

GLOBAL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR FRA 2015

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Introduction

The “Global Meeting in Preparation for FRA 2015” and the “Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire Reporting” took place 6-10 May 2013, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. It was jointly organized by the Royal Forest Department of Thailand and FAO. More than 120 participants from 96 countries, including the National Correspondents to FRA 2015, representatives of partner organizations, FAO Headquarters and the FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific (RAPA) attended the event.

The programme included plenary presentations and small group sessions organized according to languages, plus a computer room for interactive work. An open knowledge fair and small group sessions allowed participants to clarify any issues related to the FRA 2015 reporting.

Background to FRA 2015

Global forest resources assessments have been carried out by FAO since 1946. The mandate to carry out these assessments stems both from the basic statutes of FAO and the Committee on Forestry (COFO). Global forest resources assessment reports have been published at periodic intervals of five to ten years. The latest of these reports, *FRA 2010*, was published in 2010. The *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015*, or *FRA 2015*, was mandated by the twentieth session of COFO.

The key milestones of FRA 2015 are outlined below to give an overview of the process and the deadlines.

Activity	Tentative date	Comment/output
Global meeting, Regional, sub-regional and national workshops	March 2013 – November 2013	Country reporting process, technical assistance including regional workshops and review of draft country reports.
Deadline for submission of draft country reports	15 July 2013	Countries are strongly encouraged to submit draft reports well in advance of the deadline.
Deadline for completion of final country reports	15 October 2013	Country reports reviewed and completed.
Confirmation of final country reports	15 December 2013	Official request for validation of the final country reports will be sent to countries.
Public release of FRA 2015 report(s), public access to FRIMS	September 2015	Several publications are planned for FRA 2015 release at the World Forestry Congress, Durban South Africa

Key outcomes

- All National Correspondents were informed about the FRA 2015 country reporting process and the CFRQ working modalities;
- All aspects of FRA 2015 were clarified and country reporting capacity was improved;
- National Correspondents are familiar with the use and functionalities of the Forest Resources Information Management System (FRIMS);
- National Correspondents were informed about the FRA 2015 remote sensing activities;
- National Correspondents were informed about the Forest Futures study and scenario formulation is improved;
- National Correspondents are informed about the national capacity building plan activities and benefits derived from its implementation;
- Improved plan for the analysis and publications of FRA 2015 results; and
- Networking and exchange of experiences among national experts in forest monitoring assessment and reporting was fostered.

For more details regarding the Global Forest Resources Assessment Programme, please visit the FRA website at: www.fao.org/forestry/fra.

