

Integrating forestry in FAO's work on food systems

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Agriculture and forests linkages



- World's agri-food systems under stress from loss of biodiversity and climate change while forests provide solutions to reduce this pressure and essential services to agriculture, such as water regulation and pollination
- Progress made but still high levels of deforestation and forest degradation (420 Mha of forest lost between 1990 and 2020), >70% for conversion into agricultural land



FAO's enhanced cross-sectoral work

Request from FAO Council (165th Session – 2020) – following COFO's conclusions (25th session): FAO to integrate forestry in its work on food systems

COFO paper and session: *Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems: Halting Deforestation and Promoting Sustainable Production and Consumption of Forest Products*

FAO strategic framework 2022-2031: more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for **better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life**, leaving no one behind



The UN-Secretary-General's initiative on turning the tide on deforestation

Call from the United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** to “Turn the tide on deforestation”:

“ We must halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and change the way we farm ”

(Climate Action Summit, September 2019)



Synergies and managing trade-offs



- 1. Integrated policies and landscape approaches**
- 2. Strengthening governance and legality**
- 3. Greening agri-food systems**
- 4. Science-based decisions – Data, innovation, technology and the “Hand-in-Hand” initiative**

Opportunities

Greening agri-food systems



- **Forest and Farm Facility** – to promote stronger synergies between agriculture and forestry
- **Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox**; a knowledge platform that includes modules on Agroforestry, Drylands Forests and Agrosilvopastoral systems
- Global restoration movement under the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration**
- **Food Forests initiative** - will promote plant-based food products from forests and trees
- Collaboration between FAO Forestry and Animal Production and Health on a new dryland initiative called **Grazing with trees**

Recent developments



- The output: Chair's Summary, transmitted to UNFF17 (policy session), 9-13 May 2022, New York
- Coalition on **Halting deforestation and conversion from agricultural commodities**
- Coalition on **Better Data Better Decisions for Nature-Positive Production**
- Coalition for the **Transformation of Food Systems Through Agroecology**
- Land and Freshwater Nexus

- **Glasgow Climate Pact** - recognizes key role of forests in climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience.
- Finalized **rules of the Paris Agreement, including Article 6.**
- Announced **Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use**: 140 countries + EU pledged to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 with more than USD 20 billion committed.
- FAO released new **deforestation data at CPF event**

Key findings of Remote Sensing Survey

- Agricultural expansion drives almost **90 percent** of global deforestation – an impact much greater than previously thought
- Livestock production is responsible for almost **40 percent** of forest loss
- Confirms an overall slowdown in global deforestation

BUT: Increasing agri-food productivity to meet the new demands of a growing population and halting deforestation are not mutually exclusive objectives.

Key challenges

Reduce
deforestation and
forest degradation
without affecting
food security

Restore and
sustainably manage
forests to maximise their
positive contributions to
rural livelihoods, food
security and agriculture
systems

Promote efficient,
inclusive, resilient and
sustainable agri-food
systems that contribute
to sustainable forest
management and forest
conservation

Points for consideration 2/3

The Commission may wish to invite Member States Nations:

- a. To send a message to the Regional Conference for Europe emphasising the need to consider food security, agriculture, forestry and other aspects of rural development in an integrated manner;
- b. To consider regionally-specific initiatives, in particular Regional Initiative 3 *“Managing natural resources sustainably and preserving biodiversity in a changing climate”* to halt deforestation and forest degradation while greening agri-food systems, taking into consideration the regionally-specific deforestation and forest degradation dynamics and drivers;

Points for consideration 3/3

The Commission may wish to invite Member States Nations:

- C. To further strengthen its cross-sectoral work through activities aimed at halting deforestation and forest degradation, as well as promoting sustainable agriculture and forest management in ways that lead to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems.



Thank you

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