LOCAL COMMUNITIES, INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, SMALLHOLDERS & THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

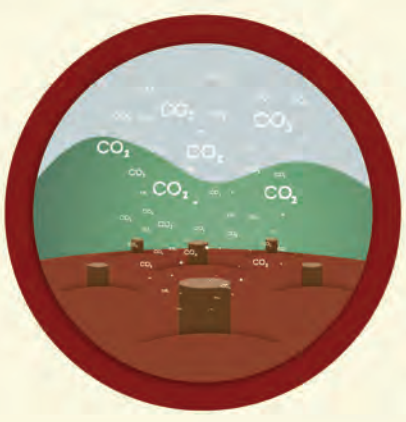
THE ENABLING ACTORS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

FORESTS AND TREES ON FARMS HELP COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Forests act as carbon sinks, **absorbing CO_2** from the atmosphere and storing carbon in their biomass and soils.

Forests cover **30.6 percent** of global land area and about **13.5 billion** trees are growing in drylands outside forests worldwide.

The net loss of **3.3 million hectares** of forests per year is a major source of CO_2 emissions.



LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE RESTORING AND MAINTAINING FORESTS AND TREES

Family smallholders, local communities and indigenous people and their forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs), play a key role in preserving and restoring forests and in transforming landscapes as part of productive rural economies.

1.5 billion hectares of land hold potential for smallholder farmers to combine agriculture with trees.

MITIGATION: Strong FFPOs help reduce deforestation, manage forests sustainably, and restore tree cover.

ADAPTATION: Community level adaptation strategies reduce vulnerabilities to droughts, floods, and environmental degradation.

RESILIENCE: By maintaining ecological processes and economic and landscape diversity, FFPOs become more resilient to climate change.

Government recognized community forests hold an estimated **37.7 billion tonnes** of carbon stock.

1/3 of the total forest area and 500 million farms are managed by families, smallholders, local communities or indigenous people.

THEY COULD DO MUCH MORE

WITHOUT THEM, ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE WILL NOT SUCCEED

21 out of 161 countries have made a clear commitment to ensure land security for local communities and indigenous peoples and for the community based management of natural resources in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), submitted in the context of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT IS NEEDED

LOCAL COMMUNITIES, A MAJOR POTENTIAL TO REACH LARGE SCALE

WITH climate change programmes and finance mechanisms engaging hundreds of millions of forest farmers.

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WITH governments supporting secure tenure rights and an enabling environment for local communities and FFPOs.

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Better MITIGATION, ADAPTATION, and RESILIENCE at a large scale

Communities, indigenous people, and smallholders, women and men, young and old, and strong forest and farmer organizations stand ready to maintain and restore degraded forested landscapes and to sustain livelihoods on a vast scale. For this to happen, political leaders and policy-makers must provide the "keys" to unleash this great potential. Rights and institutions are as important as funds to ensure climate change mitigation and adaption. Without the full involvement of local communities, climate change initiatives are bound to fail.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FOREST AND FARM FACILITY
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C0131e/1/06.16