



联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Organisation des Nations  
Unies pour l'alimentation  
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

**E**

# COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

## Twenty-seventh Session

Rome, 22–26 July 2024

### Scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages

#### Executive summary

This document highlights activities conducted in response to the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry and the Committee on Agriculture at their respective sessions in 2022 to strengthen agriculture and forestry linkages. It presents further opportunities to help address global challenges, including food insecurity and malnutrition, poverty and inequality, climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss, and proposes cross-sectoral approaches for scaling up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages.

#### Suggested action by the Committee

The Committee is invited to:

- encourage Members to promote policies, strategies and programmes to strengthen positive agriculture and forestry linkages in land management and throughout value chains, and mitigate the trade-offs;
- encourage Members to consider establishing incentive mechanisms, including innovative public and private financing mechanisms, to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration and support sustainable value-chain development;
- recommend FAO to support Members, upon request, to improve their capacity for cross-sectoral policymaking, integrated land-use planning and monitoring to achieve sustainable agricultural and forestry production while conserving natural forests and biodiversity; and
- recommend FAO to support Members, upon request, in their actions to scale up agroforestry by continuing, among other activities, to produce knowledge products, tools and capacity-development materials.

*Queries on the content of this document may be addressed to:*

Maria Helena Semedo  
Deputy Director-General  
Tel. +39 06 57052060  
[DDG-Semedo@fao.org](mailto:DDG-Semedo@fao.org)

Beth Bechdol  
Deputy Director-General  
Tel. +39 06 57051800

Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

[DDG-Bechdol@fao.org](mailto:DDG-Bechdol@fao.org)

Please copy: [COFO@fao.org](mailto:COFO@fao.org)

## I. Introduction

1. Following the request made by the FAO Council at its 164th and 165th Sessions to strengthen coordination between the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and the Committee on Forestry (COFO) on cross-sectoral matters, and based on recommendations made by the 26th Session of COFO and the 28th Session of COAG, a set of actions and activities has been implemented by FAO, in collaboration with Members, to scale up actions on agriculture and forestry linkages.
2. To achieve this, joint activities have been proposed by the two Committees and their Bureaus and summarized in a joint intersessional roadmap to chart the way forward for implementing priority activities.
3. This document presents the key activities performed and highlights further opportunities for integration and coordination of work between the agricultural (comprising crops and livestock production) and forest sectors, including agroforestry. It is presented to the 2024 sessions of the COFO and COAG<sup>1</sup> for consideration and guidance, as appropriate.

## II. Linkages between forestry and agriculture – Progress in policy and global actions

4. Agrifood systems, incorporating plant production, livestock husbandry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, are essential for ensuring food security and nutrition for people. To meet rising global demand for food and other products and maintain the required ecosystem services, agrifood systems need to produce larger quantities of more diverse and nutritious foods and other products in a sustainable way, without causing the loss of forests or biodiversity. This requires more efficient and sustainable use of resources, sustainable intensification, and the integration of landscape perspectives in agriculture and forestry.
5. Rising global trade in agrifood products has created challenges for the world's forests. International food trade grew fourfold between 1995 and 2021, from less than USD 400 billion to nearly USD 1.7 trillion,<sup>2</sup> with exports from low- and middle-income economies accounting for over one-third of this global trade. Although trade can contribute to economic growth and job creation, it is also placing greater stress on natural resources, including forests. An increasing number of countries and companies have adopted due-diligence requirements throughout supply chains to mitigate risks of adverse environmental and social impacts, especially deforestation and forest degradation.
6. Agriculture and forestry operate in landscape systems and are in continuous interaction. Forests make direct contributions to sustainable agricultural production through a broad range of ecosystem services, including water regulation, soil conservation, carbon sequestration and habitat protection. Much of the world's accessible freshwater, including that used in agriculture, originates in forested watersheds and wetlands. Forests also provide habitat for pollinators, on which 75 percent of the world's leading food crops depend to some extent for their yield or quality, or both.<sup>3</sup> They also function as a rich pool of plant and animal genetic resources. In addition to their contributions to agriculture, forests are also a direct source of food: worldwide, around 1 billion people are estimated to depend on wild foods.<sup>4</sup>
7. The strong linkages between agriculture and forestry are being increasingly recognized at the global policy level. In addition to the FAO Governing Bodies, the Committee on World Food Security

---

<sup>1</sup> COAG/2024/6

<sup>2</sup> Lipp, M., Fattori, V. & Avesani, C. 2023. *Improving food safety to foster trade*. Trade Policy Brief, No. 51. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8406en>

<sup>3</sup> IPBES. 2016. *The assessment report of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, pollination and food production*. S.G. Potts, V.L. Imperatriz-Fonseca & H.T. Ngo, eds. Bonn, Germany, IPBES secretariat. <https://www.ipbes.net/node/28327>

<sup>4</sup> Burlingame, B. 2000. Wild Nutrition. *Journal of Food Composition and Analysis*, 13(April), 99–100. <https://doi.org/10.1006/jfca.2000.0897>

(CFS)<sup>5</sup> has produced policy recommendations,<sup>6</sup> based on reports of its High-Level Panel of Experts, on a set of cross-cutting forestry and agriculture topics, including livestock, sustainable forestry<sup>7</sup> and agroecological approaches.

8. The 2021 Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use,<sup>8</sup> made at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), reaffirmed political commitments to halting and reversing forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting inclusive rural transformation. Also at UNFCCC COP 26, the Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) dialogue<sup>9</sup> released a joint roadmap for action<sup>10</sup> to promote sustainable development and trade of agricultural commodities while protecting and sustainably managing forests and other ecosystems. FACT has evolved further through an action area of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership, launched at UNFCCC COP 27. The first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (concluded at UNFCCC COP 28) also emphasized the importance of halting and reversing deforestation and forest degradation (see COFO/2024/6.2).

### III. Opportunities for scaling up action

9. There is growing evidence of coordinated efforts and cross-sectoral approaches that benefit both agriculture and forestry, including:
- a. establishing integrated policy approaches to sustainable agriculture and forestry by aligning and harmonizing sectoral policies and programmes (including those on agriculture, livestock, forests, conservation and environment, land use, water, rural development, food security and nutrition);
  - b. improving data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting on land use, land-use change, ecosystem services, sustainable production and other aspects related to the forest–agriculture nexus, as well as on good practices, including agroforestry and agroecology, and accelerating modelling and data analysis;
  - c. optimizing agricultural production as a key measure for reducing pressure on forests (as indicated by an analysis conducted by FAO in 2016,<sup>11</sup> agricultural production and food security can grow hand in hand with expanding forest resources);
  - d. restoring degraded agroecosystems and forest ecosystems, and improving the management of planted forests as essential strategies for reducing pressure on critical natural biomes and to reduce the need to expand the agricultural frontier;
  - e. supporting research and development to catalyse innovations and novel strategies, including by incentivizing innovation in farmer-centred management, coupled with innovative financing models;
  - f. improving land-use governance and planning, including by mainstreaming integrated landscape management approaches and creating an enabling environment, such as secure land

<sup>5</sup> [CFS reports to the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the General Assembly of the United Nations through the Conference and the Economic and Social Council](#)

<sup>6</sup> Committee on World Food Security. 2022. CFS: Policy Products. In: *CFS*. [Cited 14 May 2024]. <https://www.fao.org/cfs/policy-products/en/>

<sup>7</sup> HLPE. 2017. *Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition. A report by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security*. Rome.

[https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/hlpe/hlpe\\_documents/HLPE\\_Reports/HLPE-Report-11\\_EN.pdf](https://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Reports/HLPE-Report-11_EN.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230418175226/https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20230106145129/https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

<sup>10</sup> [Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade - UN Climate Change Conference \(COP26\) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 \(nationalarchives.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> Chapter 4.1, pp. 54–55 in FAO. 2016. *State of the World's Forests 2016. Forests and Agriculture: land-use changes and opportunities*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/3/i5588e/i5588e.pdf>

tenure, especially for Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and marginalized people;

- g. strengthening rural community-based institutions to improve access to knowledge, finance, markets and technologies, and enhance the entrepreneurial, planning and marketing skills of small-scale producers and producer organizations; and
- h. engaging the private sector in agrifood systems transformation, with greater attention to sustainably managing, conserving and restoring forests.

#### IV. FAO's work on strengthening agriculture and forestry linkages

10. In response to recommendations made by COFO 26 and COAG 28, FAO's ongoing work seeks to address and increase complementarity between the agriculture and forest sectors and to strengthen coordinated policy responses. Activities are focusing on:

11. *Policy and governance*

- a. Supporting Members to strengthen their policies on due diligence, legality, assurance systems, sustainable agricultural production and responsible supply chains, with a strong focus in at least 13 countries on securing market access for smallholders producing commodities targeted by regulatory measures linked to avoiding deforestation (cattle, cocoa,<sup>12</sup> coffee, palm oil, soy, rubber and timber).
- b. Supporting Members to review existing policies and strategies related to agroforestry and agroecology, facilitating national dialogues and organizing South–South Learning Exchanges on forest tenure and governance within the framework of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

12. *Data collection, monitoring and reporting*

- a. Conducting a Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) special study on the scaling-up potential of agroforestry through improved monitoring methodologies and statistics, to be published in 2025 (see section V).
- b. Producing a global report on the contributions of forests to food security and nutrition, with updated data and information on the role of forest goods and services, including wild-harvested forest foods, to be published in 2025.
- c. Supporting Members to adapt existing forest monitoring systems to respond to new data needs, such as through Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests (AIM4Forests),<sup>13</sup> a new programme to support countries to adapt to market-based measures to decouple agricultural supply chains from forest loss and degradation.
- d. Mainstreaming the use of the Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation (TAPE)<sup>14</sup> for agroforestry systems. TAPE is a digital tool developed by FAO to generate evidence on the multidimensional performance of agricultural systems across different dimensions of sustainability, now being implemented in 54 countries with over 10 000 households.

---

<sup>12</sup> In partnership with FAO, the [EU Sustainable Cocoa Initiative](#) supports improvement of the sustainability of the cocoa supply chain in West Africa. FAO provides technical assistance, training and capacity building to governments, producers, cooperatives, the local private sector and other value-chain actors to improve the long-term economic, social and environmental sustainability of the cocoa sectors in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana.

<sup>13</sup> FAO. 2023. *AIM4Forests – Accelerating Innovative Monitoring for Forests*.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc5815en>

<sup>14</sup> FAO. 2024. Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation | Agroecology Knowledge Hub. In: *FAO*. [Cited 14 May 2024]. <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/tools-tape/en/>

### 13. *Capacity-development and knowledge products*

- a. Supporting the development and uptake of new tools addressing agriculture–forest trade-offs, integrating elements on reduced deforestation in agricultural supply chains, such as through the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) Programme and the OECD-FAO Handbook on Deforestation and Due Diligence in Agricultural Supply Chains,<sup>15</sup> the first international resource for companies to integrate risk-based approaches to mitigating deforestation in their business models. The handbook, published in 2023, is being tested in Colombia and Argentina.
- b. Providing direct financial support and technical assistance to strengthen more than 500 enterprises of forest and farm producer organizations in 12 countries through the Forest and Farm Facility,<sup>16</sup> a partnership between FAO, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Agricord.
- c. Designing an interactive repository, structured as a solution tree showing the systemic dimension of the actions needed to foster positive linkages between agriculture and forestry. The platform has been developed in the framework of BiG-CHANCE,<sup>17</sup> a 3-year project launched in 2023 to help harmonize the agriculture and forest sectors to achieve climate, biodiversity, land degradation and sustainable development targets.
- d. Launching the Drylands e-learning course in 2023 and organizing Dryland Summer Schools, including one in Jordan in September 2023 and others planned around the International Rangeland Congress (2025), in the lead-up to the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralism in 2026.
- e. Supporting countries to implement pollinator-friendly agricultural practices through online platforms, such as the Agroecology Knowledge Hub<sup>18</sup> (a web-based platform to highlight and share relevant knowledge on agroecology) and the Global Action on Pollination Services for Sustainable Agriculture,<sup>19</sup> which is enabling FAO to work with partners to further the pollinator and pollination agenda through collaboration, the provision of technical and policy advice, and projects.
- f. Introducing the principle of “optimization and minimization” (developed by the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division) to help promote the integration, demonstration, validation and dissemination of sustainable plant production systems.<sup>20</sup>

### 14. *Scaling up actions and implementation on the ground*

- a. Supporting countries, through the GEF-7 Impact Program on Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR),<sup>21</sup> in transitioning towards deforestation-free production systems and value chains, including via integrated landscape management and agroforestry, across 27 countries and eight major value chains.<sup>22</sup> FOLUR is also supporting participating countries to strengthen their systems in response to deforestation-free market requirements and to inform or facilitate due-diligence efforts.
- b. Through the GEF-7 Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes,<sup>23</sup> applying the Sustainable Landscape Production Framework to scale up actions addressing agriculture and forestry linkages across 11 countries in Africa and Central Asia.

<sup>15</sup> <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e33d7462-07fc-4c25-ba34-ec9f9140b0a1/content>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.fao.org/redd/news/detail/en/c/1652576/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.fao.org/agroecology/home/en/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.fao.org/pollination/en/>

<sup>20</sup> FAO. 2023. *Promoting sustainable plant production through optimization and minimization*. NSP Factsheet – 2022. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc5095en>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/newsroom/publications/food-systems-land-use-and-restoration-impact-program>

<sup>22</sup> The eight commodities are palm oil, rice, cocoa, soy, beef, coffee, wheat and livestock systems.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/10206>

The framework is supporting income-generation opportunities while maintaining sustainable forest and landscape management good practices.

- c. In recognition of agroecosystems inhabited by communities that live in intricate relationships with their territories, supporting Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)<sup>24</sup> at 86 sites in 26 countries. FAO's work supports livelihoods in rural areas while conserving biodiversity and building resilient ecosystems, and facilitates international recognition of the GIAHS concept and projects in the pilot countries.
- d. Supporting World Restoration Flagship initiatives in countries in Central America, the Sahel (Great Green Wall (GGW)), Small Islands Developing States and the Mediterranean region, as well as other large-scale restoration initiatives in 13 other countries involved in regional initiatives in Africa (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative – AFR100 – and the GGW). The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism is providing both direct and normative support at all levels through knowledge management, innovative financing and resource mobilization, forest and landscape restoration monitoring, and communication.
- e. Through Green Climate Fund (GCF) resources, supporting nine countries<sup>25</sup> to implement climate-resilience projects that, among other activities, promote deforestation-free production systems, agroforestry and forest restoration and provide carbon benefits.
- f. Through the “Grazing with Trees” initiative,<sup>26</sup> supporting Members to integrate forestry and agricultural practices to restore drylands while increasing local resilience against disasters and climate hazards across different regions. Moreover, the agenda of the Second Session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock, to be held from 16 to 18 July 2024, includes the item “Forest and agriculture linkages: A path towards integrating forests, trees and livestock in dryland silvopastoral systems”.<sup>27</sup>
- g. Under the Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) programme,<sup>28</sup> supporting Members and working with communities living at the interface with wildlife populations to effectively prevent and mitigate human–wildlife conflicts by testing affordable and accessible methodologies.
- h. Supporting 85 Members across all FAO Regions that have committed to promoting 54 Special Agricultural Products through the FAO One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) initiative. This covers a mix of horticulture, field crops and forestry products and includes the demonstration of agroforestry as well as capacity development in agroecological production.

## V. FAO's work on scaling up agroforestry

15. Agroforestry is a good example of the synergies between trees and agriculture, whether implemented as tree management on farms or farming in forest landscapes.<sup>29</sup> Around 40 percent of global agricultural land has more than 10 percent tree cover, including a diversity of agroforestry systems that fulfil a variety of livelihood objectives while contributing to ecosystem functions.<sup>30</sup>

16. Agroforestry systems tend to be more resilient to environmental shocks and the impacts of climate change than conventional agriculture. Depending on the system and local conditions, agroforestry systems can contain 50–80 percent of the biodiversity of comparable natural forests;<sup>31</sup> increase food security and nutrition; and boost crop productivity. There is renewed interest in agroforestry as a transformative solution to the climate crisis – for example, the Intergovernmental Panel

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.fao.org/giahs/en/>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.fao.org/gcf/projects/redd-results-based-payments-projects/en>

<sup>26</sup> Haddad, F.F., Herrera, P.M. & Besbes, B. 2022. *Grazing with trees – A silvopastoral approach to managing and restoring drylands*. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc2280en>

<sup>27</sup> COAG:LI/2024/9

<sup>28</sup> [The Sustainable Wildlife Management \(SWM\) Programme \(swm-programme.info\)](https://www.fao.org/swm-programme/info)

<sup>29</sup> Udawatta R. P., Rankoth L. M. and Jose S. 2019. Agroforestry and Biodiversity. *Sustainability* 2019,11, 2879.

<sup>30</sup> Zomer, R.J., Trabucco, A., Coe, R. & Place, F. 2009. *Trees on farm: analysis of global extent and geographical patterns of agroforestry*. Nairobi, Kenya, World Agroforestry Centre.

<sup>31</sup> See footnote 29.

on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report makes specific reference to agroforestry as an effective climate change adaptation option.<sup>32</sup>

17. However, agroforestry still faces challenges in scaling up, which calls for increased cross-sectoral collaboration and the enhancement of positive agriculture and forestry linkages, as recommended by COFO 26 and COAG 28.<sup>33</sup> In 2022, FAO conducted an internal agroforestry stocktake and the Global Agroforestry Capacity Needs Assessment<sup>34</sup> to establish a baseline for existing agroforestry capacities globally and identify gaps where FAO's support would be most beneficial. The survey received responses from 1 572 respondents in 145 countries.

18. The results highlighted the following areas of expertise as well as capacity gaps:

Global capacity strengths	Global capacity gaps
a. Environmental and ecological expertise	a. Income generation
b. Tree and forest management	b. Cost–benefit analyses of agroforestry
c. Agroforestry for restoration	c. Developing profitable business plans and market-based strategies
d. Farm-level agroforestry planning and implementation	d. Facilitating access to markets and value chains
e. Community engagement and inclusion	e. Mobilizing finance
f. Integrating science and traditional knowledge	f. Strengthening land and tree tenure and resource rights
g. Capacity development and support services	g. Policy formulation, implementation and analysis

19. In response, FAO is working to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration on agroforestry, with a range of activities across its units, including Forestry, Plant Production and Protection, Animal Production and Health, Agrifood Economics and Policy, Food and Nutrition, Agrifood Systems and Food Safety, Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment, Office of Innovation and Decentralized Offices.

20. A working group between the Forestry and Plant Production and Protection Divisions has developed a joint workplan for the 2024–2025 biennium. Key joint activities include:

- a. conducting a global agroforestry monitoring assessment as part of the FRA to strengthen existing methodologies for assessing agroforestry extent and to improve agroforestry statistics (see progress report below);
- b. developing a three-part series of guidance materials, “Developing Business Cases for Agroforestry” with the first part to be launched by the end of 2024, to help practitioners assess costs and benefits of and the risks associated with agroforestry and to improve the economic viability of agroforestry systems, as well as improve agroforestry decision-making;
- c. based on the results of the stocktake of Farmer Field Schools on smallholder forestry and agroforestry,<sup>35</sup> developing a facilitation guide to apply the Farmer Field Schools approach to agroforestry, to be launched in early 2025. An expert workshop was held from 4 to 6 October 2023 in FAO headquarters, Rome, to identify the priority topics to be addressed.

<sup>32</sup> [IPCC Sixth Assessment Report \(2022\)](#).

<sup>33</sup> Recommendation 17 a) and b) at COFO26; 18b) at COAG28.

<sup>34</sup> Springgay, E. & Pajel, P. 2024. Breaking barriers to agroforestry: FAO's global capacity needs assessment. In: E. Torquebiau, ed. *Agroforestry at Work*. Tropical Forest Issues 62. Ede, The Netherlands, Tropenbos International. <https://www.tropenbos.org/resources/publications/breaking+barriers+to+agroforestry:+fao%E2%80%99s+global+capacity+needs+assessment>

<sup>35</sup> FAO. 2023n. *Enabling 'Response-ability': A stocktaking of farmer field schools on smallholder forestry and agroforestry*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc8043en>



Agroforestry Farmer Field Schools are being convened in Mozambique as part of the PROMOVE project;<sup>36</sup>

- d. in collaboration with *Silva Mediterranea*, developing and piloting agroforestry extension vocational training for young professionals to address issues related to youth career development and agroforestry extension;
  - e. knowledge-sharing and advocacy (e.g. a special COFO–COAG joint event on scaling up agroforestry was held on 7 December 2023 during the 174th Session of the FAO Council<sup>37</sup>); and;
  - f. providing technical support for integrating agroforestry into the formulation of the up-coming GEF-8 Food Systems Integrated Program.<sup>38</sup>
21. Other key agroforestry activities include:
- a. collaborating with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to conduct a stocktake and analysis of agroforestry activities within its portfolio of investments;<sup>39</sup>
  - b. developing a manual on agroforestry extension technical services and an online course through targeted support for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration’s World Restoration Flagship Initiative, African Farmers Transforming Food Systems;<sup>40</sup> and
  - c. expanding support to forest and farm producer organizations through the Forest and Farm Facility, with a specific focus on spreading knowledge of optimal arrangements and marketing strategies for different types of agroforestry systems.

## **VI. Progress on the preparation of the global agroforestry monitoring assessment**

22. There are no current data on the global extent of agroforestry; the most recent academic study estimating trees in agriculture was published in 2014.<sup>41</sup> In the 2020 edition of FRA, 71 countries and territories reported an area of 45.4 million hectares (ha) of agroforestry in 2020, mostly in Asia (31.2 million ha) and Africa (12.8 million ha).<sup>42</sup>

23. Improving data accuracy is necessary to better understand the status of and progress in agroforestry, which is often omitted or misrepresented in national inventories. Recent improvements in remote sensing and on-the-ground monitoring enable large-scale assessments of agroforestry, with the goal of integrating data into national reporting and planning on agroforestry and facilitating progress towards national emission targets and restoration efforts.

24. FAO is conducting a global agroforestry monitoring assessment to assess the scaling-up potential of agroforestry by improving monitoring methodologies and statistics.<sup>43</sup> The objectives are to:

---

<sup>36</sup> SOFO 2024 (Forthcoming).

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/agroforestry-is-a-key-climate-solution--director-general-says-at-fao-council-side-event/en>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.fao.org/gef/GEF8/food-systems/en>

<sup>39</sup> Strengthening agroforestry in IFAD operations (Forthcoming).

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/african-farmers-transforming-food-systems>

<sup>41</sup> Zomer, R., Trabucco, A., Coe, R., Place, F., Van Noordwijk, M. & Xu, J. 2014. *Trees on farms: an update and reanalysis of agroforestry’s global extent and socio-ecological characteristics*. Working Paper 179. Bogor, Indonesia, World Agroforestry Centre.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262914994\\_Trees\\_on\\_farms\\_an\\_update\\_and\\_reanalysis\\_of\\_agroforestry's\\_global\\_extent\\_and\\_socio-ecological\\_characteristics](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/262914994_Trees_on_farms_an_update_and_reanalysis_of_agroforestry's_global_extent_and_socio-ecological_characteristics)

<sup>42</sup> FAO. 2020c. *Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020: main report*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca9825en>

<sup>43</sup> In response to the joint recommendation at COFO 26 and COAG 28 for “FAO to conduct, subject to available extrabudgetary resources, a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry, including agroecological principles, to update the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) categories covering production systems integrating trees and forests, and to report on progress to COFO 27, and requested the COFO Secretariat to share this information with the COAG and COFI Secretariats.”

- a. strengthen existing methodologies for assessing agroforestry extent, at the national, regional and global levels;
- b. consolidate and complement data related to agroforestry that FAO already collects, including through the FRA and FAOSTAT; and
- c. provide recommendations for agroforestry monitoring and reporting that could be incorporated into future FRAs and other FAO statistics.

25. With support from the European Union and Switzerland, the global agroforestry monitoring assessment has commenced and is planned for publication in 2025. A stocktake of existing agroforestry and agroecology monitoring datasets and methodologies at the national, regional and global levels has been completed, identifying 16 relevant datasets and methodologies. The next step is to develop an improved agroforestry monitoring methodology, which will be validated through expert workshops in 2024 and piloted in selected geographical locations across different regions.

## **VII. The way forward**

26. FAO aims to help optimize the potential of agroforestry to support transformation to more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. Activities will be implemented through cross-cutting delivery mechanisms that can be adapted to different contexts and scales.

27. Three priority areas of support are envisaged:

- a. Supporting national agroforestry policy and strategy development: to effectively scale up agroforestry and meet national commitments to international goals and objectives, agroforestry needs to be appropriately embedded in national policies, strategies and investments. FAO supports Members, upon request, in the development and implementation of agroforestry policies and strategies by providing guidance and developing tools that can be adapted to national and local contexts.
- b. Promoting agroforestry as a sustainable production system: for agroforestry systems to achieve their full potential, they need to be economically viable alternatives to conventional agriculture. This requires improved agroforestry system design and implementation, as well as the establishment of related supply and value chains that contribute to an inclusive rural economy. FAO supports these through knowledge and capacity development on system design and implementation and by fostering investment in markets and value-chain development.
- c. Improving agroforestry monitoring methodologies and tools: successful implementation requires better monitoring, including indicators and methodologies for baseline data and progress reporting. FAO is working to improve methodologies, datasets and tools for accessing remotely sensed data and platforms and producing maps and assessments.