

Forest and Farm Facility

Minutes of the ad-hoc Steering Committee meeting

23 July 2020, 14.30 hrs (CEST), Zoom



Agenda of the Meeting

Time	Activity	Presenter
	Meeting Chair	Tiina Huvio
14:30-14:40	Welcome	Hiroto Mitsugi, FO ADG
14:40-15:05	- Quick update on implementation – especially in the light of COVID -19 - Short discussion	FFF Team and SC members
15:05-15:25	- Financial overview, including Resource Mobilization - Short discussion	FFF Team and SC members
15:25-15:35	Mid-term evaluation	Manager and FFF Team
15:35-16:00	Manager's transition: - Reflections from the outgoing Manager – Manager FFF - Progress on selection of new Manager and transition management	Tiina Huvio, SC Chair Jeffrey Campbell, Manager FFF
16:00-16:15	Closing discussion and remarks	FFF Team and SC members

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. Hiroto Mitsugi (ADG – FAO Forestry Department) welcomed the participants of the meeting. He said that the visibility and importance within FAO and at global level of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) has increased and been even clearer in the COVID-19 context. FFF is one of the programmes that was able to reach out to partners at the local level. It brings innovative solutions and supports the multifunctionality, resilience and strength of FFPOs as positive responders to the crisis. Recently FFF held a series of webinars which brought solutions and ideas that were incorporated into FAO responses to COVID-19. FFF's approach puts people at the center, building on one of the requests of COFO two years ago to strengthen the role of small scale producers in the climate change and biodiversity dialogue. FFF is a cross sectoral programme of FAO which has high demand to be expanded in additional countries that is why active strategies to mobilize further finance are being developed.

Mr Hiroto Mitsugi expressed his great confidence in the team during the upcoming transition period, until a new Manager is on board. Andrew Tabor, Team Leader of the Social Forestry Team will be the acting budget holder during the interim. He thanked Mr Jeffrey Campbell for his exceptional leadership and outstanding results of the FFF programme.

Tiina Huvio, Chair of the FFF Steering Committee, welcome the newest members of the SC: Elizabeth Nsimidala and Salina Abraham who presented themselves to the participants. A list of participants is in Annex 1.

Quick update on implementation – especially in the light of COVID -19

Members of the FFF management team gave a very short overview of the recent activities implemented between February 2020 and July 2020 at country level, at the regional and global level, and on knowledge management.

Jeff said that the FFF is on track on the projected activities and that almost all of the funds for contracts had been spent, which the majority going to forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs). Despite the COVID-19 context, implementation and budget are on more or less on track. Letters of Agreement (LoAs) were extended by 4-6 months to allow for delays in some activities, and new LoAs were modified slightly to accommodate new activities which geared towards solutions to the challenges posed by COVID-19. Cessation of almost all travel resulted in savings under that line and in several countries some of the travel funds were diverted to contracts for FFPOs. The programme is healthy overall. New funding from the FMM has allowed taking on board a new core partner country: Tanzania and will allow more substantial support to network countries (especially Liberia and The Gambia). Mention was made of likely expansion to more countries in Africa if funding under discussion comes through (particularly from DFID).

Discussion

- **Links between DFID funding and CAFI?** After discussions at IIED and at FAO with REDD+ and other programmes linked to CAFI, a note has been prepared for DFID on how an expanded FFF can link to the CAFI programme and this can be shared with SC members if interested. There are some overlaps in countries between proposal to DFID and CAFI countries, but also a background history where IIED lead the CoNGOs project in the region between 2016 and 2019.
- **With additional funds**, FFF would do more sharing learning and knowledge exchange at regional level, and open a new country selection process.
- **Despite COVID**, we are seeing that FFF is not having much difficulty in getting funds to the FFPOs. FFPO's are finding solutions for overcoming the challenges. It was highlighted by IIED that FFPO anticipate what happens and responses to COVID-19 are proving equally appropriate to address longer term stresses like climate change. Their capacity to adapt is strong. They have proven that their role is critical in such crisis contexts.
- **How will FFF adapt and adjust its approaches if COVID becomes more severe in the future?**

Jeff explained that FFF approach would have to answer practical issues and focus on the FFPO's own food security and how they can ensure it to their members. Money could easily be allocated to FFPOs as priority develop for:

 - better storage equipment and distribution channels, for example, and
 - ways to share useful information between members, and
 - ability to secure working capital to purchase members produce and get it to markets.
- **Webinars** were very much appreciated by FFPOs during the COVID crisis and the level of participation was high. This was documented on the [FFF website](#) on a special [COVID page](#).
- **COVID impact:**
 - Going forward we need to start rethinking of **digital innovations** that allows FFPOs to continue accessing services across the entire value chain.
 - **Social responsibility** is still not very high, and the need for communications at local level is important.
- **Mid-term evaluation:** information was shared about the Independent mid-term evaluation led by FAO's Office of Evaluation with a lead external consultant. The ToR are now being developed and a draft was shared with SC members just before the meeting. A reminder message will be sent to get the feedback from SC members – especially on the guiding questions.
- **Resource mobilization activities** were described with anticipation high for DFID and BMZ funding which would significantly expand the programme. Mette said a few words of appreciation of the work to mobilize additional funding. Fruits of this hard work - not only in reaching out donors, but also in building a strong programme - are visible.

- **New Manager selection:** there were 149 applicants, Mette did a first screening and ran through all CVs. A programme committee and FAO council define the positions of people to be in the selection panel: HR director, Deputy Director, an External interviewer, and Mette. The interview of seven persons will happen hopefully early August.
- **Manager transition:** The FFF team will continue to manage the day to day implementation with clear roles and responsibilities assigned. Andrew Taber (Social forestry team leader) will be the budget holder during the transition period, and Mette Wilkie will be backstopping with donors. The team will ensure the same quality and speed of support. The SC chair welcomed Andrew and acknowledged the solidity of the team and partnership between the FFF partners.

Departure of Jeffrey Campbell, farewell

SC members expressed their thanks to the outgoing Manager. The good spirit engagement of Jeffrey Campbell, his passion and eloquence, his strong position to get along with everybody including indigenous peoples, to put people together from local and global levels, to advocate for the linkages between agriculture and forestry, promoting the landscape as a whole and complex productive system, and finally his capacity to bring art and culture into the work, bring harmony out of complexity and build relationships between people were highly appreciated by SC members.

A power point with pictures and messages from SC members will be sent by the SC chair to Jeff.

Annex 1: List of Participants of the FFF SC meeting, 23 July 2020

Steering Committee members

- Tiina Huvio – Chair
- Salina Abraham
- Myrna Cunningham
- Pacita Juan
- David Kaimowitz
- James Murombedzi (unable to attend)
- Cecile Ndjebet
- Elizabeth Nsimadala
- Bambang Supriyatno (unable to attend)
- Mette Wilkie

Observers:

- Markku Aho

Resource partners/observers

- Nadja Berger – Sweden
- Katharina Backman – Finland
- Tommie Williams – United States of America
- Bernhard Worm – Germany
- Robert Busink – The Netherlands
- Kelley Toole - UK

FFF Team

- Anna Bolin – FFF, IIED
- Duncan Macqueen – FFF, IIED
- Chriss Buss – FFF, IUCN
- Pauline Buffle – FFF, IUCN
- Jeffrey Campbell – FFF, FAO
- Giulia De Robert – FFF, FAO
- Marguerite France-Lanord – FFF, FAO
- Zoraya Gonzalez – FFF, FAO
- Sophie Grouwels – FFF, FAO
- Francesca Guarascio – FFF, FAO
- Tatiana Lebedeva – FFF, FAO
- Laura Simeoni – FFF, FAO
- Jhony Zapata – FFF, FAO

FAO

- Andrew Taber –Team Leader Social Forestry Team, FAO