



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

# Forest and Farm Facility Initiative for climate-resilient landscapes and improved livelihoods

2018–2022



## The Forest and Farm Facility will empower forest and farm producers for sustainable development, poverty reduction and climate change

The Forest and Farm Facility's (FFF) work planned for 2018-2022 (Phase II) comes at a time of renewed global efforts toward sustainable development, notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to fight climate change as part of the Paris Agreement. It also comes at a time when more and more governments are developing integrated climate responses and strategies for sustainable rural economies and reducing poverty.

From 2018, FFF will significantly increase the scale and range of its impacts by building on its past support to FFPOs and governments. This will strengthen the capacity of forest and farm producers and their organizations, deepen engagement in innovative cross-sectoral processes in government, and increase the delivery of landscape-scale climate responses. All this will be underpinned by more inclusive and sustainable economic opportunities, increasing returns to FFPOs, while opening opportunities for improved social and cultural services for the rural poor.


**FFF is responding** to the tremendous potential of forest and farm producers by focusing on **forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs), which represent smallholders, rural women's groups, local communities and indigenous peoples' institutions**, as the primary actors of FFF's Phase II.

**FFF will support greater inclusion of producers in policy initiatives by:**

- i) improving the gender and youth balance plus the representation, governance and strategic capacity of the FFPOs to participate in and monitor policy processes; and
- ii) supporting governments to develop collaborative cross-sectoral mechanisms and representative protocols and procedures to improve coordination and make effective use of FFPO inputs.

**FFF will increase business and technical capacity of FFPOs** so these can, in turn, become more profitable while scaling up their service provision to a greater number of members, especially poor and marginalized groups. Through small grants, technical training in enterprise development and business incubation, FFF will support a diversity of FFPOs whose members comprise a range of socio-economic, ethnic, women's and youth groups.

**FFF will forge concrete links between FFPOs with climate change and landscape-scale programmes** and investments, particularly with NDCs, REDD+, forest and landscape restoration, and regional initiatives such as the Action Against Desertification, and efforts to improve governance like FLEGT. It will ensure that FFPOs play a more pronounced role in landscape level mitigation and adaptation through secured tenure, participatory territorial or climate-resilient landscape plans.



**FFF will focus on gender equality, youth and indigenous peoples and FFPO value chains at the core of climate-resilient landscapes.**



**FFPOs have a mandate to help millions of rural producers to diversify local economies, increase resilience and reduce poverty while restoring and managing landscapes that can adapt to, and mitigate, climate change.**

## Why invest in forest and farm producer organizations?

An estimated 1.5 billion forest and farm producers make up 90 percent of the world's farmers. These producers supply approximately 80 percent of food supplies in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, managing 500 million family farms and approximately 30 percent of forest lands in the global south. These producers also constitute a large proportion of the rural poor, most of whom are highly dependent on adjacent forests or trees growing on their farms.

Collectively, forest and farm producers have the transformative potential to achieve sustainable development and respond to climate change at landscape scales. Empowering FFPOs will be critical to delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for fighting climate change as part of the Paris Agreement.

These producers are more powerful when they are organized. Formal and informal FFPOs exist all over the world and are growing in both number and in demand. These organizations represent a vast, neglected and often unrecognized component of the private sector.

FFPOs are the only organized groups in many remote areas and they depend on public services and infrastructure needed to achieve sustainable development. However, government institutions and large-scale private sector businesses are not always equipped to effectively reach and support producers to optimize returns from value chains and market systems. Producers also have limited access to decision

making processes to claim their rights and to social benefits. Policies and their implementation do not always address rural realities, and climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives fall short because they do not fully integrate producers as active players.

### Forest and Farm Facility, a unique partnership

FFF is a partnership among FAO, IIED, IUCN and AgriCord. Its Steering Committee includes members affiliated with forest producers, community forestry, indigenous peoples' organizations, the international research community, business development service provider organizations, the private sector, government and donors.

Together, these partners have mandates and networks to engage effectively with governments, provide technical support, knowledge generation, monitoring and learning, support membership networks from local to global, and provide strong links to farmers' professional organizations as well as to regional and global FFPO federations.



## How the Forest and Farm Facility will work from 2018 to 2022

**FFF will scale up** its unique approach to provide direct support to FFPOs representing millions of rural people and increase links to complementary development programmes, fostering partnerships and leveraging financial resources to accelerate impacts in up to 25 countries. FFF will support the formation and strengthen the capacity of FFPOs through direct financial support and technical assistance, paying special attention to gender equality, youth engagement and indigenous peoples' rights, working closely with governments.

**FFF will focus on** improving governance, representation, increased and inclusive membership, environmental sustainability and managerial efficiency of FFPOs.

**FFF will offer a range of services** to FFPOs including advocacy, sharing information, training in market analyses and development, incubating and supporting business, providing financial access and social programmes for their members. Through learning and exchange visits and links to regional and international federations, FFF will also strengthen smallholder organization and capacity at national and global levels.

## Financing to achieve scale

Funding for new FFF work will be organized under the umbrella of Phase II to support activities for five years, from 2018 to 2022. Phase II has been designed to be catalytic in leveraging significantly greater funds for each partner country, to increase the scope, depth and impact of activities. Capacity will be increased in government and FFPOs so these can serve as brokers and conduits to link and distribute investments to their large membership base. Funds will support regional and global FFPOs as well as the work of implementing partners to support global advocacy, generating knowledge and engaging in regional and international processes.

## Forest and Farm Facility outcomes

1. More inclusive governance and cross-sectorial processes leading to enabling policies (SDGs 16, 17).
2. Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets and finance through an equitable value chain and business development services within FFPOs (SDGs 1, 5, 8, 12).
3. Improved delivery of landscape-scale mitigation, adaptation and resilience for climate change through improved environmental technical knowledge, direct engagement of FFPOs and integration with inclusive livelihood approaches (SDGs 2, 13, 15).
4. Improved and equitable access to social and cultural services (SDGs 3,10).

A comprehensive participatory monitoring and learning system will provide continuous feedback and generate adaptive responses.



Since 2012, FFF support has enabled FFPOs to achieve significant results in gaining access to markets and better prices, leveraging financial resources, policy changes and tenure security, and improving livelihoods.

Providing direct support to FFPOs through multi-stakeholder partnerships is one of the key design features of FFF.



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## Forest and Farm Facility: a proven delivery mechanism

FFF has a proven, cost-effective, demand-driven delivery mechanism that has already reached more than 400 FFPOs in 10 partner countries: Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Viet Nam and Zambia. FFF has offered regional and global programmes engaging an additional 30 organizations with a combined membership of over 40 million people.

FFF has already achieved documented success in poverty reduction, policy influence, increased tenure security, improved prices for producers and business development in ways that reflect greater participation by women and an emphasis on youth involvement. FFF's work with governmental institutions, regional, national and global partners has leveraged over US\$ 130 million to support FFPO activities.

Highlights of FFF's significant impact include:

- In Viet Nam, timber growers' groups are obtaining prices that are up to 15 percent higher, and are receiving large orders from furniture makers.
- In the Gambia, cashew growers united in a single national federation. This contributed to an increase in the price of cashews paid to their 15 000 members.
- In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, with the active participation of FFPOs, the government allocated over US\$ 90 million to strengthening producers of cacao, coffee and non wood forest products from the Amazon.
- In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Kenya and Viet Nam, FFPOs were linked with REDD+, and other climate change programmes, enhancing their implementation.
- Changes in 26 policies: in the Gambia 77 community forestry groups secured land tenure; in Guatemala, the PROBOSQUE law provides one percent of the national budget over 30 years for restoration work, going in large part to small-scale producers; in Myanmar, the new community forest instruction allows producers to manage forests for commercial purposes.

An independent evaluation found FFF's work during the period 2012–2016 to be “highly efficient in terms of inputs relative to results” and “highly relevant... filling the gaps in rural development cooperation.” It also strongly recommended that “a second phase of FFF should be considered in order to consolidate and expand its achievements.”

## Forest and Farm Facility added value

A key design feature that sets FFF apart from other initiatives is that it recognizes the important role of FFPOs in reaching producers at scale with expertise and technical knowledge, in helping spur innovation from producers to diversify forest and farm systems, and in their potential to scale up successful forest and land-use practices.





# FOREST AND FARM PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS AND THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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