

28th Session of the Committee on Forestry
– Japan’s written statement on agenda item5

Item 5. Forests for food security and nutrition: Strengthening the contribution of forests and trees to sustainable agrifood systems

Japan aligns itself with the joint statement previously made by Sri Lanka on behalf of Asia Group, and would like to add voice.

Japan welcomes FAO’s continued efforts to strengthen the linkages between forestry and agriculture, as well as its collaboration with COAG. Given the urgent need to decouple agricultural production from deforestation and biodiversity loss, we look forward to further discussions on expanding actions in cooperation with the agricultural sector.

Japan supports the project Building global capacity on halting deforestation and conversions from agricultural commodities so called the BiG-CHANCE project implemented by the FAO REDD+ Team, as referenced in paragraph 37 of the document of this item, on halting deforestation through the establishment of sustainable agricultural supply chains. The project has developed the Solutions-tree, a tool designed to support policymakers in developing effective measures to address deforestation and forest degradation in accordance with their national circumstances. The tool was launched in December last year. Furthermore, in addition to Africa as mentioned in paragraph 39, this project has also organized regional workshops in the Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. We appreciate the extensive collaboration across divisions within FAO in the development and dissemination of this tool.

Japan also welcomes FAO’s development of a policy coherence analytical framework under the BIG-CHANCE project (Building global capacity on halting deforestation and conversions from agricultural commodities), piloted in Uganda and Ghana with support from Japan and UN-REDD. We understand that this framework can help identify synergies, trade-offs and gaps across forest and agrifood system policies. Therefore, once finalized, Japan encourages FAO to consider scaling up this framework to other interested countries to further support integrated forest and agrifood system transformation and evidence-based policy making.