



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**COFO 23**  
World Forest Week 5  
18–22 July 2016, Rome, Italy

# Social protection for building resilience of forest-dependent people

22 July, 13:00–14:30  
Lebanon Room, D209  
FAO headquarters



How are forest-dependent people vulnerable?

How can their vulnerabilities be addressed?

What is the concept of social protection for forest-dependent people?

What are the main challenges in providing them with social protection?

What are the opportunities for strengthening coherence between forestry and social protection?

**Come to a side event to discuss these questions**

The Sustainable Development Goals indicate the commitment of the international community to end poverty and hunger by 2030. Social protection is increasingly being adopted as a strategy for reducing poverty and food insecurity and reducing vulnerability to shocks in developing countries. Since the implementation of FAO's five new strategic objectives, social protection has become an important area of focus for the Organization.

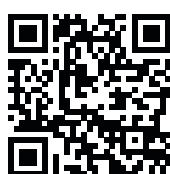
Around the world, most of the food insecure and poor people with the greatest need for social protection live in rural areas and depend on natural resources for their livelihoods. Forest-dependent communities are usually located in remote and disconnected rural areas characterized by low levels of market development and poor access to public goods and social services. The challenges of ecological degradation and climate change are especially relevant to these communities.

Since 2014, FAO has explored the topic of social protection for forest-dependent communities through a global literature review and country case studies in Burkina Faso, China and Uganda. The side event will present the literature review, the case studies from China and Uganda and experiences from Kenya, along with the overall social protection work of FAO.

### **What is social protection?**

*... a set of all initiatives, both formal and informal, that provide social assistance to extremely poor individuals and households; social services to groups who need special care or would otherwise be denied access to basic services; social insurance to protect people against the risks and consequences of livelihood shocks; and social equity to protect people against social risks such as discrimination and abuse.*

S. Devereux & R. Sabates-Wheeler, 2008



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**We look forward to meeting you at the side event!**

