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**FOREST AND FARM FACILITY- Phase II**

**ORGANIZE TO THRIVE: ENSURING AGENDA 2030**

**STRENGTHENING FOREST AND FARM PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE SDGs**

*(Draft Concept Note - July 2016)*

Forest and farm producers – smallholders, family farmers, communities, indigenous peoples and women’s groups - are the primary producers of food, forest products and ecosystem services. They are more effective when organized. International experience shows that their organizations play a central role in reducing poverty, delivering food security, ensuring equitable market access, diversifying local economies, providing inclusive social services, restoring biodiverse forest landscapes, adapting to and mitigating climate change and creating greater security and powerful alternatives to migration. They are the operating systems for the SDGs. Strengthening their representation in active policy engagement can remove barriers and unleash their potential – as a collectively vast private sector controlled by and accruing wealth amongst the poor themselves.

The new global compact to implement Agenda 2030 lays out Sustainable Development Goals. Renewed commitment through the Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Nationally Determined Contributions complements these SDGs. Forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs) are vital and necessary actors in ensuring that the SDGs including climate change responses are implemented equitably and at scale. However the level of investment and support to strengthen the capacity of these FFPOs remains disproportionately low. Many barriers continue to block rights, access and opportunities which could ensure their catalytic role.

**Forest and Farm Facility: a proven delivery mechanism with a unique niche and mandate to scale up**

FFF is a proven global delivery mechanism to channel resources and support directly to FFPOs in partner countries and at the regional and global level. It funds them to get organized, to represent and deliver services to their members efficiently, and to strengthen their voice in local, national, regional and global governance and policy processes. FFF builds the institutional capacity in FFPOs and in government agencies to ensure sustainable long term outcomes that are driven by the people themselves. In this way it is complementary to and enhances national priorities and strategies and increases the impact of other support programmes – to secure tenure, implement REDD+, roll out NDCs, restore landscapes, address food security, improve legality and build equitable value chains. FFF helps create opportunities for meaningful work and wellbeing which reduce the need for out migration and can contribute to peace building. Current donors include Finland, Sweden, Germany, the US and AgriCord through the Farmers Fighting Poverty Programme.

FFF is a unique partnership between co-management partners (FAO, AgriCord, IUCN and IIED) with an integrated landscape approach linking forestry and agriculture, resilience to climate change and rural development with its core focus on the organisation of smallholder FFPOs.

FFF has a diverse steering committee including men and women affiliated to producer organizations, a network of national and global FFPO partners, an impressive track record evidenced by a highly positive mid-term review, and a high level of demand from producers and governments.

This gives FFF a mandate to significantly scale up support and strengthen forest and farm producer organisations (FFPOs) to fulfil their role in the effective delivery of Sustainable Development Goals and climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in forest and farm landscapes.

**Scaling up for impact: the scope of FFF Phase II**

To fulfil this mandate FFF will scale up support for integrated work that spans forest and farm activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. FFF phase II will initially partner with at least 25 countries in regional clusters over the first 5 years (2018-2023) for a budget of USD 50 million.

FFF significantly expand is ability to enhance the wellbeing of forest and farm producers and the capacity of government agencies to support them through its work to:

**1. Build effective social organizations**

* Consolidate strength in numbers through inclusive membership, good governance and effective & transparent management (SDG 16)
* Empower women, and youth and promote gender equality (SDG 5)
* Transform producer potential by providing a variety of social services

**2. Enhance equitable economic opportunity**

* Facilitate value chain upgrading and access to finance and investments,
* Build capacity in diversified businesses and sustainable production for equitable value chains

(SDG 1) (SDG 2) (SDG 3) (SDG 7) (SD4) (SDG8)

**3. Sustain a climate resilient environment**

* Diversify landscape production systems that foster climate change adaptation, resilience and mitigation (SDG 13)
* Sustainably manage forest and farm landscapes (SDG 15) .

**4. Facilitate responsive enabling governance**

* Support government efforts for cross sectoral, multi-stakeholder policy processes
* Active engagement by FFPOS and their members in national and global policy processes (SDG 17)
* Ensure rights including secure tenure, reduce inequalities and remove existing barriers (SDG 10)

**FFF’s approach**

FFF works directly with genuine member based FFPOs at local, national and global levels and with government, responding to their needs and local context through the following main approaches:

1. Strengthening organisational capacity with direct financial support and training that allows upscaling from local to regional to global.

2. Supporting FFPOs to access markets, upgrade value chains and sustainably deliver business, technical and financial services to their members, with a special focus on women and youth.

3. Linking and brokering FFPOs to complementary investment and development programs outlined in Agenda 2030 (SDGs) and Paris Accord on Climate Change (e.g. REDD+).

4. Ensuring an enabling environment by supporting responsive governance and strengthening the voice of FFPOs at national, regional and global levels of policy development.

5. Facilitating peer to peer learning between FFPOs, large scale private sector, service provider networks and governments and generating practical knowledge products.

**Added value of FFF**

With almost 5 years of experience in 10 primary partner countries (Bolivia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Zambia, Myanmar, Nepal and Vietnam) and engagement in an additional 30, FFF support has helped numerous FFPOs to: build strength in numbers, improve policy engagement, secure tenure rights, push through financial incentives, reduce policy barriers , develop new businesses, access new buyers, increase market prices for their products, develop value addition, incentive tree planting and sustainable forest management, strengthen communications and raise the profile of family and forest dependent farmers, women and rural youth. FFF links farm and forest based producers in a unique cross-sectoral approach that shares learning across these sector. Support to regional and global federations of FFPOs has increased their voice in major fora, and forged new partnerships between Indigenous peoples, forest communities and family smallholder entrepreneurs. This work has been documented through a strong Monitoring and Learning system, a wide variety of knowledge and communication products and has been highly rated by an independent mid-term evaluation.

**FFF is a unique partnership**

FFF is a unique partnership between co-management partners (FAO, AgriCord, IUCN and IIED) that jointly mobilises support for FFPOs through its:

* Formal mandate from governments via FAO.
* Strong link to professional farmer organizations through AgriCord, and regional and global federations.
* Membership networks and physical presence in country and global to local linkages via IUCN and FAO.
* Network of service provider via the global Forest Connect alliance managed by IIED together with RECOFTC, FFF and the Earth Innovation Institute.
* Knowledge generation via IIED but also involving all partners.

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