

**Special COFO and COAG Joint Event on Agriculture-Forestry Linkages
on the occasion of the 174th Session of FAO Council (4-8 December 2023)**

Scaling up agroforestry

Hybrid event (Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO headquarters and virtual)

Thursday, 7 December 2023 from 12:30 to 14:00 hours (CET)

Rationale:

The Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 28th Session and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) at its 26th Session, both held in 2022, considered respectively the joint item on agriculture-forestry linkages and highlighted the opportunities for closer integration between agriculture and forestry. The recommendations resulting from these Sessions include the request for FAO to support Members to identify opportunities and implement actions to improve complementarity between the agriculture and forestry sectors and for FAO to conduct a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, among others.

Subsequently, the FAO Council, at its 171st session, stressed the importance of agriculture and forestry linkages, and of strengthened coordination between COAG and COFO on related cross-sectoral matters, and recommended to continue collecting and analysing science and evidence-based data on agriculture and forestry interdependencies. It also requested FAO to continue actively identifying the important and mutually beneficial linkages between agriculture and forestry and scaling up its related activities in the relevant Programme Priority Areas (PPAs) of its Strategic Framework 2022-31.

A COFO-COAG Joint Intersessional Roadmap on agriculture-forestry linkages was further developed in response to these recommendations. Among the priority actions agreed as part of this joint roadmap is the organization of an event to discuss the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry. In this context, FAO in collaboration with the COFO Steering Committee and the COAG Bureau are organizing a special joint event on the agriculture-forestry nexus, with a thematic focus on scaling up agroforestry, during Council 174 (CL174).

Agroforestry¹ is gaining renewed attention and importance within global policy processes today, including from FAO Members, as it can provide many solutions to global challenges. Agroforestry can enhance livelihoods in rural communities, increase food security and nutrition, generate income and alleviate poverty, help protect and sustainably manage natural resources and biodiversity, and build resilience to climate change. Despite its longstanding history and recognition of its benefits, there remain barriers in scaling up agroforestry for widespread investment, adoption, and implementation. Broader support for agroforestry, at both the policy and technical levels, is required.

¹ Agroforestry is a collective name for land management systems and technologies where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.) are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals, in some form of spatial arrangement or temporal sequence. In agroforestry systems there are both ecological and economical interactions between the different components (Lundgren and Raintree, 1982).

This special joint event will highlight the potential of agroforestry as a cross-cutting solution to sustainably transform agrifood systems. The event is a strategic opportunity to present FAO's work on agroforestry to Members, showcase national experiences from Members and discuss ways forward for addressing the remaining barriers to agroforestry uptake.

Objectives of the special joint event

- Highlight the potential of agroforestry as a solution to transforming agrifood systems and working at the agriculture-forestry interface;
- Present FAO's work and strategic support on agroforestry;
- Showcase country success stories and lessons learned on agroforestry; and
- Discuss ways forward for addressing barriers to scaling-up agroforestry.

Proposed Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General of FAO

12:30-12:40	Opening remarks Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO
12:40-12:50	Agroforestry: Stepping-up COFO - COAG collaboration on agriculture and forestry linkages and Intersessional Roadmap towards COFO 27 and COAG 29 Ms Julie Emond, Chairperson of COAG (Canada) and Mr Günter Walkner, Chairperson of COFO (Austria)
12:50-13:00	Keynote presentation Mr Michael Taylor, Award-winning silvopastoral farmer (Australia)
13:00-13:10	Technical presentation on FAO's agroforestry work Ms Elaine Springgay, Forestry Officer (Agroforestry), FAO Forestry Division and Mr Ivan Landers, Agricultural Officer, FAO Plant Protection and Production Division
13:10-13:15	Short video Agroforestry GIAHS site, Mount Kilimanjaro
13:15-13:55	Panel discussion (25 minutes) <i>5-minute interventions from countries (virtual)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia – Mr Keiran Andrusko, Director, International Forest Policy, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry • Brazil – Mr Manuel Cláudio Motta Macedo, Researcher at Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) Dairy Cattle • Germany/ Zambia – Mr Lars Weise, Project manager, GFA Consulting Group, Promotion of Agroforestry in Zambia (cooperation programme with funds from BMEL) • Lebanon - Dr Chadi H. Mohanna, Director of Rural Development and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Philippines – Mr Ray Thomas Kabigting, Supervising Forest Management Specialist of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
	Floor interventions (10 minutes) <i>2-3 minutes interventions</i>
13:55-14:00	Closing remarks Ms Beth Bechdol, Deputy Director-General of FAO