



State of the World's Forests 2016

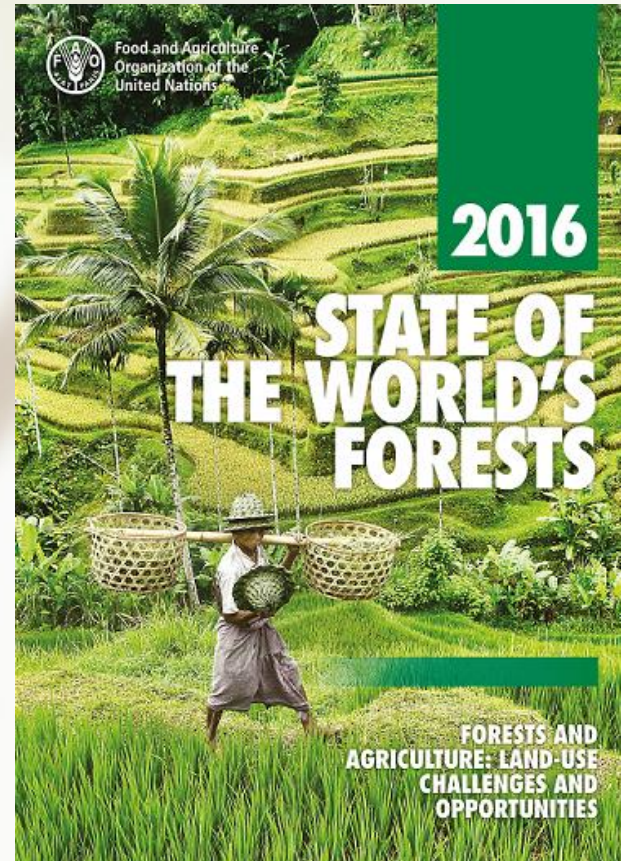
Forests and Agriculture: Land Use Challenges and Opportunities

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COFO 23 / WORLD FOREST WEEK

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- Trends in Land use change
- The governance and management of land use change
- Making room for forests and food security
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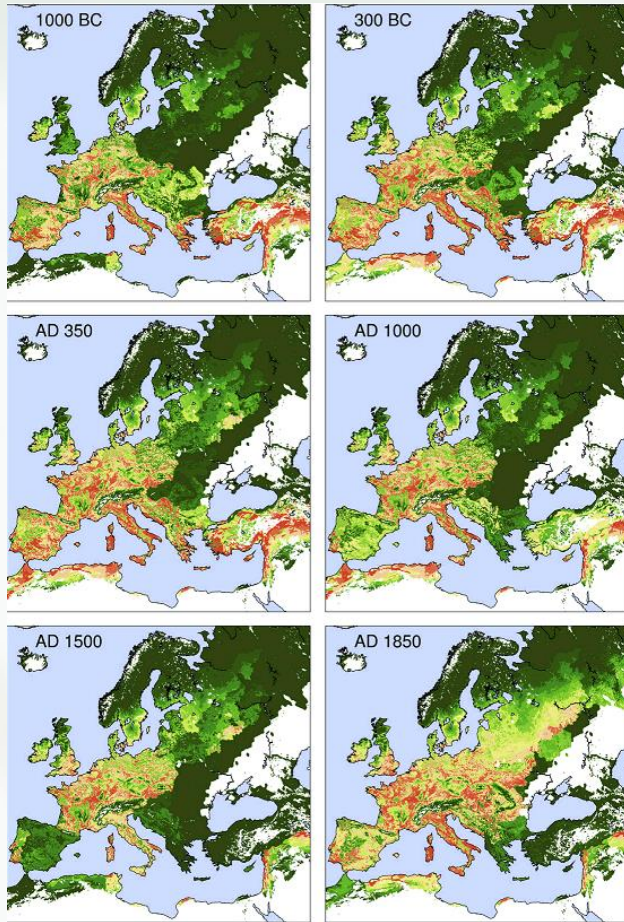
Introduction

Evelyn Nguleka, President of the World Farmers' Organization:



“It is time for a change in consciousness – it is a fact that agriculture and forestry can no longer be treated in isolation. Linking the two is imperative for socio-economic development in the 21st century”

Historical trends in land use change

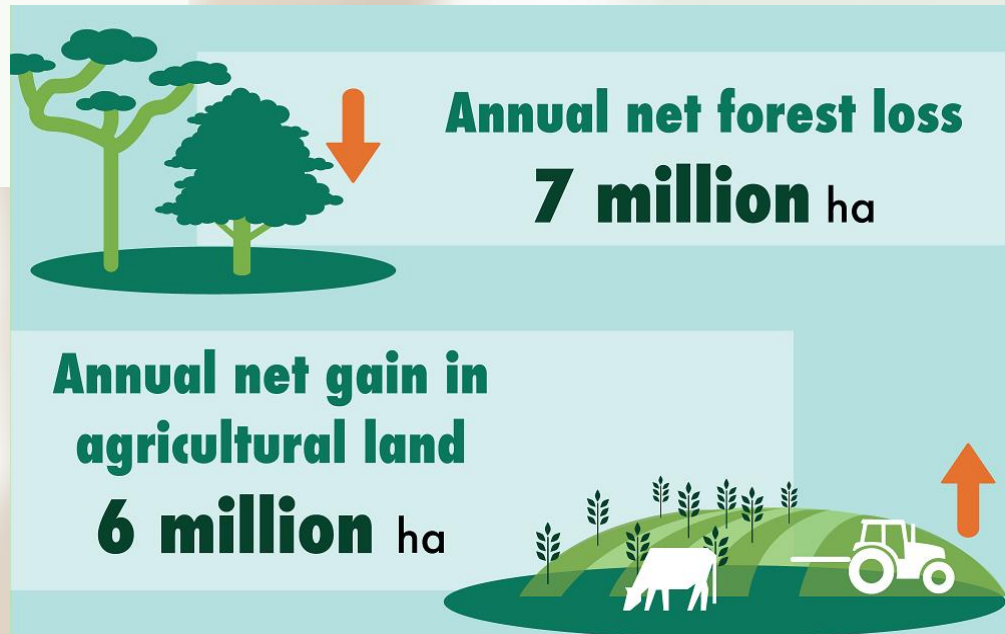


- Deforestation to gain new agricultural land has been part of human development for millennia
- Regrowth happened when land was abandoned, mainly due to outbreaks of disease
- Most prevalent in temperate climatic domain until late 19th century, now greatest in tropical domain
- Concern about depletion of forest resources led to emergence of sustainability concept (Von Carlowitz 1713)

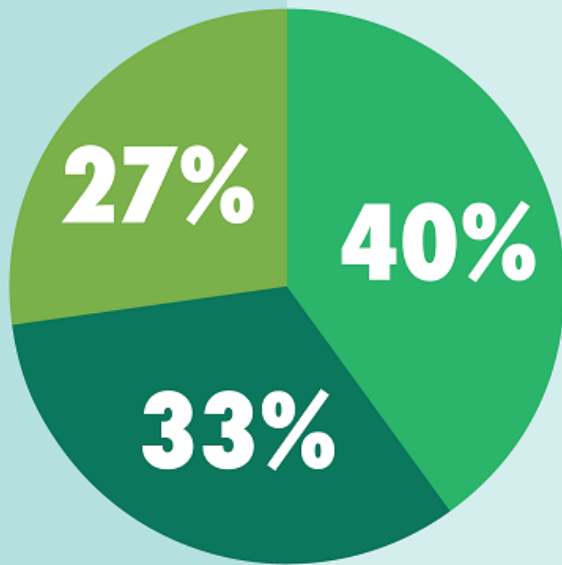
Recent trends in forest conversion

THE GREATEST LOSS OF FORESTS AND GAIN IN AGRICULTURAL LAND

was in **tropical** and
low-income countries.



Forest conversion in the tropics and subtropics



**Large-scale
commercial agriculture**



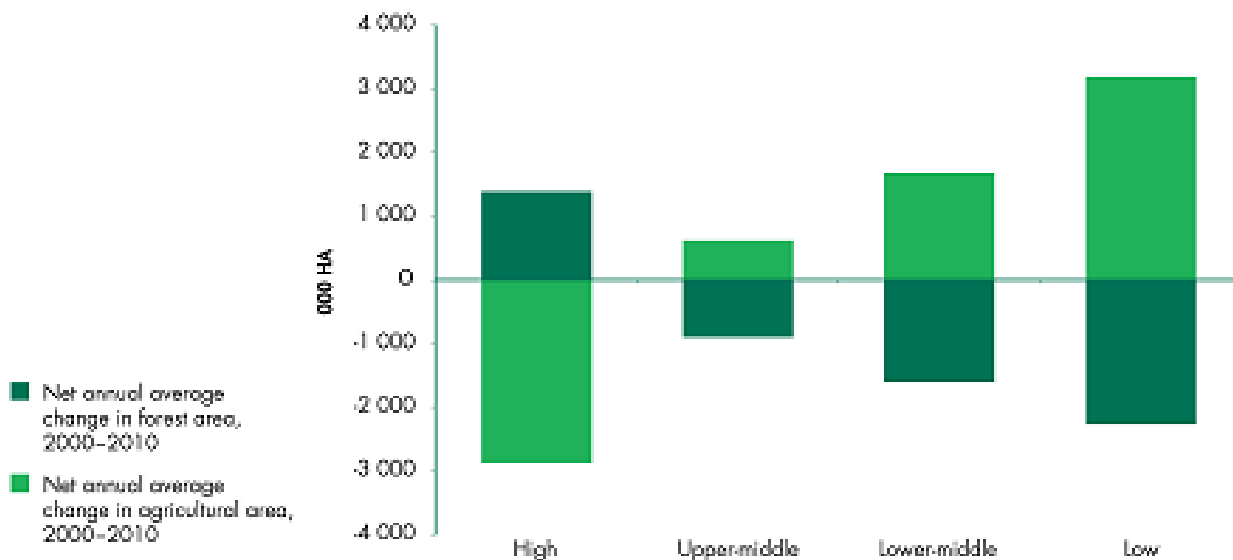
**Local subsistence
agriculture**



**Infrastructure,
mining etc.**

Forest conversion and income level

NET ANNUAL AVERAGE CHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST AREA IN COUNTRIES GROUPED BY INCOME CATEGORY, 2000-2010



Governance and management of land use change



Need for policies on land use change



Need for coordination of land-use related policies, setting of cross-sectoral priorities or strategic targets for land-use change and institutional arrangements



Complex legal frameworks and weak governance favor informal local land use change practices; customary rights often not recognized despite their importance for vulnerable groups



Countries promoting agricultural investment and providing enabling infrastructure are better able to address forest loss

Governance and management of land use change



Need for multipronged approach addressing policy, tenure, law enforcement, economic incentives, stakeholder engagement, public-private partnerships, integrated land-use planning and monitoring of land use change



Secured investment in the forest sector → lower forest loss; investments can achieve wider social and environmental goals



Need for strategic framework encompassing all relevant stakeholder groups to balance competing land uses

Making room for forests and food security

More than **20 countries** have improved **food security** while maintaining or increasing **forest cover**



Common success factors



Effective legal and institutional frameworks, incl. secure land tenure and regulation of land use change



Market-oriented agriculture with social and environmental safeguards



Coordinated and balanced approach to agricultural and forest policies



Economic reform and economic growth

Common success factors



Adequate funding and investment to increase agricultural productivity and manage forests sustainably



Use of policy instruments to improve agricultural productivity and SFM



Stronger involvement of local communities and smallholders



Promotion of Integrated land-use

Key messages



Food security can be achieved through agricultural intensification and other measures such as social protection, rather than through expansion of agricultural areas at the expense of forests



Meeting the world's increasing demand for food and other land-based products will require highly productive, sustainably managed landscapes



Forests' role in the water cycle, soil conservation, carbon sequestration and habitat protection make their sustainable management indispensable for agriculture and food security

Key messages



As agriculture remains the main driver of deforestation, there is an urgent need to promote more positive interactions between agriculture and forestry

The SDGs are integrated and irreversible, therefore, sustainable agriculture and forestry and food security should be achieved simultaneously

Improved coordination between sector policies related to land use and clear legal frameworks governing land use change are needed, including secure tenure

Key messages



Large scale agriculture as main driver of deforestation → requires effective regulation of change, social and environmental safeguards



Local subsistence agriculture as main driver of deforestation → requires broader poverty alleviation and rural development measures and improved land use practices



Integrated land use planning involving stakeholders = strategic framework for balancing land uses at different levels

Points for consideration

The Committee may wish to invite countries to:

- improve coordination between sector policies for more effective regulation of land use change
- promote integrated land use planning as a strategic framework for balancing land uses
- Use policy instruments and boost investments to increase sustainable agricultural production and encourage SFM

Points for consideration (cont.)

The Committee may request FAO to support countries to:

- develop integrated land use strategies taking into account the role of forests for water, soil, climate and habitats
- strengthen land governance by improving tenure security and encouraging partnerships
- monitor and collect data on the effectiveness of governance mechanisms and on social, economic and environmental values of forests

**Thank you for
your attention**

