

COFO 28 – INDIA

Item 7 — Advancing Forest-Based Bioeconomy

Approaches

Thank you Chair,

India welcomes the discussion on advancing forest-based bioeconomy approaches for sustainable food and agriculture.

India believes that the forest-based bioeconomy can support economic growth, rural livelihoods and sustainable production, while contributing to climate and biodiversity objectives. It must, however, remain firmly anchored in sustainable forest management, legality, resource efficiency, circularity and national circumstances.

India is promoting agroforestry, bamboo, non-timber forest products, medicinal and aromatic plants and wood-based industries to strengthen the link between

sustainable resource management, rural employment, value addition and markets.

India's Access and Benefit Sharing framework further enables communities to benefit from commercial use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Going forward, India believes that greater emphasis should be placed on sustainable production, value addition and market access, so that renewable forest resources generate greater economic and livelihood benefits while maintaining the ecological sustainability of the resource base.

India encourages FAO to support Members in developing integrated forest-based bioeconomy approaches, strengthening sustainable value chains and building capacities of small producers and forest-dependent communities. Greater cooperation on technology, innovation, knowledge-sharing, value addition and market access can help scale sustainable

and inclusive forest-based enterprises while remaining responsive to national circumstances.

Thank you.