TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS:
Halting deforestation and promoting sustainable production And consumption of forest products
Summary

Forests and trees make multiple contributions to sustainable agriculture and food systems:

- forested watersheds provide three-quarters of accessible freshwater,
- trees on farms providing shade and fodder for livestock, forests are habitats for pollinators,
- wild foods – in particular for rural people and indigenous communities; wood and non wood products for income; energy.

Forest conversion from agriculture accounts for an estimated 73% of tropical deforestation; concerted action and strategies are needed across sectors to address local specificities and drivers of deforestation. Halting deforestation must be an integral element in the sustainable transformation of food systems, along with promoting legal and sustainable forest value chains.

The private sector needs to act at scale, and governmental leadership is vital to steer change by aligning incentives, ensuring enabling regulation, and strengthening monitoring and enforcement.

The report outlines actions to deliver a food systems transformation, emphasising the need to capitalise on digital innovations & data, ensure policy coherence, strengthen governance and re-direct private/public investment.
Suggested action by the Committee on Forestry

The Committee requests FAO to:

Integrate forestry in FAO’s work on food systems and promote synergies and address tradeoffs to achieve the SDGs, including through consideration of forestry in COVID-19 pandemic recovery measures and in FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

Enhance FAO’s cross-sectoral work on transforming food systems to feed the planet without deforestation, contributing to the UN System-wide efforts to "Turning the tide on deforestation" co-led by FAO, and to include an action area on halting deforestation under the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

Engage with public, private sector and civil society stakeholders and initiatives aiming at halting deforestation and at promoting legal and sustainable forest and agriculture commodity value chains.
Suggested action by the Committee on Forestry

The Committee invites countries to:

Ensure **policy coherence and align public incentives** across sectoral environmental and economic policies to halt deforestation, promote deforestation-free supply chains, and transform food systems.

Promote **responsible production and consumption** of forest and agriculture products and their contributions to the circular economy,

- including through the adoption of policy and technological innovations for increased tenure security, legality,
- enhanced efficiency in production,
- improved market access and inclusion of smallholders and forest communities in sustainable forest value chains
Thank you.