



High-Level Dialogue on Scaling-up Agroforestry

An investment in resilient agrifood systems

Tuesday 23 July 2024

12.30pm – 2pm

Plenary Hall

Introduction

Agroforestry - land management practices that apply the intentional integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems - has the potential to transform agrifood systems to become more resilient and adaptive. It is being increasingly recognized within global policy processes, as well as by FAO Members, as a potential solution to address multiple global issues, including food security and nutrition, rural development, ecosystem restoration, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

During the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG 28) and the 26th Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO 26), held in 2022, the discussion of the joint item on agriculture and forestry linkages highlighted the opportunities for closer integration and synergy between the agriculture and forestry sectors, including a joint recommendation for FAO to conduct a global assessment of the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry. The subsequent 171st session of the FAO Council 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. The COFO Steering Committee and the COAG Bureau developed a Joint Intersessional Roadmap on agriculture and forestry linkages in response to these recommendations and jointly organized a side event on “scaling up agroforestry” at the 174th Session of the FAO Council.

Unlocking the potential of agroforestry

Agroforestry can enhance livelihoods in rural communities by increasing productivity, diversifying incomes and improving food security and nutrition. Through diversification, agroforestry can also help farmers to increase their adaptive capacity and build resilience to climate change. From an ecological perspective, agroforestry systems can improve soil health, protect crops and livestock from wind and heat, improve water management, limit pests and prevent soil erosion. Agroforestry is also crucial for biodiversity conservation; agroforestry systems can reach 50 to 80% of the biodiversity of natural forests.

Despite growing recognition of its benefits, its long history, and its adaptability to a diversity of contexts, agroforestry is not widely practiced. There remain barriers to widespread adoption and implementation, which can be addressed through targeted support at technical, financial, and policy levels. FAO is working towards maximizing the potential of agroforestry and addressing technical gaps, including by improving global data on agroforestry through the “Global assessment on the status and scaling-up potential of agroforestry”.

COF027 High-Level Dialogue on Scaling-up Agroforestry

This high-level dialogue provides an important opportunity to share country experiences, and discuss the investments and actions needed to scale up agroforestry, and to identify ways forward for jointly addressing the remaining barriers. The panel will feature high-level representatives from FAO Members with experiences in agroforestry financing, implementation, and policy support. The event will also present how FAO will be scaling up its work on agroforestry, including technical support to Members.

Objectives of the High-level Dialogue:

- Share country experiences on successful national initiatives to scale up agroforestry;
- Discuss what is needed for agroforestry to be a real solution for transforming agrifood systems;
- Present FAO’s work and support on agroforestry;
- Discuss opportunities and ways forward for addressing barriers to scaling-up agroforestry.

Format of the Dialogue

The scene of the High-Level Dialogue will be set by two thematic presentations, followed by high-level keynote speeches. The session will then be opened to floor interventions by Heads of Forestry/Heads of Delegation. The list of speakers for the Dialogue will be established prior to the event. Members who may wish to participate in the interactive Dialogue are kindly

requested to inform the Secretariat by 19 July 2024. The number of speaking slots is limited and will be granted on a 'first come first served' basis.

Key messages

- Agroforestry is an umbrella term for multifunctional and sustainable land management practices; when well-designed and adapted to local contexts, it can provide a range of direct and indirect benefits to farmers and their wider communities.
- Further technical, financial, and policy support is needed to scale-up agroforestry and maximize its potential contributions to addressing local and global challenges.
- Countries have a diversity of experiences with implementing and advancing agroforestry, which can serve as the basis for improving collective support for agroforestry.

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