



Forest and Farm Facility

Climate Resilient Landscapes and Improved Livelihoods

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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Abbreviations

AFA	Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development
AFFON	Association of Family Forest Owners, Nepal
AFR100	African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative
COP	Conference of the Parties
COPROFAM	Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado
CTOP	Confederation of Traditional Producers' Organizations
EUDR	European Union Deforestation Regulation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forest Users in Nepal
FFF	Forest and Farm Facility
FFPO	forest-and-farm producer organization
GHaFFaP	Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (Germany)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MRDI	Mboole Rural Development Initiative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNORCAC	Union of Farmer and Indigenous Organizations of Cotacachi (Unión de Organizaciones Campesinas e Indígenas de Cotacachi)
USD	United States dollar

1 Introduction

The year 2023 marked an inflection point for the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF). As discussions began around our third phase, we consistently returned to the question: How can we foster innovation while maintaining the FFF's identity? This question stimulated many dynamic conversations. In the varied landscape of transformative initiatives, FFF emerges as a catalyst, transcending conventional programme classifications.

FFF operates in tandem with forest-and-farm producer organization (FFPO) partners, breathing life into diverse landscape restoration projects but is not simply a restoration programme. FFF embraces a culturally inclusive approach with FFPOs, leaving no one behind regardless of age, gender or ethnicity without being labeled or understood as an Indigenous Peoples programme. While not labelled an investment programme, FFF plays a pivotal role in mobilizing investments aimed at improving the resilience of FFPOs and their constituencies. It acts as a strategic enabler, channelling financial resources to strengthen FFPOs' capacities, technologies, governance and action on the ground to sustainably manage landscapes.

This approach positions FFF as a dynamic force in the intersection of environmental and financial sustainability. We are supporting people to better adapt to the effects of climate change, improving resilience, fostering stronger public–private partnerships and leading the charge in combating deforestation.

At its core, FFF is a people-driven force. With FFPO partners across the globe, FFF navigates the intricate fabric of community needs, striving to bring tangible, on-the-ground impact to the forest-and-farm producers and their communities with practical demonstrations of activities that are replicable and scalable. In doing so, FFF redefines the narrative of change, shifting the focus from isolated efforts to a united, people-centric approach.

This report captures a wide range of achievements in these domains, all sharing a global thread of being people-centred, with impact driven by our FFPO partners.

We have reached diverse organizations, from local associations and cooperatives to regional and national apex federations and regional and global alliances (themselves supporting many hundreds of local groups). To date, a total of 753 FFPO sustainable enterprises have been supported, up from 564 in 2022, with 222 enterprises led by women. Notably, 85 624 members are currently benefiting from developed enterprise plans. The cumulative area of FFPO land restored, protected or sustainably managed has surged to 395 671 hectares, up from 161 993 in 2022, with a total of 209 571 people benefiting from such initiatives. There has been a substantial increase in cumulative national policy changes, rising to 256 from 111 in



2022. Participating in shaping these policies were 22 717 FFPO representatives, with 31 percent being women. Finally, at least 70 FFPOs are now providing improved social or cultural services to 74 840 people, up from 57 004 in 2022. We are spreading understanding of the power of participatory, bottom-up approaches to generate nature-based solutions for people and the planet.

In this annual report, Chapter 2 presents stories of our work in 2023, organized in six emergent themes. These stories illustrate the focused work we do with our partners in the ten core countries and two network countries. Chapter 3 breaks down our progress by outcome, measured by various indicators. Chapter 4 notes key challenges and lessons from 2023. Chapter 5 looks ahead, charting the path forward into 2024 and beyond. Chapter 6 provides a budgetary overview and lists our resource partners and the funding they provide. Annexes detail the work done in each core country in 2023 and list our knowledge-generation and training efforts, regional and global activities, and the events we hosted or otherwise supported.

Box 1. Who are forest-and-farm producers?

Forest-and-farm producers are women and men, smallholder families, Indigenous Peoples and local communities who have strong relationships with forests and farms in forested landscapes. They are producers that grow, manage, harvest and process a range of natural-resource-based goods and services for subsistence use and sale in local, national or international markets. Forest-and-farm producers manage an estimated 90 percent of all farms and 30 percent of all forestlands in the Global South (FAO, 2018).

Forest-and-farm producer organizations are formal or informal associations of such producers. They are created with the aim of helping their members share knowledge and experience, engage in policy advocacy, secure tenure and access rights to the forest, land and other natural resources, improve forest-and-farm management, expand markets, build enterprises, and increase income and well-being.

These organizations can take various legal forms, structured as cooperatives, associations or private companies with agricultural producers as shareholders (EU, 2019). They may focus on forests or combinations of forest- and farm-related activities. They may include but are not solely comprised of Indigenous Peoples, local community organizations, tree-grower and agroforestry associations, forest owner associations, producer cooperatives and companies, and their umbrella groups and federations.

Producer organizations and their associations can play valuable roles in consolidating supply, enhancing market strategies, planning and adjusting production according to demand, optimizing production costs, stabilizing producers' prices, conducting research, promoting best practices, offering technical assistance, managing by-products and implementing risk management. In doing so, they bolster the positions of producers in the food chain (EU, 2019).

Box 2. The Forest and Farm Facility

The **Forest and Farm Facility** was established in 2012; its second phase, which began in 2018, will continue until 2025. We are working to achieve four transformative outcomes:

Outcome 1. Policy and legal frameworks become more enabling for forest-and-farm organizations and are delivered through more inclusive governance and cross-sectoral processes (SDGs 16 and 17).

Outcome 2. Entrepreneurship increases and access to markets and finance opens through gender-equitable value chains and new capacity to provide business incubation within forest-and-farm organizations (SDGs 1, 5, 8 and 12).

Outcome 3. Landscape-scale mitigation of and adaptation to climate change and climate resilience improve through the direct engagement of forest-and-farm organizations and integration with inclusive livelihood approaches (SDGs 2, 13 and 15).

Outcome 4. Social and cultural services become equitable and more abundant (SDGs 3 and 10).

FFF works at the local, national, regional and global scales, with on-the-ground operations in ten core countries – Bolivia, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nepal, Tanzania, Togo, Viet Nam and Zambia – and other network countries – primarily Liberia and the Gambia. It directly impacts FFPOs by providing funding, information and advice and by enabling diverse exchanges among these organizations and between them and policymakers. FFF pathways for scaling up include working with grassroots and apex organizations to influence narratives and policies, as well as catalysing government, donor and private investments in forest-and-farm producers and the four FFF outcomes. As the focus is on Forest and Farm Producer Organizations, the natural point of our interventions is improved governance, participation and representation in policy shaping processes, market readiness including financial and business literacy and improved ability for market penetration and expansion based on sustainable management of climate-resilient systems involving forest and farm resources. These organizations exist in different sites and on different tiers, some already connected to international markets and others aspiring to follow in their footsteps.

FFF has four implementing partners with complementary attributes. Through its network of country offices and a dedicated team at its headquarters in Rome, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has built up longstanding, trusting relationships with governments and local and regional partners worldwide. Its strong national presence allows it to play a critical role in technical implementation. FAO is responsible for the overall achievement of programmatic goals and implementation ensuring efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of day-to-day operations globally. It also holds responsibility to ensure compliance under its accountability framework. The International Institute for Environment and Development is a persuasive think-tank that helps shape narratives through building skills and experience in participatory research, monitoring and learning related to (among others) community enterprises, forestry and climate finance. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) leverages its strong connections to the environmental world, particularly with conservation organizations worldwide, and its specific membership category for Indigenous Peoples' organizations. With a specific focus on landscape restoration and direct access to climate finance, IUCN increases the visibility of FFPOs and ensures they have a seat at international, regional and national decision-making forums. AgriCord and its 13 agri-agencies have tools and methodologies to for the professionalisation of FFPOs and strengthening their technical, economical and advocacy services at different levels.

FFF operates through a multi-donor trust fund including the generous support of the governments of Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as the European Union and IKEA. To date, FFF's resource partners have committed over USD 63 million to the fund for FFF's second phase.

2 Major themes in 2023 – illustrating our work

Forest-and-farm producer organizations are developing innovative solutions to policy and market barriers

The global market is experiencing a paradigm shift in response to the rising demand for sustainable and deforestation-free commodities. FFPOs are taking the lead in developing innovative solutions to align with market requirements, especially in light of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). While the EUDR primarily addresses deforestation concerns related to monoculture commodity production, FFPOs are actively fostering diversified forest-positive value chains. Their approach meets regulatory standards and creates the necessary conditions for deforestation-free production, contributing to a more environmentally conscious and socially responsible global supply chain.

New policy and market demands have triggered a transformative wave across global producers, compelling them to rethink their practices and adopt measures that align with the global ambitions to combat deforestation. FFPOs, recognizing the need for sustainable and responsible production, are at the forefront of implementing these changes. By building up diversified forest-positive value chains, FFPOs are meeting the requirements of EUDR as well as other consumer-end regulations and paving the way for a more resilient and ethical agricultural industry. This market shift towards deforestation-free production emphasizes that environmental stewardship and sustainable practices are imperatives in the pursuit of a more ecologically balanced and socially responsible global economy.

Advocacy leads to a pause in taxation for Nepal's community forests

The Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN) won a stay on taxation for timber sales by community forest user groups nationwide. Under the Finance Act, community forest user groups were required to contribute nearly 40 percent of their sales to national, provincial and local taxes. With FFF support, FECOFUN advocated through the media at national and provincial levels, which led to Nepal's Constitutional Court mandating that the government suspend the taxation laws until a verdict is reached on their constitutionality. This is a significant win for the community forest user groups in the country, who represent more than 25 percent of the overall population and who will now retain a greater share of their sales income. FECOFUN also facilitated policy dialogues and negotiations with provincial authorities in Lumbini, resulting in the cancellation of provincial-level taxation on community forest timber. This builds on previous successes, such as

lobbying in 2021 that resulted in the dissolution of the Scientific Forest Management procedure, which is to be replaced by a Sustainable Forest Management Guideline. FECOFUN sat on the committee that has met over the last two years to develop the new guideline.

Ecuadorian producers respond to new and emerging market demands

In **Ecuador**, FFF and Kallari are supporting producers in the cocoa value chain to improve their internal control systems and develop their capacities to address and comply with the EUDR. As one of the first projects to specifically work on EUDR compliance in the country, it will lay important groundwork for supporting compliance among other FFPOs in the future. Already, the project has shown promising advances in promoting sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous People and women within Amazon agroforestry systems.

Protecting traditional medicine in the Gambia

A first-of-its-kind Traditional Medicine Act was drafted in the Gambia after advocacy meetings between FFPOs and the Ministry of Health. The Act includes a ten-year management plan, which was validated by 25 participants at an FFF-supported workshop. The plan will guide the activities of the gene bank created by the Traditional Healers Assembly, who catalogued and inventoried traditional medicinal plants and species for use in nationwide regeneration projects.

Engagement in policy development leads to investment in Bolivia

In 2023, **Bolivian** FFPOs demonstrated their collective strength, actively shaping national policy and programmes. These organizations had a strong presence in the Third Bolivian Congress on Climate Change: Water Security and Non-Carbon Benefits, where they contributed 70 project proposals and facilitated dialogue spaces to promote a climate agenda. Their collaborative effort involved 52 institutions from the public and private sectors.

Additionally, through the apex-level organization Asociación de Organizaciones de Productores Ecológicos de Bolivia, FFPOs helped to formulate the National Agenda for Strengthening Family Farming, Agroecological and Non-Timber Forest Production. They focused on adapting the law so that it promotes ecological agriculture and non-timber commodities.

Furthermore, FFPOs collaborated with the Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras in formulating the second phase of three national programmes, namely a programme for the integral and sustainable management of Amazonian fruits, a programme for the use of wild cacao and a programme to strengthen ecological coffee growing. These initiatives showcase FFPOs' dedication to sustainable agriculture and environmental advocacy. After FFF-supported advocacy, the

Bolivian government invested USD 183 million in these and related farming projects over 2020 to 2022, bringing significant benefit to smallholder farmers.

Mobilizing internal finance is becoming part of the core mandate of forest-and-farm producer organizations

Forest-and-farm producer organizations are actively pioneering innovative financial models to reduce reliance on external funding sources. By doing so, these organizations are fostering greater financial independence, enabling them to customize financial products to better suit the unique needs of forest-and-farm producers. This shift represents a significant departure from conventional financing approaches and highlights a move towards sustainability and self-sufficiency within the sector. The focus on developing internal financial mechanisms empowers FFPOs and promotes resilience and adaptability in the face of economic uncertainties, ultimately contributing to the long-term viability of forest-and-farm enterprises.

An instrumental aspect of this financial transformation lies in the widespread adoption of financial savings and loan groups, as well as financial cooperatives. These grassroots financial institutions are bringing more options to forest-and-farm producers. FFPOs are increasingly mobilizing rural finance through mechanisms such as savings cooperatives and village savings and loan associations. This underscores the efficacy of decentralized financial systems and the significant role that FFPOs play in facilitating financial inclusion at the grassroots level. As these organizations continue to champion self-reliant financial models, the landscape of rural finance is evolving towards greater inclusivity and sustainability.

Women's organizations lead the way for microfinance in Zambia

In **Zambia**, the Tubeleke women's group, which collaboratively sells products and maintains group bank accounts, reported increased income from sales of baskets, grass brooms, herbal medicine, cabbage, tomatoes and sugar beans. In addition, the group owns a combination of forest, crop and animal husbandry assets. This diverse portfolio is shoring up the group's resilience to shocks and improving livelihood opportunities. The revenues are distributed twice yearly: in June to serve household needs and in December for the purchase of agricultural inputs like fertilizers and seeds.

Tubeleke is now mentoring other women's groups in Choma, including Masopo, Comedot, Mutucebe and Ashonto, guiding them to register and collectively sell forest products as well as establish savings and lending programmes. Additionally, these groups collaborate through a bulking centre that allows them to make bulk basket sales, and they have initiated mobile banking services in partnership with Zambia National Commercial Bank, earning commissions for transactions and building local financial resources. Through internal savings, lending schemes and

mobile banking funds, they invested in a hammer mill to add value to maize for both animal feed and human consumption.

Box 3. The Forest and Farm Facility's work on finance

Forest-and-farm producers, Indigenous Peoples and local community groups are among the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. But they are also leading the way in building resilient landscapes and sustainable livelihoods through their tireless efforts, energy and resourcefulness in agroforestry and land restoration. Yet for most of the world's 1.5 billion forest-and-farm producers, a helping hand from external climate finance remains a mirage: as little as 10 percent of global funds reach the local level, with just 1.7 percent accessible to locally controlled organizations (FAO, n.d.). Though access to finance, whether internal and external, remains limited, it is crucial to rural smallholders if they are to develop sustainable economies.

Below are some of the ways FFF responds to this need.

Promoting local microfinance: Leveraging their close ties with members and their understanding of smallholder value chains, FFPOs are well-suited to provide tailored financial products. Successful microfinance can develop businesses and value chains, bolster resilience and adaptation efforts, and deliver essential social services across communities. Support from FFF encompasses connecting grassroots organizations with banks, fostering the growth of village savings and loan associations, and collaborating with producers to enhance their businesses to present viable proposals to financial institutions.

Organizing peer-to-peer learning and exchanges between Indigenous Peoples and farmers: Indigenous Peoples organizations have extensive experience in locally led finance initiatives, which can be shared with FFPOs to enhance their understanding of community mechanisms for finance. When these groups come together with common goals, they strengthen local capacity to design and implement financing mechanisms.

Leveraging public and private finance, including climate finance, to deliver at scale: Effective partnerships between the public and private sector can unlock finance and enable smallholder forest-and-farm producers to receive fair compensation for their sustainable land-management practices to combat climate change and ensure global food security. These initiatives can be scaled to national programmes, as has been witnessed in Bolivia and other countries.

Amplifying FFPO voices through advocacy campaigns: Grassroots organizations have an important role in securing international environmental and development finance for farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. To increase their access to markets and finance, it is critical to ensure that these groups are heard on issues such as land tenure, the environment, local-to-global governance and justice.

Facilitating mutual understanding and trust between stakeholders: Better communication and collaboration between stakeholders can help to reduce perceived risks and create opportunities to explore new and innovative approaches for support. FFF facilitates these linkages between the private sector, governments, international donors, local investors and grassroots organizations by organizing roundtables and advocating for legal recognition of the role of FFPOs.

Viet Nam's Green Funds open new opportunities for forest-and-farm producer organizations

In **Viet Nam**, Think Phat Cooperative has grown their Green Fund, an innovative microfinance mechanism designed explicitly for FFPOs, from an initial contribution of USD 500 to close to USD 6 000. The funds allow its members to borrow without interest to implement environmentally sustainable land management practices, including establishing long-rotation timber plantations, promoting agroforests and increasing the diversity of trees and crops within forest landscapes. The terms and repayment are tailored to the needs of the borrower. As a result, the income of cooperative members has increased by 20 to 30 percent, and more than 290 hectares of long-rotation timber plantation were established, 35 percent of which is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. This is an important investment in the future as the market value of long-rotation timber is 150 to 200 percent more than short-rotation timber; this resource also plays a role in protecting the environment and providing climate-change resilience and adaptation.

Across Viet Nam, FFF has supported 23 FFPOs to develop Green Funds, with the total amount scaled up from USD 11 500 to approximately USD 95 000. The success of the Green Funds has attracted attention more broadly and will be featured in the report *The State of the World's Forests 2024*, which will highlight innovation in the forest sector.

Connecting village savings in Ghana to external funding

The **Ghana** Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (GhaFFaP) is building on existing FFPO models for mobilizing internal resources, such as the village savings and loan schemes that have proven to be innovative for FFPOs and their businesses. GhaFFaP is working towards formalizing these thriving local savings schemes so they will meet the conditions necessary for linking with more formal financial and business development services. Through engagements with financial institutions such as Opportunity International, a model is being developed for capitalizing existing village savings and loan associations and using their collective membership as a guarantee for derisking loan payments.

GhaFFaP aims to facilitate custom capital investment schemes for its member FFPOs through strategic collaborations with the government, development partners, aggregators and private sector entities. The initiative involves supporting FFPOs in raising matching funds internally to encourage outside investment, particularly from financial institutions. Fostering mutually beneficial investments, GhaFFaP will act as an intermediary between FFPOs and financial institutions. It plans to broker blended financing arrangements, for example involving

concessional financing from public funds, to mitigate the risk for lending agencies and lower interest rates for FFPOs. Their efforts focus on sustainable production in an aim to capitalize on organic and fair-trade markets and attract additional investment and funding for medium- to long-term forest-and-farm businesses.

Financing Ecuador's "Globally Important Agricultural Systems"

In **Ecuador**, the central women's committee at the Union of Farmer and Indigenous Organizations of Cotacachi (UNORCAC) is working with two new financial mechanisms. Informal community savings banks are improving financial outcomes for its members, while the Santa Anita Savings and Credit Cooperative is a formal institution that is further opening access to finance. In 2022, the cooperative was valued at over USD 38 million; in 2023, over 80 percent of this value came from the members themselves. FFF supports these mechanisms through capacity building among UNORCAC's members to strengthen their financial skills. The process includes a review of each FFPO's financial mechanisms, followed by tailored training in money management for the FFPO leadership and members. The trainings had the added benefit of empowering women to more actively participate within their FFPOs and beyond.

UNORCAC is also piloting mechanisms to improve finance for agrifood system diversification in Andean farms, linking local producers with markets to supply healthy food in urban areas.

Forest-and-farm producers are managing diverse forest-based agrifood systems

The forest-based agrifood systems managed by FFPOs are paramount for a sustainable and resilient future. These organizations should stand as crucial stewards of the ecosystems where they operate, advocating for and implementing practices that balance socioeconomic development and environmental conservation. The decision to strengthen FFPOs is not just an investment in agricultural systems but an act to empower local communities and ensure the responsible use of natural resources. By building up the capacities of FFPOs, we pave the way for practices that will benefit present and future generations.

Forest-based agrifood systems, when managed by FFPO members, can emerge as dynamic contributors to agrobiodiversity and food security. These systems stimulate a symbiotic relationship between agriculture and the environment, preserving a diverse range of plant and animal species while ensuring a steady food supply. Through agroforestry practices and sustainable land management, FFPOs can contribute to the resilience of these systems, making them adaptable to environmental changes. This safeguards both biodiversity and local communities' access to a variety of nutritious foods, fostering a more secure food future. Because of their integral role in forest-based agrifood systems, it is vital to support these organizations in building a resilient global food landscape.

Technology and certification in Viet Nam

The Tu Nhien Co-operative in **Viet Nam** developed QR codes and digital production diaries for mobile phones, enhancing the sustainability of its vegetable production. With backing from the Viet Nam Farmers' Union, FFF and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, the cooperative uses these tools to record and trace its vegetable production, meeting the demands of major markets, including Aeon, Big C supermarkets, and other retailers in Hanoi and northern Vietnamese cities. Tu Nhien Co-operative now offers 32 safe vegetable products that bear organic, Vietnamese Good Agricultural Practices (VietGap) and similar certifications. They achieve an annual output of over 1 000 tons and an average revenue around USD 300 000.

Box 4. The importance of agrobiodiversity

Agrobiodiversity plays a substantial role in addressing the pressing concerns of nature degradation and the escalating climate risks faced by frontline forest-and-farm producers. Agroecology is one strategy to boost agrobiodiversity through a holistic and integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social principles to the design and management of agriculture and food systems. It is aimed to optimize the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while also addressing the need for socially equitable food systems within which people can exercise choice over what they eat and how and where it is produced. By embracing traditional knowledge and local innovations, agroecology promotes the efficient use of renewable resources, fostering sustainability in food production and mitigating environmental impact.

Furthermore, agrobiodiversity, encompassing the variety and variability of animals, plants, microorganisms and wild foods within agricultural ecosystems, offers a range of benefits. These include ensuring food security and livelihood resilience, providing nutritional and health advantages, supporting biomass energy production, preserving biocultural heritage and maintaining crucial ecosystem services, such as climate-change mitigation. Smallholder farmers emerge as the custodians of agrobiodiversity, utilizing and preserving diverse crop varieties, tree species and livestock.

The rate of agrobiodiversity loss is alarming, illustrated by the extinction of historically domesticated mammal breeds and the dominance of just 12 plants and 5 animal species as the source of about 75 percent of the world's food. This state of affairs underscores the urgency of addressing the underlying causes, including power imbalances and industrial-scale monocultures.

Despite international efforts highlighted in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agrobiodiversity loss persists. The United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030) and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019–2028) are spurring coordinated global action. Initiatives like the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, established through the Global Environmental Facility, are further uniting efforts to safeguard agrobiodiversity and promote sustainable development.

Establishing business-to-business links in Zambia

The **Zambia** National Forestry Commodities Association has recently entered into offtake agreements with five private companies (including Umulyo Foods, Africa Nature's Organic Foods, Dairy Gold and Kunowa Essential Oils) to distribute forest-based foods, such as honey, *pupwe*, *mundambi*, and cassava leaves in Nyimba, Petauke, Choma and Mwinilunga. These deals are important for creating a market incentive to produce a diverse product range. The positive impact of these agreements is already evident, with one of the associations, Mwinilunga Honey Association, successfully selling a substantial amount of honey in 2023 to one off-taker with whom they will continue their relationship into 2024.



South-south exchange in Liberia leads to new knowledge and practices

Harvesters from **Liberia** have engaged in knowledge exchanges with non-timber forest product vendors from Côte d'Ivoire, learning about value addition for these products. As a result of the exchanges, over 3 000 grains of paradise seedlings, a spice with a high economic value commonly used in West and North African cuisine and medicine, were cultivated in Liberia. These seedlings will help to protect the indigenous species under threat of extinction. Because grains of paradise are highly adaptable to tropical climates and able to tolerate various soil types, their cultivation promotes more sustainable livelihoods and allows farmers to act as change agents for building climate-resilient landscapes.

Reflecting on the exchange, one member of the Botanical Product Association of Liberia said, "Before the exchange, I did not understand the importance of the grains of paradise. With the knowledge gained, I can now cultivate more grains of paradise, which will allow me to support my fellow community members on the cultivation and harvesting."

Sustainable practices boost agrobiodiversity in Ecuador

In **Ecuador**, WIÑAK developed value-added products that harness the agrobiodiversity in the Amazon farms. WIÑAK created three new tea recipes, sold on domestic and international markets, using guayusa (*Ilex guayusa*), ishpingo (*Ocotea quixos*, commonly known as Amazon cinnamon), lemon verbena and stevia. To strengthen the guayusa value chain, WIÑAK has implemented good agricultural and manufacturing practices, hazard analysis of critical control points and integrated pest management.

Another FFPO that collaborates with Amazonian farms, Tsatsayaku, has diversified the farms of its members with native bees and vanilla. Their actions are opening the potential to generate new value chains, with prospects of selling in international markets. Tsatsayaku farmers are producing honey, increasing food security, providing key ecosystem services through pollination, and offering alternative livelihoods in the form of agrotourism. All of these activities are conducted by women, which is improving their economic autonomy and decision-making power within their households.



Forest-and-farm producer organizations are investing in climate adaptation

Climate change poses an immediate and persistent threat to the livelihoods of FFPOs and rural communities worldwide. The adverse impacts of shifting weather patterns, extreme events and rising temperatures are acutely felt in agriculture, where they disrupt traditional farming practices and jeopardize food security. In response to this formidable challenge, FFPOs invest substantially in climate adaptation measures. Their efforts are not only crucial for the survival of smallholder producers; they also contribute to global initiatives to address climate change.

It is estimated that an annual agricultural investment of USD 16 billion would prevent starvation or chronic hunger due to climate-change impacts for 78 million people (UNEP, 2023). These investments should encompass a wide range of impactful measures to mitigate the effects climate change has on agriculture. From altering farming hours and adjusting planting and harvesting schedules, to participating in training programmes, FFPOs are proactively adapting their practices. Furthermore, they are adopting nature-friendly methods, such as soil improvement, protection of natural areas near farms and pest control, illustrating their multifaceted approach to sustainability. Their investments safeguard the livelihoods of smallholder producers and yield positive outcomes for the environment, which showcases FFPOs as a major force in fostering resilience to climate change.

Youth participate in climate adaptation and natural-resource management in Zambia

Training provided by FFF in 2018 continues to have an impact on FFPOs in Choma, **Zambia**. These trainings, undertaken by the Mboole Rural Development Initiative (MRDI), spurred integrated climate responses and strategies for sustainable rural economies, resulting in tangible projects that continue to flourish, such as gardens of tree seedlings, woodlots with integrated beehives, and orange orchards.

Working with FFF and Mboole youth, MRDI is engaged in citrus production. The organization envisions converting degraded areas into citrus agroforest plantations, implementing improved management practices, and incorporating beekeeping and vegetable intercropping. Their goal is to produce vegetables and honey in the short term, with a long-term project to produce citrus for local consumption and trade.

Raising chickens in the forest in Viet Nam

Viet Nam's Than Phu Cooperative used small grants to promote sustainable forest-and-farm production, including supporting members in raising free-range local

breed chickens under acacia. Farmers report that this practice has had positive effects on climate resilience. The tree cover mitigates temperature extremes and reduces wind speed, improving chicken health and feed efficiency, particularly during hot days or cold spells. It also provides protection from aerial predators. Chickens freely feed on insects and fresh forage grasses, aiding their adaptation to climate change. The forest-grazing system allows the poultry to benefit from a favourable ecological environment, with access to quality air, water and soil.

The cooperative uses poultry dung, compost worms and eels to enhance soil fertility in an environmentally conscious approach that conserves biodiversity and reduces production inputs. Additionally, the cooperative worked towards obtaining certifications (VietGap, 'One Commune, One Product', organic) for their products, accessing credit and effectively marketing their goods.

Dry-season farming in Ghana

In **Ghana**, CADER and Tele-bere spearheaded a climate-resilient livelihood initiative centred around agroforestry. This pioneering approach integrates agroforestry and agroecology systems, coupled with solar-powered water systems, to sustain year-round agricultural activities. The pilot project has expanded to encompass additional areas in the Upper East, Northern and Upper West Regions in 2023. The sites have proven highly beneficial for women farmers engaged in dry-season vegetable production. Their participation fosters sustainability in agriculture and contributes to household food security, nutrition and income generation.

Six hundred and fifty women have directly benefited from the services provided by these expanding agroforestry sites. The establishment of new partnerships supplied more than 250 tonnes of vegetables to restaurants and boarding school cafeterias. This holistic approach underscores the positive impact of agroforestry in promoting resilient livelihoods and gender-inclusive agricultural practices.

Educating youth for climate adaptation in Ecuador

In **Ecuador**, TOISAN set up systems to conserve water, regenerate soil and strengthen biofactories to produce bio-inputs. The group also taught young people how to manage farms sustainably and monitor natural resources through hydrological gauging and climatological stations. Youth also learned to watch for deforestation in micro-watersheds in the Intag area. TOISAN coupled these efforts with additional work to develop new sources of community-managed renewable energy, such as an innovative hydro-energy technology that will contribute to goals to decarbonize and restore hydrographic microbasins. TOISAN's work has greatly enhanced the ability of young people in the region to adapt to the changing climate and its accompanying threats.



Tree planting is helping to mitigate climate change and diversify incomes

FFPOs are critical in promoting resilience and combating climate change through diversified tree-planting initiatives. The simultaneous integration of multiple species within FFPOs' tree-planting efforts contributes to ecological restoration and serves as an economic lifeline for communities. By cultivating various tree species, FFPOs diversify incomes and enhance the resilience of local economies against climate-related shocks. This approach empowers communities to withstand the impact of environmental uncertainties and fosters practices that mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.

The tree planting and ecosystem restoration undertaken by FFPOs align seamlessly with the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and other regional initiatives such as the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100). In the urgent need to reverse environmental degradation, the United Nations Decade provides a framework for collective action to restore ecosystems, including forests, by 2030. The partnership between FFPOs and FFF in tree-planting initiatives becomes a tangible manifestation of this global commitment. By participating in the United Nations Decade, AFR100 and other regional initiatives, FFPOs are not only helping achieve international environmental goals but are also creating tangible positive impacts at the local level. They are expanding income opportunities through non-wood forest products, tourism and ecosystem services, creating a sustainable future for both communities and ecosystems.

Planting trees for diversified production in Nepal

The Association of Family Forest Owners, **Nepal** (AFFON), in collaboration with the local government, the Divisional Forest Office and over 200 producers in Tulsipur Dang, successfully established a *timur*-based agroforestry system. *Timur* (or prickly ash, in English) was chosen as the focal species due to its proven market value, potential for value addition without processing and ability to serve as a resilient livelihood option. The producers incorporated multi-tier crops such as citrus, turmeric, bay leaves and ginger, which enabled them to offer a variety of goods in the local market and through their cooperative outlets. This successful collaboration with FFF has led to replicating the learned practices in other regions and with different partners.

In another initiative, AFFON, in conjunction with Forest Action and the Himalayan Grassroots Women's Natural Resource Management Association, jointly promoted a horticulture and pasture species-based agroforestry system. Additionally, AFFON, the Divisional Forest Office and Krishi Gyan Kendra planted fruits with forage and bamboo to establish horticulture-based agroforestry systems in Dhulikhel

Municipality (Kavre). These interventions showcase the commitment of AFFON to sustainable agroforestry, collaboration with diverse stakeholders and the widespread dissemination of successful models to enhance sustainable livelihoods in various regions.

Contributions to AFR100 in Madagascar and Togo

In **Madagascar**, FFPOs significantly contributed to AFR100 goals in 2023 through individual and collective efforts. They purchased seedlings and established forest nurseries, mitigating climate change through reforestation and agroforestry. Collaboration in the Diana region between Forest for Future and FFF showcased synergy and complementarity. FFPOs promoted plants with high nutritional value, as well as promoted the cultivation of energy and construction wood. Notable achievements were the reforestation of 2 434 hectares and the restoration of 6 400 hectares of soil through the forest landscape restoration approach.

In **Togo**, the Confederation of Traditional Producers' Organizations (CTOP) partnered with FFF and FAO to strengthen the role of Togolese FFPOs in forest landscape restoration. Key events included a national dialogue recognizing FFPOs' contribution to AFR100, the Bonn Challenge and Togo's own promise to restore 1.4 million hectares by 2030. Additionally, CTOP organized a round table to secure support from technical and financial partners for FFPOs engaged in forest landscape restoration. A regional conference under AFR100 addressed the role of FFPOs in Africa and offered a platform for sharing experiences in forest landscape restoration. Support from FFF resulted in the restoration of agroforestry through afforestation and forest-based systems. Overall, in 2023, FFF supported FFPOs to restore 2 061 ha through reforestation and agroforestry and facilitated the sustainable management of 11 community forests, totalling 7 896 ha.



Box 5. Forest landscape restoration

Forest landscape restoration is a planned process to regain ecological functionality and enhance human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes. It does not aim to recreate past ecosystems but to re-establish a self-sustaining forest ecosystem that benefits people and biodiversity while balancing ecological, social and economic priorities. Forest landscape restoration encompasses a broad range of interventions to restore ecological function, such as planting trees, promoting natural regeneration and agroforestry. Interventions are carried out in a participatory manner that enhances human well-being. Multiple benefits are associated with forest landscape restoration: increased crop yields, improved water availability and quality, economic and social development, enriched biodiversity, and mitigated impacts from climate change.

The concept of forest landscape restoration has grown in importance on the global stage and is central to achieving the ambitious targets to stabilize global forest cover. The Bonn Challenge called for 150 million hectares to be restored by 2020, the New York Declaration calls for an additional 200 million hectares by 2030, and the Glasgow Leader's Declaration on Forests and Land Use aims to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030. Regionally, AFR100 commits to bringing c.130 million hectares under restoration by 2030, and Initiative 20x20 to protect and restore 50 million hectares in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030.

School Greening Programme in Kenya

The **Kenya** Forest Service has expanded the School Greening Programme, encouraging students to grow trees at school and at home to address climate change. Over half of Kenya's population is under the age of 15, and engaging this population segment is critical to secure their future and harness their innate values of conservation and climate-change resilience. Kenya aims to plant 15 billion trees by 2032 as part of the National Tree Growing and Restoration Campaign to raise forest cover to 30 percent.

Support from FFF helped establish model tree nurseries that will produce fruit to improve the food security and nutrition of the pupils. FFF piloted the project in ten primary schools in four focal counties. Each school was facilitated to set up a nursery with assorted trees and fruits. The School Greening Programme works with parents, teachers and pupils to engage them in planting trees in schools, homesteads and public spaces. FFF will continue to upscale the programme to cover 25 more schools.



Indigenous Peoples and farmers are joining forces to call for global forest and climate action

In the urgent global pursuit of climate action, the empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and smallholder farmers stands as a pivotal narrative within the COP framework, particularly in the context of forest conservation and climate mitigation. The distinctive roles played by these two groups embody a holistic approach to addressing the challenges of climate change. Smallholder farmers, who are on the frontlines of climate impacts, offer essential insights into adaptation strategies. Their experiences and traditional knowledge can guide policies that enhance resilience at the grassroots level. Simultaneously, as custodians of vast forested lands, Indigenous Peoples contribute significantly to global conservation efforts. Their unique perspectives, deeply rooted in sustainable practices and spiritual connections to the land, drive mitigation strategies and can shape policies that protect and restore vital ecosystems.

As international forums, COPs present a unique platform for integrating voices from forest-and-farm producers and Indigenous Peoples into the global climate discourse. Including these marginalized communities ensures that policies reflect the realities faced by those directly impacted by climate change. This inclusivity fosters a more comprehensive and equitable approach to climate action by recognizing different communities' diverse contributions and needs. By empowering indigenous peoples and smallholder farmers within COPs, we amplify the representation of those most affected by climate change and cultivate a more robust, sustainable and inclusive framework for addressing the interconnected challenges of forest conservation and climate mitigation on a global scale.

Family farmers shape global advocacy

Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), with the vital support of FFF, orchestrated the International Conference of Family Farmers on Climate Action in Rome over 21 and 22 October. This global gathering convened eight influential associations, including the Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado (COPROFAM), the Inter-Continental Network of Organic Farmer Organisations, the Network of Farmers Organizations and Agricultural Producers of West Africa (ROPPA), the World Farmers' Organisation, the World Forum of Fisher Peoples, the World Food Forum and the PanAfrican Farmers Organization. The groups represent diverse constituencies within smallholder family farming. Participants included men, women, young farmers, fishers, Indigenous Peoples, herders and pastoralists.

The conference aimed at fostering regional and global consensus on the advocacy agenda for small-scale family farmers in climate action and financing. It served as a



crucial platform for sharing information, building consensus on key messages and outlining a road map for family farmers' climate action leading up to COP28. The collective message from family farmers was presented at a COP28 presidency event on 10 December. It emphasized their commitment to more enabling policy and legal frameworks delivered through FFPO-inclusive governance and cross-sectoral processes. This concerted effort paves the way for a resilient and sustainable future in agriculture and land use.

Farmer-led call to action for climate emergency

In a groundbreaking initiative aligned with the COP28 road map and the United Nations Decade on Family Farming, a collaborative consortium of regional member organizations of the World Rural Forum came together to address the climate emergency faced by family farmers' organizations.

The participating organizations included AFA, COPROFAM, the Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers' Forum, Programa Diálogo Regional Rural, the Pacific Islands Farmer Organisation Network, the Plateforme Regionale des Organisations Paysannes d'Afrique Centrale, and the Union Maghrébine et Nord Africaine des Agriculteurs. Together, they prepared an urgent call to action that moves from understanding the facts to making commitments and implementing them. The call to action encompasses three key messages and demands. First, it calls for recognition of the catalytic role of family farming in climate action, food systems transformation and biodiversity protection. Second, it calls for ensuring an enabling policy environment and the participation of family farmers in climate policymaking. This includes advocating for the participation of family farmers' organizations in climate negotiations, creating gender equality in agriculture, and stimulating the involvement of young family farmers and rural youth. Last, it calls for proportional access to climate funds, emphasizing the need for direct and tailored financial support to accelerate resilience within family farming and to realize its full potential in building climate-resilient food systems.

More information is presented in the full report "Untapped Potential – An Analysis of International Public Climate Finance Flows to Sustainable Agriculture and Family Farmers", available on the World Rural Forum website.

Box 6. How the Forest and Farm Facility supports Indigenous People

Though FFF is not primarily a tenure facility, it provides direct grants to empower local groups at the local level, aiding them in gathering evidence to substantiate their messages at the global level. By amplifying the voices of these groups, FFF significantly influences narratives and policies in favour of Indigenous Peoples. This collaborative approach ensures that FFF achieves substantial impact at scale, fostering a network of diverse groups that shape forest landscapes.

The effectiveness of FFF's collaboration with Indigenous Peoples is evident in its support for various member-based groups with distinct ways of life. These groups, whether Indigenous Peoples managing forest territories rooted in ancestral traditions or forest-and-farm producers organized in cooperatives, associations or village-linked entities, benefit from FFF's assistance. Cultural and ethnic identity, integral to many Indigenous groups, is a central focus, but FFF recognizes that different groups may prioritize identity differently. By incorporating traditional knowledge systems that have been honed over centuries, FFF gains the trust and support of local communities and facilitates the integration of traditional and scientific knowledge. This synergy contributes to developing sustainable and resilient communities, ensuring a harmonious balance between tradition and innovation, at their request and always respecting their rights to self-determine their own approach to development and integration to the markets and the opportunities that lay there. Despite the challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples in securing their rights, production capabilities and finance, FFF's engagement with governments provides a pathway to address administrative hurdles, infrastructure deficiencies and biases against smaller-scale operations, ultimately fostering a more equitable environment for forest-and-farm producers.

3 Our outcomes in numbers

Outcome 1: More enabling policy and legal frameworks for FFPOs delivered through more FFPO-inclusive governance and cross-sectoral processes

Outcome level:

- 256 cumulative changes in policy through work at national level (up from 125 in 2022)
- 14 cumulative changes through regional or international policy process engagement

Indicator level:

- 119 FFPOs with a written advocacy agenda (up from 97 in 2022)
- Advocacy agendas developed with participation being 20–75% women, 1–33% youth and 10–63% Indigenous Peoples
- 275 multi-stakeholder processes with FFPO input from grassroots to national level (up from 165 in 2022)
- 23 multi-stakeholder processes with FFPO input at regional or international level (up from 10 in 2022)
- 22 717 FFPO representatives in policy shaping processes (31% women) (up from 20 962 in 2022)

Outcome 2: Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets and finance through gender-equitable value chains delivered through new capacity to provide business incubation within FFPOs

Outcome level:

- 753 FFPO sustainable enterprises supported to improve returns to members (up from 564 in 2022)
- 261 FFPO enterprises have developed or enhanced added value (up from 211 in 2022)
- 222 FFPO enterprises led by women (up from 169 in 2022)

Indicator level:

- 97 FFPOs are assessing business needs of members (up from 88 in 2022)
- 724 entrepreneur trainings run (up from 430 in 2022)
- 733 FFPO staff trained and deployed with business incubation skills (up from 692 in 2022)
- 20–51% of FFPO incubator staff are women and 8–80% youth
- 178 FFPO enterprises with credible business, market and financial information (up from 103 in 2022)
- 94 062 members benefiting from developed enterprise plans
- 396 FFPO enterprises receiving support from external business or financial service providers (up from 360 in 2022)



Outcome 3: Improved delivery of landscape-scale mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience for climate change through direct engagement of FFPOs and integration with inclusive livelihood approaches

Outcome level:

- 395 671 hectares of FFPO land restored, protected or under sustainable management (up from 161 993 in 2022)
- 209 571 people benefiting from FFPO land restored, protected or sustainably managed (up from 172 170 in 2022)
- 140 307 people supported to cope with impacts of climate change (up from 123 787 in 2022)

Indicator level:

- 189 new partnerships with climate or landscape restoration programmes from local to national level (up from 134 in 2022)
- 166 FFPOs have developed climate-resilience plans or responsive practices (up from 115 in 2022)
- 14 735 FFPO staff trained in climate-change mitigation, adaptation or resilience practices (up from 5 957 in 2022)

Outcome 4: Improved and equitable access to social and cultural services

Outcome level:

- At least 70 FFPOs with 74 840 people receiving improved social or cultural services (up from 57 004 in 2022 – but note data gaps)

Indicator level:

- 92 FFPOs have conducted needs assessments for social or cultural services (up from 90 in 2022)
- 180 new or improved social and cultural services delivered by FFPO action (up from 68 in 2022)
- 41 FFPO representatives in national-level social development processes (up from 34 in 2022)

4 Challenges and lessons learned in 2023

Strong return on investment from regional exchanges

In 2023, FFF hosted multiple regional exchanges on key topics for FFPOs. In April, the Regional Exchange for Africa in Nairobi provided an opportunity to exchange valuable lessons and share perspectives on finance. A goal was to develop a shared vision and understanding of the challenges in getting finance to smallholder producers for their value-chain activities and actions for climate- and nature-based solutions. The exchange laid the groundwork for a separate, one-day workshop on sustainable wood value chains; it was held in November as part of the International Congress on Planted Forests 2023 hosted by Kenya. In September in Sokodé, Togo, the African Regional Workshop on Forest and Landscape Restoration under AFR100 resulted in the Sokodé Declaration. This statement set the stage for collaborative action to end deforestation and land degradation in the region, with FFPOs at its heart. Finally, a regional exchange on food and sustainable agrifood systems in Bolivia resulted in a new knowledge network linking 15 FFPOs from Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador.

These exchanges led to the establishment of regional collaboration platforms, such as the one created in Bolivia, and to alliances for experience exchanges, such as those between El Ceibo in Bolivia and the Confederación de Nacionalidades Amazónicas del Perú, an Apex Indigenous federation in Peru. These links are spreading FFF's initiatives beyond the borders of our member countries. They highlight the power of collaborative knowledge-sharing and networking to address common challenges FFPOs face. The exchanges provided a platform for stakeholders to share valuable lessons, perspectives and best practices on crucial topics such as finance for smallholder producers, climate and nature-based solutions, forest and landscape restoration, and sustainable agrifood systems.

Continuing these exchanges can build on the momentum already generated. The exchanges are creating ongoing dialogue, learning and joint strategies to address complex issues related to forestry, agriculture, finance, value addition, technology, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development. The networks and collaborations formed during these exchanges can contribute to a more coordinated and effective global approach to promoting sustainable practices, addressing common challenges and creating positive impacts for FFPOs.

Growing demand for support from the Forest and Farm Facility

The increased opportunities to exchange information and experiences have led to a significant increase in demand for support from FFF. Numerous countries have sought assistance, including Colombia, Peru and Benin. This heightened demand

underscores a need for strategic planning and scalability to address the evolving needs of diverse regions. The surge in demand also highlights a need for adaptability in FFF's approach. Being able to pivot strategies, allocate resources effectively, efficiently and transparently and tailor interventions to meet the specific needs of each country will ensure sustained impact and relevance.

The increased demand for FFF support brought with it another emerging strategic concern, namely maintaining FFF's global character while catering to specific regional requests. Overwhelmingly, FFF's attention has been directed towards Africa. However, FFPOs in Asia and Latin America must not be overlooked. A balance should be struck between addressing the diverse ecosystems and socioeconomic needs of African countries and those of other regions while maintaining the global approach of the program.

One way to maintain this global character is by promoting continuous knowledge exchange to create communities of practice with active engagement of FFPOs. By embracing a culture of learning from diverse contexts, FFF plays a key role generating enabling conditions for the cross-regional exchange of best practices, challenges and innovative solutions to enhance its effectiveness.

Gender empowerment

Gender equality and the empowerment of women stand as fundamental, cross-cutting themes for FFF. The 2020 mid-term evaluation of the programme emphasized the necessity of a more substantial approach to gender transformation. Despite the integral roles women have in agricultural and forest value chains, they encounter substantial disparities in access to assets, inputs, technology, education, markets, rights, decision-making and leadership positions. Their disadvantaged access to land and resources, including technical support and agricultural inputs, added to reduced representation and participation in farmer organizations and lesser control over products and income exacerbates the costs borne by countries, communities and households. Their inadequate representation reinforces existing gender inequalities, hindering the full potential of these organizations to address the unique needs of women in the sector.

FFF offers specific support to female-led FFPOs, acknowledging that entrepreneurship can catalyse women's economic empowerment. Empowered women can contribute to development, create innovative solutions to problems and run lucrative businesses, as well as drive public investments in childcare, education and health, positively affecting their livelihoods and well-being. Gender-related issues often involve sensitive and controversial topics, such as the division of labour within families and religious considerations. FFF recognizes that fostering the active participation and leadership of women, together with gender equality in



business is required to reduce vulnerability and strengthen the role of women within organizations and households.

As part of its gender strategy, FFF is working with women leaders from various producer organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to grow a global, rural, women-producer exchange platform. This platform is aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences among women leaders, contributing to economic empowerment across Africa, Asia and Latin America. The platform has hosted a series of online dialogues for women-led or majority-women FFPOs. These dialogues provide a space for women producers, entrepreneurs and leaders to connect, share experiences and support each other. The first dialogue, held on 30 March, focused on entrepreneurial and leadership mentoring, emphasizing valuable approaches to guidance, networking, skill development, confidence-building and accountability.

The dialogue series introduced three initiatives: the Manager School by the Self Employed Women's Association, Women Leadership Circles in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management by the African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests. Participants generated recommendations for supporting women producer organizations, businesses and leaders through these initiatives.

As FFF continues its commitment to promoting gender equality and women's economic empowerment, the challenges and lessons learned in 2023 underscore the need to address gender disparities, foster entrepreneurship and build platforms for women to share knowledge and experiences.

Navigating increased budgets and expanding opportunities

Approaching the culmination of Phase II, FFF has welcomed the addition of extra funds from our generous donors. While the infusion of additional resources opens new avenues for bolstering our FFPO partners, it simultaneously poses the challenge of optimally deploying these resources before Phase II concludes.

To effectively leverage this increased budget, we plan to allocate additional and increased envelopes, a strategy initiated on a case-by-case basis in 2023. Starting with an initial allocation of USD 500 000 per country, this envelope has been flexibly adjusted based on the evolving needs and demands for support from FFPOs. A first round of calls for proposals for the 2024 funding cycle have been launched, some of them as early as October 2023 to allocate these funding to FFPOs, with the intention of reaching the commitment of letters of agreement and direct beneficiary grants by July 2024.

The increased allocation will respond to our donors' keen interest in supporting Africa, while also increasing the budget for all countries. Our minimum allocation

per country is being raised, at least doubling the amount allocated two years ago. This strategic shift reflects our dedication to fostering impactful change and addressing the needs of the communities we serve while maintaining our accountability to donors.

Managing greater numbers of proposals

The anticipated substantial influx of proposals necessitates a robust system for processing proposals. The volume of proposals is expected to vary from country to country, reflecting diverse requirements and larger-scale projects. In preparation, we are extending our reach to various subnational regions and diverse landscapes, encouraging an increased number of proposals within the existing core and network countries.

In line with our pursuit of efficiency and innovation, we are adopting a cloud-based platform that has already proven successful in other FAO programmes, both at the country and thematic levels. Notably, the system has undergone successful testing by FAO in some of FAO's country programmes including Georgia, as well as within the Mountain Partnership in the FAO Forestry Division. The platform is significantly more advanced than traditional manual processes and positions FFF at the forefront of modernized proposal management. It will include a more transparent way of processing requests, assessing proposals and reporting to donors and other stakeholders.

Strengthening accountability and ensuring transparency through monitoring frameworks

In alignment with FAO's Accountability Framework, FFF is committed to enhanced accountability and transparency in our operations, while delivering impact on the ground and value for money to our donors. As part of this commitment, we aim to fortify our monitoring mechanisms through the integration of online platforms and databases to collect robust means of verification and evidence of delivery. This integration will facilitate a systematic and streamlined process for collecting means of verification that will be available to donors, improving efficiency and ensuring reliability of the information presented.

As we approach the end of Phase II, we will diligently collect and compile evidence of our activities, achievements and impact. The evidence will be presented in a transparent database, offering donors clear and detailed insight into our results.

Through these initiatives, we are confident in our ability to not only meet the FAO's Accountability Framework requirements but also exceed expectations by fostering a culture of openness, accountability and a commitment to delivering tangible value for the resources entrusted to us by our donors.

Strengthening our focus on direct beneficiary grants

Moving forward, we intend to keep letters of agreement for their initial purpose, that being the provision of services on behalf of FAO. Meanwhile, we will roll out more direct beneficiary grants to support FFPOs access to production technology and inputs with the aim of improving sustainable production. By adopting this dual approach, we aim to balance the structured framework provided by letters of agreement and the responsiveness offered by direct beneficiary grants. This adjustment in strategy reinforces our dedication to finding efficient and effective funding mechanisms to serve the communities of FFPOs and our stakeholders.

5 Way forward

In 2024, FFF aims to intensify its collaboration with other relevant teams in the Forestry Division (NFO) including the Social Forestry team, the Ecosystems and Biodiversity team, Forest Livelihoods, Food and Nutrition team, and the Mountain Partnership. Additionally, the FFF will leverage FAO's institutional strengths extending partnerships with the Project Support Unit – Indigenous Peoples team and build up on the ongoing work with the Communication for Development team. Likewise, the FFF will establish collaboration with other divisions such as the Animal Production and Health Division (NSA), the Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) working on agroecology and beekeeping. Furthermore, this synergy will contribute to FAO's overall efforts in linking forestry and agriculture for greater food security and nutrition outcomes in line with its Strategic Framework.

In 2023, a concept note for Phase III was developed to mobilize funding beyond 2025, which was submitted to donors and the Steering Committee in November 2023 for feedback. The revised version now incorporates their input. FFF is now evaluating successful initiatives, extending actions beyond the current matrix, identifying collaboration opportunities and expanding partnerships to boost innovative investment, which includes a partnership currently being discussed with FAO's Investment Center to utilize the RuralInvest methodology and toolkit, aimed at supporting FFPOs in developing rural investment projects and business plans.

The Phase III proposal includes:

- continuing the current focus on improving internal governance and ability to influence positive policy reforms;
- continuing the current focus on the resilience of FFPOs and their consistencies through positive climate actions;
- prioritized support for FFPOs as catalysts for change and impact at a landscape scale;
- support market integration of diversified agrifood systems that are responsive to climate change;
- expansion to other countries within the geographic priorities of our donors; and
- collaboration across borders and increased exchanges of experience at the regional level.

Throughout 2024, the extended FFF team will consult with FFPOs, governments and, importantly, current and potential donors. This process will take place in close consultation and collaboration with our Steering Committee as part of our pledge to ensure the essence of FFF is maintained.

Through our institutional experience and working with our Steering Committee, we acknowledge that Indigenous People need differentiated treatment when it comes to our support. Hence specific activities will be designed, and adequate social and environmental safeguards and grievance mechanisms will be in place when receiving requests for support from Indigenous People.



Throughout the course of Phase II, our collaborative efforts with FFPOs have focused on enhancing their capacity to mobilize finance and autonomously manage projects. Witnessing the remarkable progress of these organizations, we take pride in their evolution into self-sustained entities, equipped with the ability to mobilize financial resources and manage projects independently. FFPOs graduating from direct FFF support as beneficiaries will be invited to play a mentoring role to other FFPOs in the countries where they operate.

Moving towards Phase III, our vision encompasses not only continued support for our established partners but also the strategic introduction of new FFPOs into our network. The inclusion of new FFPOs will entail thoughtful strategizing to identify regions and communities where our impact can be maximized, building upon previous success and capitalizing on lessons learned.

In essence, our goal is to catalyse a broader and more profound transformation. By nurturing both currently supported and additional FFPOs, we aim to create a sustainable ecosystem of financial empowerment and community development that leaves a lasting legacy. Together, we can continue to build resilient communities and empower individuals within the FFPOs to shape their own destinies.

The aim is to step into a larger, more ambitious Phase III that fosters collaboration among FFPOs old and new. We additionally want to promote collaborations among countries in the same region, focusing on exchanges of experiences between FFPOs in the same biome and under similar socio-environmental contexts. We are having active discussions with our resource partners to understand how our projects and strategic direction will ensure thematic alignment with donor key performance indicators and geographic priorities.

Phase III will come with significant improvements to our program aimed at enhancing our transparency and accountability with a robust system for processing funding requests and managing information and a monitoring system able to gather Means of Verification for the implemented LoAs and DBGs in a single place.



6 Budget highlights

In 2023, we spent 76 percent of the planned budget, totalling USD 8.29 million, FFF's highest ever annual expenditure (increased from last year's high of USD 7.86 million). Commitments in contracts were 81 percent of the original budget as per the 2023 Work Plan, meaning USD 5.35 million went to forest and farm producer organizations through LoAs (45 percent of total expenditures) and DBGs (20 percent of total expenditures).

The budget increase reflects the contribution of additional resources from our generous donors. A recently signed grant with FCDO arrived at the end of the financial year and will enable further allocation of funds to forest and farm producers.

Please note that the figures presented in this section of the annual report are preliminary since FAO's financial system is undergoing an equalization process at the time of submitting this report.

Table 1. Summary and global expenditure, 2023

Description	Approved	Expenditures	Remaining Balance
Professional Salaries	1,127,000	826,086	300,914
General Service Salaries	263,000	167,939	95,061
Consultants	750,000	602,271	147,729
Contracts	6,650,000	5,354,742	1,295,258
DBGs		1,636,889	-1,636,889
LOAs	6,650,000	3,717,853	2,932,147
Locally Contracted Labour	1,448	4,920	-3,472
Travel	675,000	410,715	264,285
Training	220,000	181,677	38,323
Expendable Procurement	18,000	8,182	9,818
Non-Expendable Procurement	18,000	3,598	14,402
Hospitality	6,000	2,004	3,996
TSS	510,000	202,262	307,738
Secondments	508,285	201,571	306,714
Report Costs	-	0	0
Mid-Term Evaluation	-	0	0
Environmental Safeguard	2,078	691	1,387
GOE	15,600	65,510	-49,910
GOE -External	10,000	1,915	8,085
GOE- Internal	10,000	3,281	6,719
Subtotal	10,274,411	7,835,102	2,439,309
Psc 5.9%	606,190	462,271	143,919
Total	10,880,601	8,297,373	2,583,228



Table 2. Total revenue, by donor, 2018-2025

FFF_GCP/GLO/931/MUL Contributions by Donor									
GCP/GLO/931/MUL	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total by Donor
Sweden	2,780,558	3,674,541	2,588,997	3,012,411	1,978,827	2,423,420	2,423,420		18,882,174
Finland		1,579,466	760,043						2,339,509
IKEA		128,475		139,535					268,010
GIZ	849,934			1,824,818					2,674,752
The Netherlands		100,000	170,000	295,000	150,000	318,134			1,033,134
US			200,000	100,000	550,000	500,000			1,350,000
BMZ				8,532,110	4,888,438	4,940,924	4,064,516	4,688,172	27,114,160
UK						5,507,956	1,835,985	2,447,980	9,791,922
Total (a)	3,630,492	5,482,482	3,719,040	13,903,874	7,567,265	13,690,434	8,323,921	7,136,152	63,453,660

FFF_ Contributions under different projects									
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total by Donor
FMM/GLO/147/MUL			500,000	500,000	500,000				1,500,000
GCP/GLO/397/EC	454,104	279,975	621,471						1,355,550
GCP/INT/054/GER	153,759	175,224							328,983
Total (b)	607,863	455,199	1,121,471	500,000	500,000				3,184,533

GLOBAL FFF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM RESOURCE PARTNERS									
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
Grand-Total (a+b)	4238355	5,937,681	4,840,511	14,403,874	8,067,265	13,690,434	8,323,921	7,136,152	66,638,193



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Annex 1: Summary of country progress in FFF core countries

1. Bolivia

Strengthening climate resilience by making sustainable forest management integral to business development



Figure 1. Selection and processing of Asai by FFPO members supported by FFF

1.1 History of FFF engagement in Bolivia

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is home to 38 indigenous peoples, among the most economically disadvantaged in South America despite possessing a rich biocultural heritage. Approximately 68% of Bolivia's land is covered by forests (62.7 million hectares). However, deforestation from 2002 to 2019 resulted in a loss of 5.68 million hectares of tree cover, with 49% occurring in humid primary forests. This loss, driven primarily by the expansion of commodity agriculture, has escalated since 2016, exacerbated by widespread fires.

The first phase of the FFF was launched in September 2012, followed by the initiation of FFF Phase II in 2018. The implementation involves collaborative efforts between the Network of Agricultural and Forestry Producers' Organizations of Bolivia (ROPAF) and the Ministry of Rural Development and Lands (MDRyT), with technical support from FAO and various partners. The second phase, launched on September 14, 2018, and a baseline study conducted in May 2019, led to the selection of the Amazon basin and the Chiquitania forest as the targeted intervention areas. The FFF national advisory committee oversees a five-year work plan, aligning with national policies such as Bolivia's Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) 2016-2020 and several sectoral policies.

Under the strategic guidelines of the FFF, all projects financed from 2018 to 2023 through Investment Support Agreements - DBGs, seek to strengthen the integral and sustainable management of the territory; the integral and sustainable management of the forest; the establishment of more efficient, resilient, inclusive and sustainable production systems based on forestry or agricultural activities; the articulation of the value chain with the market; and the promotion of gender equity, inclusion of youth and Indigenous peoples. A 4th and 5th competitive calls for proposals were carried out during 2022 and 2023, allowing the signing of DBGs for seven producer organizations presented in the map below and further described in the following section.

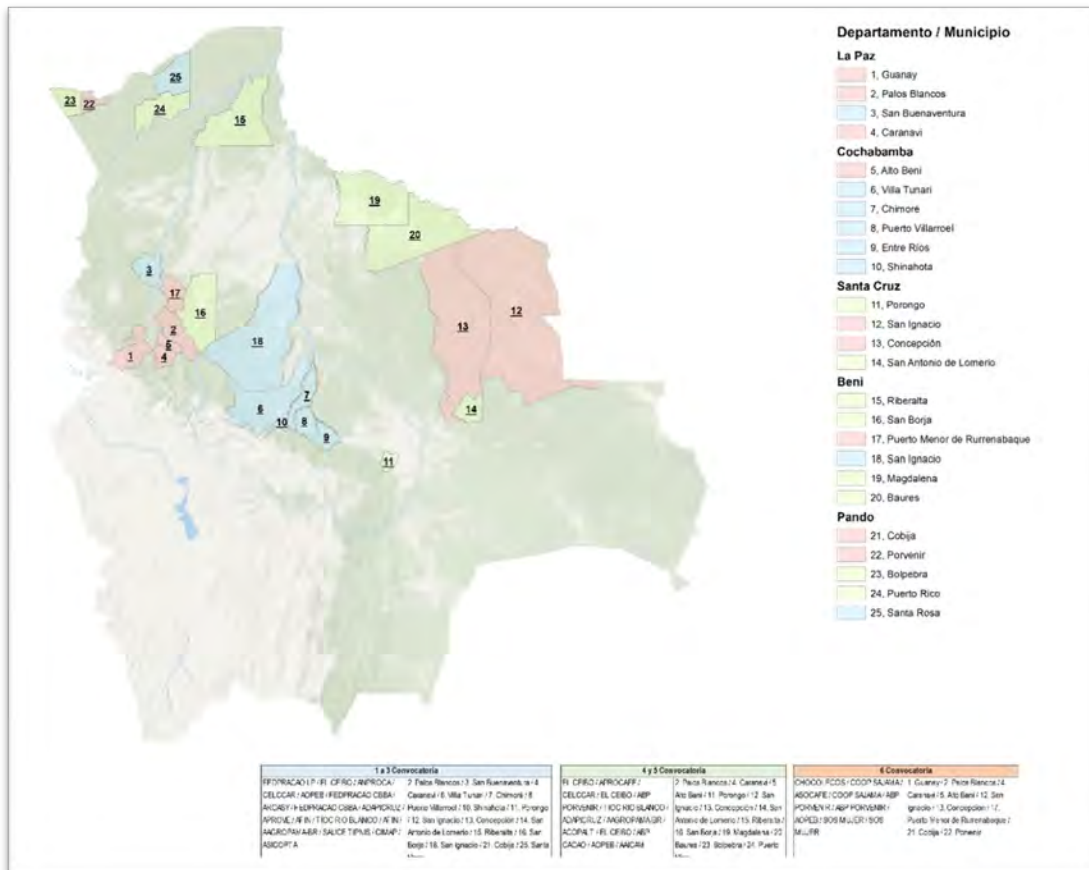


Figure 2. Map of FFF implementation in Bolivia

1.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Bolivia

FFF Bolivia supports 7 FFPOs representing 1,449 households responsible for 93,305 hectares with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 65,642 (an increase of 54,433 hectares from 2022).

Table 1. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Bolivia

No	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	Agricultural Association of Amazonian Producers of Majo and Asaí Buen Retiro (AAGROPAMA-BR) 180 households and 3,309 hectares	Products from the fruits from the Asaí and Majo forests	1 Departament Beni, 1 Municipality (Riberalta) "Buen Retiro"
2	Agro Integral Association of the Los Mandarinos Farming Community (AAICAM) 96 households and 11,766 hectares	Products from the fruits of the Brazil nut forest	1 Departament Pando, 1 Municipality (Puerto Rico) "Los Mandarinos"
3	Porvenir Forest Producers' Association (APB Porvenir) 381 households and 40,000 hectares	Products from the fruits from the Asaí and Palma Real forests	1 Departament Santa Cruz, 1 Municipality (San Ignacio) "TCO Bajo Paragua"
4	Association of Beekeepers of the Department of Santa Cruz (ADAPICRUZ) 228 households and 22,000 hectares	Honey and apiculture	1 Departament Santa Cruz, 2 Municipalities (San Antonio, Porongo) "San Lorenzo, El Portuguez"
5	Río Blanco Indigenous Community, TIOC Monte Verde (Rio Blanco) 94 households and 4,730 hectares	Non-timber forest products (Oleoresin and Copaibo) and timber products	1 Departament Santa Cruz, 1 Municipality (Concepción) "Rio Blanco"
6	Association of Ecological Producers' Organizations of Bolivia (AOPEB) 470 households and 11,500 hectares	Products from the fruits of the Brazil nut forest	1 Departament Pando, 1 Municipality (Bolpebra) "Bolpebra"
7	National Association of Coffee Producers (ANPROCA ¹) 1,120 households on 400 hectares	Organic Coffee	1 Departament La Paz, Municipalities: Caranavi

1.3 Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Strength in numbers within FFPOs gives people the power to shape policies – and during 2023, Bolivian FFPOs have continued to strengthen their capacity to participate in decision-making forums. At the national level, FFPOs participated in the development of the “Third Bolivian Congress on Climate Change: Water Security and Non-Carbon Benefits,” generating 70 project proposals, 90 spaces for dialogue, and 17 stands to promote the construction of a climate agenda, supported by 52 institutions (public and private) belonging to the steering committee. Through AOPEB, the apex-level organization, the FFPOs also contributed to the development of the National Agenda for Strengthening Family Farming, Agroecological and Non-timber Forest Production, specifically on the adaptation and regulation of the Law for the promotion of ecological agricultural and non-timber forest production and the creation of the ROPAF technical roundtable to carry out political advocacy on the agenda prioritized by the affiliated FFPOs. They also worked with the MDRyT in the formulation processes of the second phase of 3 national programs:

¹ Banco Fassil, the financial institution in which ANPROCA (4th Call) had its institutional bank account, was declared bankrupt and intervened by the Bolivian State, which made it necessary to terminate the Agreement before its termination, following the procedures established by FAO.

"National Program for the Integral and Sustainable Management of Amazonian Fruits", "National Program for the Use of Wild Cacao" and "National Program to Strengthen Ecological Coffee Growing".

At the local level, ADAPICRUZ and RIO BLANCO have worked with the Autonomous Departmental Government of Santa Cruz to formulate and approve the Law and Departmental Program for Forest and Landscape Restoration. With the active participation of FFPO representatives, technical teams prepared these two regulatory and strategic planning instruments. The Departmental Council of Santa Cruz has already approved the Law, and the Program is being revised for inclusion in the 2024 budget planning. AAGROPAMA contributed to preparing the Institutional Strategic Plan of the Departmental Federation of Asaí Beni (FEDEPABENI) and promoting departmental Amazonian fruits. Likewise, they participated in the National Platform of Bolivian Amazonian Fruits to share technical information on the asaí sector and the formulation of public policies.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Efficient aggregation at scale, improving production quality, and more entrepreneurial marketing have become hallmarks of Bolivian FFPOs with the support of FFF. In 2023, the FFPOs in Bolivia worked mainly in value chains of asaí, majo, copaibo, Brazil nut, cocoa, Palma Real, honey and coffee. There have been several improvements in production, infrastructure, and marketing. In terms of production, they have moved from artisanal to semi-industrial production, which allows them to increase their capacity to process Asaí and Majo pulp, for example. Through the support of the FFF and after achieving strategic alliances with FEDEPABENI (supported by the FFF through AAGROPAMA) and other FFPOs, it was possible to standardize the processes of good manufacturing practices, bagging, storage, and transportation. These improvements enabled them to reach commercial agreements to supply the domestic market through Bolivian government institutions. For example, AAGROPAMA and APB PORVENIR initially only marketed in local markets in the immediate communities; currently, they are supplying their products to the public institutions "Empresa Boliviana de Alimentos" - EBA and "Servicio de Desarrollo de Empresas Públicas" - SEDEM, which allows them to reach markets with national coverage with their products. The demand requested by the government through EBA and SEDEM for the 2023 harvest was 250 metric tons (MT) of Asaí pulp.

Regarding infrastructure, AAICAM and AOPEB improved storage capacity by establishing a Brazil nut collection center, which allowed them to collect nearly 14,000 kg of Brazil nuts from the year's harvest, subsequently sold to EBA. In terms of marketing, ADAPICRUZ improved market segmentation to sell the honey according to the four regions of origin, allowing greater demand for the product. Rio Blanco has also improved its production and processing practices, enabling them to produce at least a dozen new products oriented to different market niches, such as medicinal, health, and beauty products.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

Climate action is advancing strongly, and the FFPOs of the FFF in Bolivia have increased the areas under integrated and sustainable management plans and national and third-party organic certifications for export. AAGROPAMA formulated and received approval for the "General Plan for integral management" of its harvesting area for sustainable harvesting of Asaí and Majo and conservation of a forest area of 2,724 ha. Some FFPOs carried out tree

censuses to implement sustainable management and conservation plans. For example, AAICAM and AOPEB implemented a census for Brazil nuts, where the former determined an area of 1,004 ha. for sustainable management and conservation, and the latter did the same for an area of 1,400 ha. and established harvesting trails and collection sites. Rio Blanco carried out a census for Copaibo trees and established an area of 2,500 ha. for sustainable management. APB Porvenir managed to consolidate the Voluntary Forest Certification and International Seal to ensure that the harvesting of Asai is organic for an area of 40,000 ha. ADAPICRUZ established an average conservation area of 200 ha. of forest for every 25 established apiaries and proposed a "Certification of beekeeping and forest use" for approximately 200 community and family apiaries, strengthening forest conservation in 10,000 ha. Overall, governance through sustainable management instruments that guarantee the integral and sustainable management of the forests increased this year by approximately 57,628 ha.

The FFPOs have also made progress in mainstreaming climate change into their operations. For example, ADAPICRUZ did an assessment of climate change effects in beekeeping areas and an analysis of beekeeping sector policies, and RIO BLANCO and APB Porvenir created an instrument for risk management focused on forest fires.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

Promoting inclusion to leave no one behind is often a key theme of FFPOs. So, while Bolivian FFPOs supported by FFF have usually focused primarily on providing services related to production and finance to their members, there are corollary activities that FFPOs undertake to enable access to these services. For example, some FFPOs like AAGROPAMA use their seed capital for social services, study support, and acquiring technical assistance for association members. Some FFPOs work to facilitate access for their members to public social protection services from the government at different levels and attention through public policies.

Gender inclusion is a key theme. FFPOs have also been working with FFF to provide training and workshops on gender issues, specifically raising awareness of the gender approach to strengthening women's socioemotional skills, including self-esteem and resilience. Four training events were held, including three workshops on the development of socio-emotional skills, with a total of 317 female participants, 181 male participants, and 38 young men and women, for a total of 536.

2. Ecuador

Indigenous innovations such as the Muyu Raymi National Fair enhance agrobiodiverse production based on traditional knowledge



Figure 3. Display of agrobiodiversity – and community-managed seed in Ecuador.

2.1 History of FFF engagement in Ecuador

Ecuador, recognized as one of the 17 "megadiverse" countries globally, houses between 5% and 10% of the world's biodiversity. Approximately one-third of Ecuador's land is designated as protected areas, and natural forests cover 51% of the total land area. Despite these efforts, Ecuador experienced a 4.3% reduction in tree cover, equivalent to the loss of 822,000ha from 2001 to 2019. The country embraces the principles of "living well" (Buen Vivir) and is committed to fostering a public 'bioeconomy.' Since 2018, the Ecuadorian government has aligned its policies with the Agenda 2030 and associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to shape public initiatives. This setting proves conducive to supporting FFPOs.

FFF was initiated in Ecuador in October 2018 after receiving a positive response from the 'Consortium of Producer Organizations of Napo Province,' which comprises four indigenous peoples FFPOs and is backed by the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment (MAE). A National Advisory Committee, including the apex Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE), was established. The FFF project was initially launched in Napo and later extended to Imbabura province in a second competitive call for proposals from local FFPOs. For the third call, the intervention area encompassed Napo and Orellana provinces in the Amazon region, Imbabura and Tungurahua provinces in the Andean region, and Manabí province in the Coast region. In the fourth call, the intervention area covered Napo and Orellana provinces in the Amazon region, Imbabura

province in the Andean region, and Manabí and Esmeraldas provinces in the Coast region. The fifth call included Napo, Orellana, and Pastaza provinces in the Amazon region and Imbabura province in the Andean region, with the FFPO in Imbabura leading a project spanning seven provinces: Napo, Orellana, Pastaza, Imbabura, Tungurahua, Manabí, and Esmeraldas.

The ongoing sixth call aims to expand the intervention area of FFF, primarily focusing on the Amazon region. This includes the provinces of Napo, Orellana, Pastaza, Morona Santiago, and Zamora Chinchipe, along with the Andean provinces of Imbabura and Loja. Moreover, the sixth call is open to FFPOs with projects of national scope.

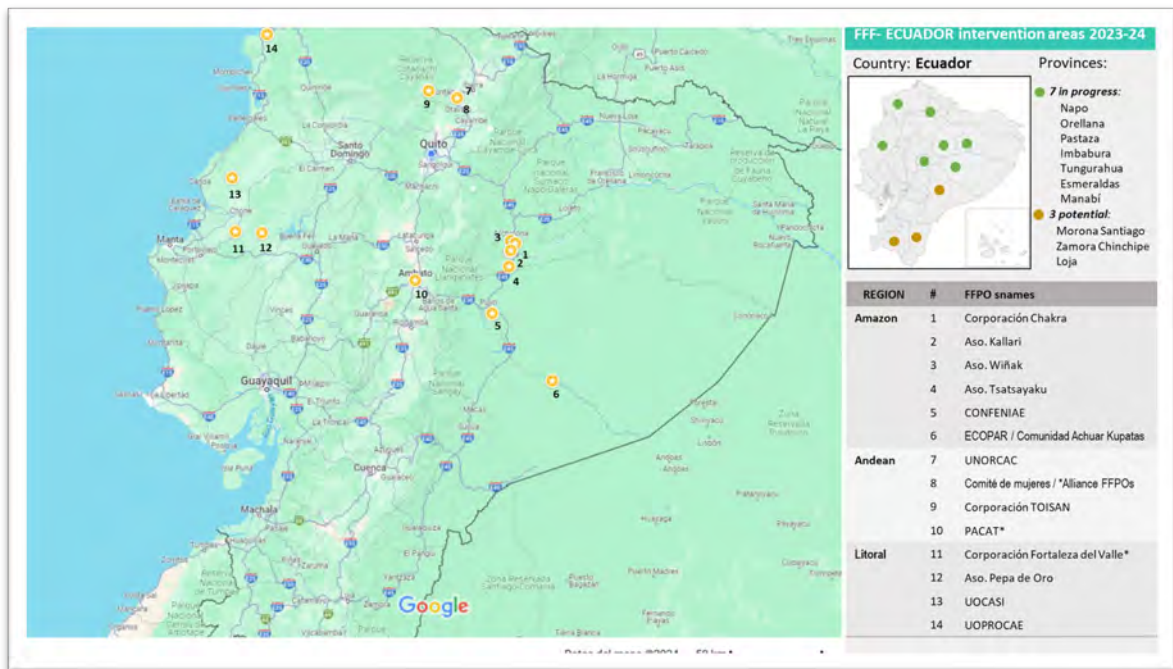


Figure 4. Map of FFF implementation in Ecuador

2.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Ecuador

In 2023, Ecuador FFF supported 11 FFPOs representing 4,038 households responsible for 138,588 hectares with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 10,936 (an increase of 6,558 hectares from 2022).

Table 2. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Ecuador.

No	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	Corporation of Amazon Chakra Associations (Chakra Corporation) 854 households and 1,200 hectares	Cocoa, cocoa paste, vanilla, sacha inchi, guayusa, ishpingo, cinnamon, muyu legs, barraganete banana	Napo and Orellana provinces. Cantons: Tena, Archidona, Carlos Julio Arosemena, Loreto
2	Association of Agricultural, Livestock and Fish Production of Napo (Kallari) 330 households and 1,320 hectares	Cocoa, Guayusa, Vanilla, Tourism chain	Napo province, Tena canton
3	Women's Committee of the Union of Peasant and Indigenous Organisations of Cotacachi (UNORCAC) 420 households and 420 hectares	Value chain of peasant family agriculture	Canton: Cotacachi, Province: Imbabura
4	Kupatas Indigenous Community (ECOPAR) 56 households and 1,200 hectares	Technical assistance for forest value chain	Pastaza province. Cantons: Pastaza
5	Wiñak Agro Artisanal Association (Wiñak) 598 households and 1,293 hectares	Cocoa, chocolate, banana (platanó) & chips, guayusa, handicrafts, agri-tourism.	Napo province. Archidona canton. Zones: Santa Rita, San Pablo, Rukullakta, Mondayacu, Uckar, Tena, Santa Clara
6	Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) 208 households	Various	Amazon region
7	Association of Fine Aroma Cocoa Producers of Carlos Julio Arosemena Tola (Tsatsayaku) 180 households and 180 hectares	Cocoa, chocolate, cocoa paste, cocoa butter, guayusa. Agri-tourism.	Napo province. Carlos Julio Arosemena canton.
8	TOISAN Consortium 180 households and 126,967	Coffee, fruits, banana flour, pulps, ice cream, chocolate, beans, dairy, aloe vera cosmetics, hygiene products staff in natural fibers, cabuya handicrafts, agrotourism, adventure tourism, social tourism	Imbabura and Pichincha province. Cantons: Cotacachi, Otavalo Urucuqui, Quito
9	Union of Cocoa Producers' Organisations Arriba Esmeraldas (UOPROCAE) 453 households and 5,858	Premium fine-aroma cocoa beans with organic and fair trade certification	Esmeraldas province. Cantons: Atacames, Muisne, Rioverde, Esmeraldas.
10	Union of Peasant Organisations of San Isidro (UOCASI) 724 households and 100 hectares	Roasted and ground coffee, pasta, and chili sauce. Services: corn drying, postharvest of coffee and cocoa (pulped, fermentation, and drying), threshing and grinding of coffee	Manabí province. Sucre canton. San Isidro Parish.
11	La Pepa de Oro de Membrillo Handicraft Association (Pepa de oro)	Purchase and sale of national cacao with organic	Manabí province. Calceta canton. Membrillo parish.

	35 households and 50 hectares	certification. Production and sale of bio-inputs	
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2.3 Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Productive FFPO-government policy partnerships in Ecuador are emerging to optimize outcomes for people and nature. Through the support of FFF, FFPOs have been working with the government to improve existing legislation and gather information for more productive advocacy in global policy spaces where they participate. For example, FFPOs have been participating in the reform of Ministerial Agreement No. 034 to develop a more specific definition of bio-enterprises and sustainable production models. Additionally, FFF has begun supporting an LoA focused on forest management legislation; MAATE proposed this project to get inputs to improve the normative linked to timber and non-timber forest products. To strengthen the FFPOs' participation in global policy spaces, FFF-Ecuador has supported CONFENIAE in achieving a portfolio of Amazon bio-enterprises. CONFENIAE now has a database with information on 55 bio-enterprises of the 11 nationalities of the five provinces of the Amazon Region. This information supports the advocate actions of CONFENIAE in global incidence spaces, such as COP28. At the local level, TOISAN has improved the collective action and participation of the 21 Watershed Councils to consolidate the governance process of the Intag-Toisán Municipal Conservation and Sustainable Use Area (ACUSMIT) for the articulated implementation of its environmental management plan. The 21 Watershed Councils are part of the governance structure of ACUSMIT with local governments (7 parishes), Cantonal Unit Assembly, and Municipal government. To date, 19 governance strengthening workshops have been held at ACUSMIT, as well as a meeting of the ACUSMIT watershed council.

Finally, FFF-Ecuador has supported the formation of a national alliance of FFPOs. This is a collective space where FFPOs can discuss global challenges such as climate change and exchange knowledge about how FFPOs are addressing them with their local practices and actions. This national collective helps producers face local and global issues. In addition, FFPOs are part of the recently created Latin-American knowledge alliance in the Bolivia regional exchange done this year.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Stronger FFPO entrepreneurship and self-mobilized finance are driving out poverty through better agricultural and manufacturing practices. In 2023, FFF Ecuador directed its efforts towards strengthening key value chains such as cocoa, coffee, guayusa teas, vanilla, dried fruits, traditional beverages, bananas, handicrafts, and community tourism. Entrepreneurial progress encompassed better production, marketing, trade, and internal finance. FFPOs have adopted good agricultural practices (GAP), good manufacturing practices (GMP), and other internal control systems to foster the quality and food safety of their raw and processed foods. For example, WIÑAK has implemented GAP, GMP, hazard analysis critical control points (HACCP), and integrated pest management (IPM) in its Guayusa value chain, and UOCASI has strengthened its internal control system to improve the quality of coffee products. TSATSAYAKU has diversified the chakras of its members with native bees and vanilla to increase the potential to generate new value chains.

Marketing strategies saw a shift towards demand-driven product development and commercialization. FFPOs conducted market studies to inform their approaches, with WIÑAK leading the way in developing value-added products like Guayusa teas, Amazon cinnamon, lemon verbena, and Stevia. TOISAN worked on negotiation skills and associative marketing, UOPROCAE elevated its online presence, and UOCASI secured stable markets through strategic commercial agreements with local cafes and shops.

Lastly, FFPOs have focused on internal finance mobilization in different ways, such as prioritizing improving their members' financial skills and encouraging saving schemes. For example, TSATSAYAKU has strengthened the administrative-financial capacities of its MUSHUK KAUSAY community savings bank. Furthermore, with the support of FFF, the Ecuadorian National Network of FFPOs (ROPAFE) has begun a general assessment of the current state of the internal financial mechanisms of each FFPO. The next step will be developing a training program on financial education to improve the financial skills of FFPOs and their members. The most advanced is UNORCAC and its central women's committee, which have formal and informal financial mechanisms: "Santa Anita" savings and credit cooperative and community savings banks, respectively. These capacities are being scaled through ROPAFE.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

Full-spectrum climate action is mainstreamed by many Ecuadorian FFPOs, with inclusive, climate-adaptive strategies that increase mitigation and climate resilience. For example, TOISAN has implemented trainings in sustainable agricultural management practices, monitoring of natural resources (hydrological gauging, climatological station, early warning of deforestation) in micro-basins, water harvesting, and soil regeneration (keyline hydrological design) following its environmental management plan. UOCASI has implemented a demonstration plot for teaching and sharing ideas about agroforestry systems to increase reliance to face climate change. Pepa de Oro Association has begun with the parameterization of their cocoa agroforestry plots. CONFENIAE has developed a curriculum for its indigenous bioeconomy school.

FFPOs have implemented a tree-planting strategy to enrich their agroforestry systems and improve their resilience to climate change. UPROCAE, for example, has trained young people to implement and manage tree nurseries to improve the forest layer within cocoa agroforestry systems. Another example is UOCASI, which also works with young people, mainly women, to establish tree nurseries with fruit and timber trees. This strategy also increases the capacities of young women to manage tree nurseries and control pests with an agroecological approach.

Lastly, FFPOs have worked on developing new renewable energy sources based on community governance arrangements. For example, TOISAN has piloted and developed an innovative technology for hydro-energy and as a contribution to the goal of decarbonization and restoration of hydrographic micro-basins.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

FFPOs in Ecuador are becoming centers of education services on various socially and culturally relevant topics. Most of the FFPOs focus on providing these trainings to youth and women. The trainings involve re-evaluating the biocultural heritage and traditional knowledge in productive activities. For example, TSAYAKU has trained at least 15 members to strengthen their gastronomic ventures based on Amazonian agrobiodiversity.

The UNORCAC's women's committee led the organization for the national seed fair "Muyu Raymi" with the participation of all FFPOs of the national network/alliance of Ecuadorian FFPOs to showcase the gastronomic-cultural heritage of FFPOs nationwide. "Muyu Raymi" has been positioned as a multifunctional space to exchange native seeds, agrifood products, and indigenous knowledge, making the Andean and Amazon gastronomic heritage visible. Additionally, communication material for the fair was produced to make visible the role of the FFPOs in the management of sustainable agri-food systems and their interrelation with the maintenance of the cultures of peoples and nationalities.

3. Ghana

Innovative value addition turning post-harvest timber waste into sustainable charcoal for better environment and higher incomes



Figure 5. PADO staff unloading charcoal made from timber harvest waste from Kilns on June 2023 (Picture credit: Stephen Mwangi/IIED)

3.1 History of FFF engagement

Between 2010 and 2020, Ghana recorded a modest forest growth of 0.05% or 4,300 ha, mainly due to forest plantations. Despite this slight positive trend, the conversion of forested land for agriculture and commercial logging continues to contribute to deforestation in all ecological zones of Ghana. FFF was launched in Ghana in November 2018 with a scoping study and selection of apex FFPOs and small grantees through calls for proposals. In 2019, FFF Ghana signed LoAs with four apex FFPOs and eight small grantees – focusing initially on policy advocacy through outcome one while preparing for broader support – helping establish and launch the Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (GhaFFaP) and multi-stakeholder cross-sectoral platforms at grassroot, zonal and national levels. FFF Ghana also helped establish a national business incubation team (BIT) with MA&D processes initiated in 2019, producing business plans for a “basket of products” for FFPOs in each ecological zone throughout 2020 and 2021 – generating internal finance through Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) Schemes.

GhaFFaP launched in 2020 with a strategy to establish (i) a national dialogue series (focusing on access to finance and markets), (ii) sustainable financial transformation of FFPOs using the village savings and loans scheme, (iii) ‘Green Ghana’ branding for promoting environmental campaigns and integrated landscapes, and (iv) a program to promote sustainable charcoal production. By 2021, many of these strategic initiatives were well underway – including pilots of green charcoal production in national wood fuel dialogues. As COVID-19 hit, FFF helped FFPOs reduce the impact on their members, focusing on the social protection elements of Outcome 4 along with preparatory work with the RAF social protection focal point and the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social

Protection. In 2022, FFF Ghana focused on three pilot landscapes, with pilot satellite business hubs to provide business incubation services and profitable multiple value chains linked to the three pilot landscapes. These landscapes will have solar-powered water systems for year-round integrated green and diversified production and creation of carbon assets in line with the GhaFFaP Innovative Climate Action Strategy and the UN Decade for Family Farming and Ecosystem Restoration. Evidence of the major landscape investments is expected to show in 2023.

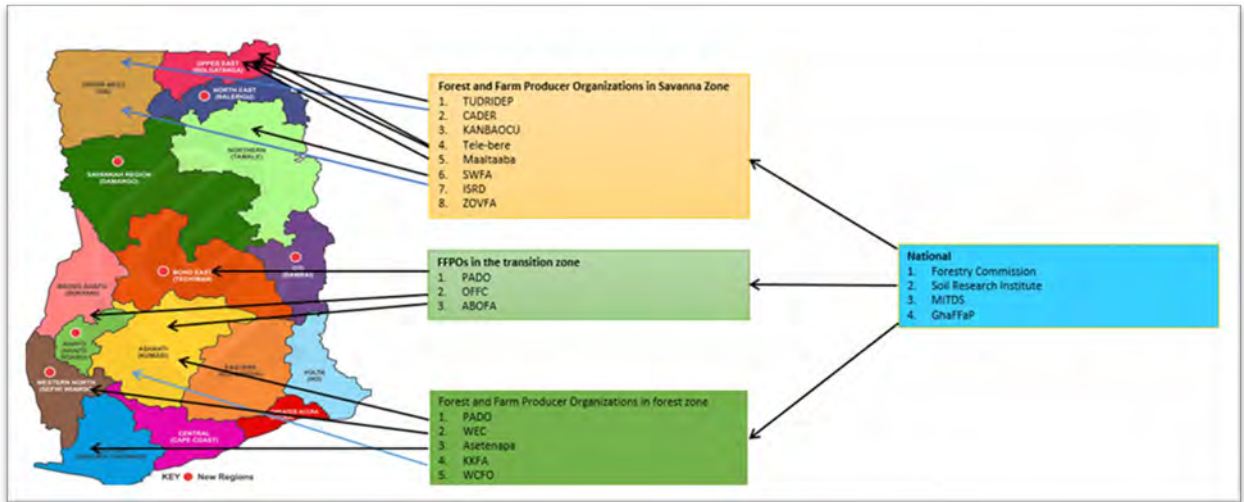


Figure 6. Map of implementation in Ghana

3.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Ghana.

FFF Ghana supports thirteen FFPOs representing 51,491 households responsible for 105,701 hectares with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 24,108 (following a slight recalibration of area estimates from 2022).

Table 3. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Ghana

No	Name of FFPOs	Main products,	Location
1	Abrono Organic Farmers Association (ABOFA) 6,000 members, 1,000 hectares	Cashew, Mango, cocoa, moringa	Bono East Region, Transition ecological zone
2	Private Afforestation Developers Organization (PADO), 152 members, 14,000 hectares	Plantation timber, cocoa, and cashew	Ashanti region, Forest ecological zone
3	Kookoo Pa Farmers Association (KKFA), 11,200 members, 29, 972 hectares	Cocoa, cashew, and black pepper	Ashanti region, Forest ecological zone
4	Kassena Nankana Baobab Cooperative Union (KANBAOCU), 13362 members, 26,724 hectares	Baobab, shea, and sorghum	Upper East Region, Savanna ecological zone
5	Zuuri Organic Farmers Association (ZOVFA), 4,250 members, 7,750 hectares	Baobab, shea, and traditional vegetation	Upper East Region, Savanna ecological zone
6	Community Action in Development and Research (CADER), 1,500 members, 150 hectares	Groundnuts, soya beans and sorghum	Upper West Region, Savanna ecological zone
7	Tele-bere Village Savings and Loans Association (Tele-bere), 5,850 members, 750 hectares	Straw baskets, shea, and traditional vegetation	Upper East Region, Savanna ecological zone
8	Savanna Women Farmers Association (SWFA), 3,721 members, 1,475 hectares	Shea, soya beans and sorghum	Northern Region, Savanna Ecological zone
9	Maaltaaba Peasant Women Farmers Association (Maaltaaba), 320 members, 200 hectares	Livestock, cowpea, vegetables, shea, and basketry	Upper East Region, Savanna Ecological zone
10	Asetenapa Co-Operative Cocoa Farming and Marketing Society Limited (Asetenapa), 539 members, 835 hectares	Cocoa and cashew	Eastern Region, Forest Ecological zone
11	Offinso Fine Flavor Cocoa Farmers Cooperative and Marketing Society Limited (OFFC), 540 members, 1,467 hectares	Cocoa and cashew	Ashanti Region, Forest Ecological zone
12	Wassa East District (Ccp) Co-Operative Cocoa Farmers and Marketing Union Limited (WEC), 3114 members, 21,328 hectares	Cocoa and cashew	Western North Region, Forest Ecological zone
13	Innovations for Sustainable Rural Development (ISRD), 943 members, 50 hectares	Shea, cashews, vegetables, groundnuts, soya and maize	Upper West Region, Savanna Zone
14	Forestry Commission of Ghana (FC)	Forest regulation	National statutory regulator
15	Millar Institute of Transdisciplinary and Development Studies (MITDS)	Academic and Research Institution	Upper East Region, Savanna Ecological Zone
16	Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (GhaFFaP)	Apex federation	National

3.3 Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

In 2023, Ghana's FFF, through the Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (GhaFFaP), has continued its facilitation with all 13 FFPOs, all now with written advocacy strategies, to lead policy dialogues at three levels, including five grassroots round tables, two zonal round tables at the sub-national level (forest and savanna); 1 national dialogue involving 1073 FFPO members. The involvement of traditional authorities in these dialogues has proved particularly helpful in advancing a gender empowerment strategy, securing land for women within seven women-led or women-majority FFPOs.

GhaFFaP and six other FFPOs listed below had specific impacts on 13 different policy or decision-making processes, including (i) upscaling the grass charcoal pilot and organic charcoal briquettes as well as holding dialogue of integrated actors with MITDS in contributing towards the national renewable energy policy (ii) advancing tree tenure (including pilot tree registration) for cocoa farmers committed to deforestation-free cocoa strategy with the FC-. FFF, in partnership with FMM in 2023, conducted a pilot tree registration towards promoting tree tenure in cocoa landscapes; (iv) pushing for increased access of land access for women as part of ISRD grassroots advocacy agenda-this initiative resulted in traditional rulers and landowners committing to release a five hectare of farmland to 120 female farmers from 5 women groups under ISRD operational areas for cashew cultivation; (v) pushing for inclusion and access of social protection services for members of WEC FFPO- resulting in 5 males and 13 females accessing NHIS and LEAP at the District Level; (vi) facilitated grassroots advocacy between ISRD and traditional rulers and landowners enabling release a five (5)-hectare farmland to 120 female farmers from 5 women groups under ISRD operational areas for cashew cultivation.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Efforts are bearing fruit to embed a business incubation mentality into apex FFPOs such that those who do business teach business. In 2023, the main value chains targeted by FFF Ghana across the three regions included plantation timber, cocoa, cashew, mango, moringa, baobab, shea, parkia, beans, onion, black pepper, groundnuts, soya beans, straw baskets, cassava, plantain, vegetables, maize, sorghum, yams, livestock, mushrooms, and honey.

All five FFPOs (TELE BERE, OFFC, PADO, SWFA, ZOVFA) have benefited from generic trainings on business incubation and risk management and various other business training. For example, additional entrepreneurship trainings fell into nine main thematic areas: (i) trainings conducted on shea butter branding and packing involving 153 women from SWFA (ii) training of 327 women from SWFA on beekeeping and organizing them into 150 groups ; (iii) training of 107 SWFA women on dawawa processing (iv) one training session for ten youths from OFFC in mushroom production (resulting in a mushroom production center); (v) 18 OFFC members trained on financial management, governance, and leadership by Agrittera (vi) Participatory market system development for 600 Tele-beré VSLA members (550 women, 50 men); (vii) Market access and value chain development for 700 members of Tele-beré VSLA (550 women, 150 men); (viii) trainings on soap making for

850 members from 5 Tere bere groups (including 340 youth); (ix) access to finance training to 165 members of PADO (30 men and 135 youth) ;

As a result of this training investment, new businesses emerged for soap manufacture, moringa soap, soya beans, and mushrooms. All 13 FFPOs are now conducting some form of ongoing business incubation for their members, such as market links and price negotiations, support for product aggregation and value addition, access to finance and business services, and exploring new value chains. For example, in 2023, PADO wrote a proposal to the World Resource Institute through AFR100 and successfully attracted a low-interest loan facility of \$100,000 to facilitate farm development and management. At the same time, PADO is exploring whether it can gain more from its plantations through access to the carbon credit market.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

Climate resilience is often built through diversification of production and marketing that encourage smallholders to integrate forest and farm activities. In 2023, Ghana's FFF supported the scale-up of forest landscape restoration and integrated green landscapes through such approaches. Estimates for 2023 suggest that 13 FFPOs, including PADO, Asetenapa Cooperative, Wassa East Cooperative, OFFC, KKFA, ABOFA, ISR, SWFA, CADER, KANBAOCU, Maaltaaba, Tele-bere, and ZOVFA collectively have undertaken protection, restoration, or sustainable forest management of 28,041 ha forest and farmland in the three ecological zones.

In total, 8 FFPOs, including KANBAOCU, Kokoo Pa, Maltaaba, Tere Bere, OFFCOP, and SWFA, have developed climate resilience plans. The FFPOs are implementing these plans with elements like agroecology and other smart agriculture practices like composting, microbial fertilizer application, and irrigation. 28 FFPO staff (18 men and 10 women) have been trained in climate change adaptation or resilient practices to enhance their capacity to deal with climate-related risks.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

Representation by FFPOs can often help unblock access to government-provided social protection services. For example, in 2023, FFF support has led to a partnership and collaboration between GhaFFaP and the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection (MoGCSP), providing social protection capacity to FFPOs to increase access to existing social protection benefits for FFPOs. 14,245 members (15.4% male, 55.3% women, and 29.3% youth) from 5 FFPOs (Tere Bere, OFFC, PADO, ZOVFA, and SWAF) have received improved social or cultural services.

There are several social services initiatives that FFPOs in Ghana are associated with in 2023, including; (i) Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) implemented by MoGCSP; (ii) National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) implemented by the Ministry of Health (MoH); (iii) Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) implemented by MoGCSP and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD); (iv) Capacitation Grant-Implemented by Ministry of Education (MoE); (v) Ghana School Feeding Program (GSFP) implemented by MoGCSP; (vi) Ghana Productive Safety Net Project implemented by MoGCSP and MoLGRD; (vii) Medium and Small Loans Center (MASLOC) implemented by Ministry of Trade (MoT); Ghana Covid-19 Alleviation and Revitalization of Enterprises Support (CARES) implemented by the Ghana Enterprise Agency. In 2023, the MoGCSP

kickstarted supporting the processes linking FFPOs to existing social protection opportunities. For Example, 8 FFPOs have conducted needs assessments and established contact with district-level government social service providers that provided sensitization to their members.

Mobilizing internal social funds within FFPOs can often complement such efforts to improve access to existing social protection services. In Ghana, 13 FFPOs developed saving and loan mechanisms that incorporate a social fund for members to pay for the costs of more vulnerable members to deal with funerals, communal construction, and communal land restoration, among others. Ghana FFF's promotion of more secure tenure for women is seeing seven women-led FFPOs becoming more active in business and production activities – using newly established social safety nets available to address their needs, including access to productive land, knowledge, investment support, and control of benefits. In 2023, FFF Ghana continued to support GhaFFaP to develop a strategy demonstrating their target contributions to the SDGs and building into their annual reports the FFPOs' contribution to the SDGs. Such a report will be a good entry point for becoming a major SDGs stakeholder in Ghana. As a result of this initiative, 5 FFPOs participated in meetings of CSOs Platform and Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in 2023.

Kenya

Facilitating dialogues that unlock sustainable finance for smallholder farmer farmers.



Figure 7: Women avocado grower explaining benefits of organization to conference on unlocking finance for smallholder producers 18-20 April 2023, Nairobi, Kenya (Photo credit: Duncan Macqueen)

4.1 History of FFF engagement

Kenya joined FFF to cope with an expanding population, needing more food, wood energy, and construction materials from a finite resource base. Integrated forest and farm production by well-organized producer groups is key to tackling this challenge. Kenya's Agricultural sector contributes about 25% of GDP, accounting for over 65% of exports and 75% of total employment – but expanding subsistence and commercial agriculture are also the major drivers of deforestation. In 2010, Kenya had 3.18 million hectares of natural forest, extending over 5.7% of its land area. From 2001 to 2020, Kenya lost 361,000ha of tree cover, equivalent to an 11% decrease since 2000, resulting in a current national annual wood supply deficit of 12 million m³. The Constitution and Vision 2030 aims to recover 10% of forest cover to reduce deforestation and degradation. Smallholder forest and farm tree growers are seen as the main actors in achieving this target – but they need help to do so in ways that diversify crop and tree production in the face of extreme and fluctuating weather forced by climate change.

Following the launch of FFF Phase I in September 2012, Kenya joined in 2014. The Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FFSPAK) and Kenya Farmers' Federation (KENAFF), with the support of Kenya Forest Service (KFS), successfully bid to join FFF Phase II with a launch workshop held in Nairobi on 17 April 2019. A National

Advisory Committee used objective criteria to expand FFF coverage by adding to the initial Phase I counties (Nakuru and Laikipia) and three additional counties (Nyandarua, Bomet, Bungoma). All have active FFPOs engaged in various enterprises with the potential to scale up, as shown in the figure below.

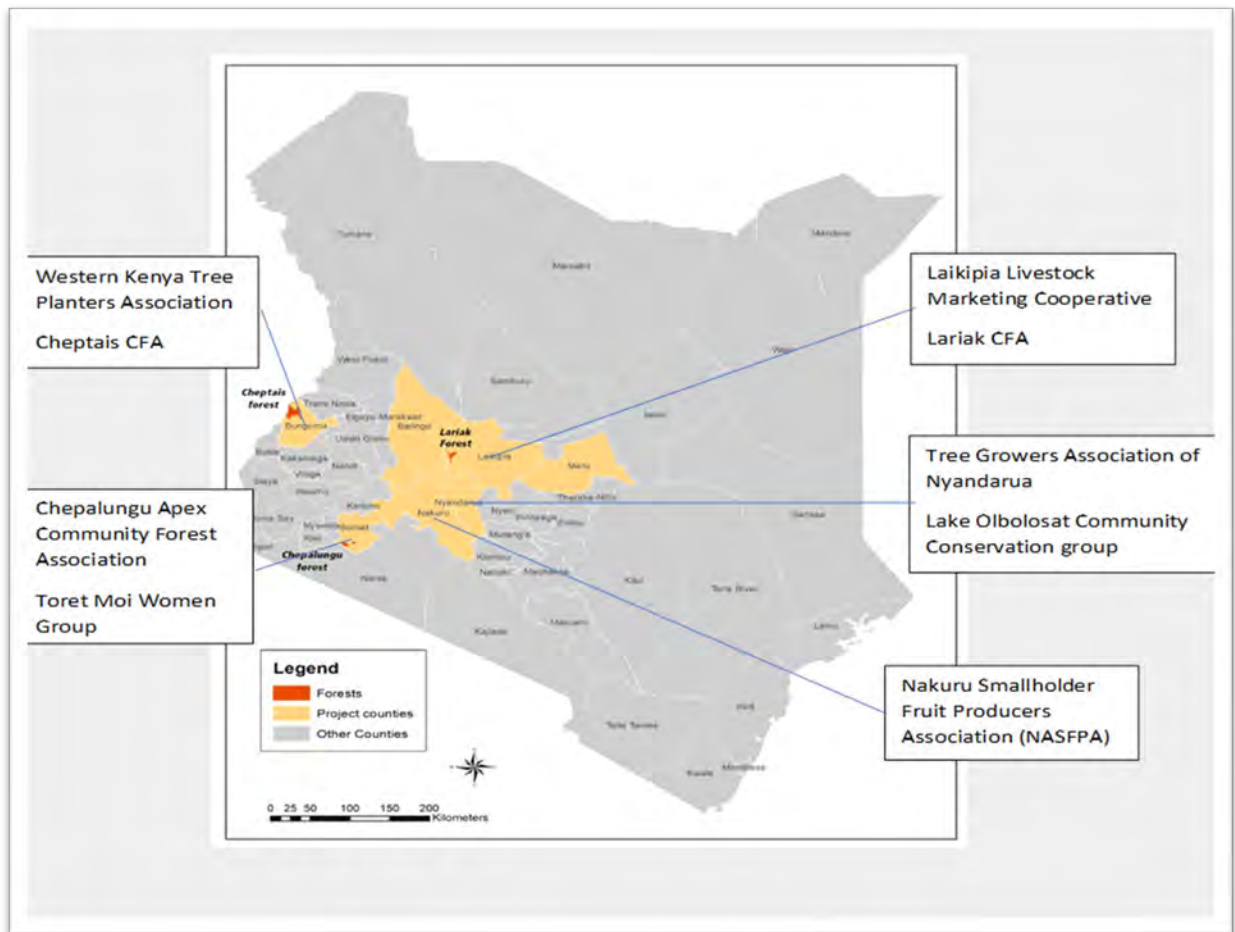


Figure 8. Map of implementation in Kenya

4.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Kenya.

In 2023, FFF Kenya supported ten main FFPOs representing 61,558 households who have responsibility for 119,908 hectares with direct protection, restoration and sustainable forest management impacts from FFF support of 89,323 ha (an increase of 9,950 hectares from 2022) primarily on account of putting large community forest area under sustainable forest management in Chepalungu, Lariak, Cheptais and lake Olbolosat catchments but also with other direct restoration covering 273 hectares.

Table 4. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Kenya

No	Name of FFPOs	Main products,	Location
1	Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK) 43,574 members (217,870 household members), 29,000 hectares estimated	Forest and Farm products, policy advocacy	National
2	Chepalungu Apex Community Forest Association (CACFA) 447 members (2435 household members), 13,025 hectares	Seedlings, grazing, water	Bomet
3	Cheptais Community Forest Association (CCFA) 3,200 members (16,000 household members), 63,110 hectares	Seedlings, honey	Bungoma
4	Lariak Community Forest Association (LCFA) 885 members (4425 household members), 3,238 hectares	Seedlings, Fruits, ecotourism	Laikipia
5	Nakuru Smallholder Fruit Producers Association (NASFPA) 2,145 members (10,725 household members),	Fruits	Nakuru
6	Western Tree Planters Association (WETPA) 7,835 members (39,175 household members), 1,585 hectares	Timber, Honey	Bungoma
7	Nyandarua Tree Growers Marketing Cooperative Society (NTGMC) 3,472 members	Timber products	Nyandarua
8	Lake Ol'Bolossat Community Conservation Group (LOCCOG), 3,500 members, 9,950 hectares	Ecotourism products	Nyandarua
9	Laikipia Livestock Marketing Cooperative	Livestock, pasture, beadwork	Laikipia
10	Toret Moi Women Group (TMWG)	Tailor-made training packages	Bomet
11	Kenya Forest Service (KFS)	N/A	National
12	Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)	N/A	National
13	We Effect (WE)	N/A	National

4.3. Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Using advocacy training tools can help FFPOs use their strength in numbers to shape more enabling policies. During 2023, FFF Kenya has continued its work with FF-SPAK (and with the support of Agriterra) to use the Farmer Advocacy and Consultation Tool (FACT) to identify, through gender-balanced value chain mapping of timber and avocado value chains and pairwise ranking of priorities, specific issues that were constraining members of TGAN in Nyandarua and NASFPA in Nakuru counties. Such findings are being fed into refinements of the 'Kenya National Agroforestry Strategy (2021 – 2030)' through FF-SPAK's position as vice chair of the National Agroforestry Strategy steering committee. FF-SPAK

has also continued to engage in the National SDG Platform, the Forest Value Chains Association of Kenya (FVCAK), the Climate Smart Agriculture Platform, and the County Environmental Committees to represent its members' interests. During 2023, FFF Kenya also supported three cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder dialogue platforms focusing on more enabling policies for timber (TGAN), avocado (NASFPA), and honey (LLMC). Additionally, Lake Olbolosat Conservation Group (LOCCOG) has created a cross-sectoral platform for the conservation of the lake, bringing in all the stakeholders, including farmers, Water users association, CFAs, tourist actors, county government, KFS, KWS, NEMA, and other partners.

In addition to this national-level policy work, county-level Community Forestry Associations (CFAs) have also lobbied for improved access and benefit sharing of forest resources within Participatory Forest Management Plans (PFMP) and Forest Management Agreements (FMA). For example, in Bomet County, members of Chepalungu CFA lobbied for fairer revenue-sharing arrangements with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), who are collectively managing Chepalungu forest and now give an agreed percentage of revenues to the Chepalungu CFA with whom they co-manage the area. In Laikipia County, the Lariak CFA has also lobbied for a fairer share of revenues from quarry licensing, the sale of forest soil, the sale of construction materials, and livestock grazers fees - all of which come from the community forest, which they co-manage. FFF supported the review of the negotiated benefit-sharing mechanism of the forest resources. Other county-level work in Laikipia has seen successful efforts by the Laikipia Livestock Marketing Cooperative (LLMC) to regulate sand harvesting, which would have damaged their environment and grazing areas.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Unlocking finance for smallholder producers in different sectors is a critical part of better entrepreneurship as FFF in 2023 has continued to support value chains including tree seedlings, timber, charcoal, honey, vegetables, fruit trees (e.g., avocado, tree tomato, macadamia, oranges, banana), bamboo, poultry, dairy, and livestock. In April 2023, FFF Kenya, ICRAF, and other partners helped organize a regional conference on unlocking finance for smallholder FFPOs. The meeting, held in Nairobi, was attended by nearly 200 people physically and around 150 online. The conference provided FFPOs and potential financial service providers a platform to meet and initiate discussions. The event also provided an avenue for FFPOs to showcase their products. For example, Laliak FFPO had a tent at the event, and they showcased their beadwork and managed to sell some of their items.

In 2023, five FFPOs (i.e., WETPA, LOCCOG, NTGMC, Toret Moi women group, and Kimaanjo women group) were supported on business plan development and three advanced value chain development work resulting in new market linkages. For example, Laikipia Livestock Marketing Cooperative (LLMC) improved their honey packaging. NASFPA advanced their avocado value chain through cold storage supported by the county government of Nakuru and a private partner. NASFPA also started to offer business incubation for its members, bringing the total of FFPOs providing this service to 14 since FFF's inception in Kenya in 2018 – with five entrepreneurship trainings delivered to Kenyan FFPOs through FFF support in 2023. Additionally, in 2023, three FFPOs supported by FFF (NASFPA, LLMC, and LOCCOG) benefited from third-party investment. For example, in late 2023, LOCCOG received a grant of \$ 70,000 from TerraFund to support conservation efforts around Lake Olbolosat and its catchment areas. The five-year grant will also help selected nature-based

enterprises like beekeeping, improving livelihoods among its members. WETPA benefitted from third-party training on the certification process. FFF supported WETPA to establish linkage with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The initial support of FFF to LOCCOG and WETPA was an important catalyst that helped with the backing from other partners.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

In dryland areas, organization through FFPOs is crucial for climate resilience. In 2023, FFF Kenya continued to work with vulnerable communities in Laikipia North, one of the most arid regions in Kenya. In collaboration with Laikipia Livestock Marketing Council (LLMC), FFF supported the Kimanjo Women group to build their capacity in livelihood diversification, resulting in diversification through bead/leatherwork, poultry keeping, and home orchards, which has proven to be successful. This initiative helped establish another, larger women's network (Laikipia Women Leather Processors and Beadwork Community-Based Organization -formerly Kimanjo Women Group) for climate change resilience that connects 100 women in Laikipia County (from the initial 30 members). These platforms will enable information exchange, mutual support, and collective action, strengthening the group's resilience to climate challenges.

But climate action is also crucial in more forested areas. In 2023, FFF supported forest and landscape restoration in 4 sites (Chepalungu, Lariak, Cheptais, and Lake Olbolosat catchment) with a total of 89,323 ha put under sustainable forest management (SFM) benefitting 9,936 persons. Kenya's *National Tree Growing and Restoration Campaign* aims to plant 15 billion trees, increasing forest cover to 30% by 2032. In 2023, the Kenya Forest Service sought support from the FAO/FFF to expand the School Greening Programme to involve students in tree planting at school and home to combat climate change. Over half of Kenya's population is under 15 years old, making engaging this demographic crucial for conservation and climate resilience. The FAO's support includes 5000-capacity model tree nurseries in schools, producing fruit trees for food security. In 2023, the program was piloted in 10 primary schools, with plans to expand to 25 more schools.

Climate resilience planning is also continuing at pace. In 2023, five FFPOs ((NASFPA, Lariak CFA, Cheptais CFA, Chepalungu CFA, and Laikipia Livestock Marketing Cooperative (LLMC)) were supported to mainstream climate change actions in their operations through the development of climate resilience plans. 25 FFPO members drawn from the 5 FFPOs were trained in carbon accounting tools (EX Act). Out of the 5 FFPOs supported in 2023, two FFPOs (NASFPA and Laikipia Livestock Marketing Coop) were supported to participate in the African Climate Summit held in September 2023 in Nairobi. About 3,974 people across the 5 FFF counties have been supported in climate resilient livelihood options.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

Kenya has two key social protection initiatives: the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the cash transfer for aged citizens (≥ 70 years). However, a key challenge is that the forest-dependent communities in remote areas are not captured in the social protection register. In 2023, FFF Kenya supported enlisting three forest-dependent communities (Community Forest Associations and Charcoal Producer Associations) from Baringo and Turkana Counties in the social protection register. This FFF Kenya initiative resulted in

Turkana Charcoal Producers Association members benefitting from social protection through cash transfers. Additionally, in collaboration with CENAREMA, Kenya FFF facilitated 5 FFPOs to contribute to developing operational guidelines on expanding social protection for FFPOs and forest-dependent communities in Kenya. Further, FFF has also been supporting the preparations for the launch of the National Social Protection Policy.

Most organizations refer to the SDGs in their programs. However, there is less focus on the role of FFPOs as the main actors and beneficiaries in contributing to the SDGs. In 2023, FFF connected the FFPO National SDG Partnership Platform initiative, which convenes and connects leadership from the Government, UN family, development partners, private sector, philanthropy, civil society, and academia to catalyze SDG partnerships, financing, and innovations in alignment with Government's Big Four development agenda. For example, LOCCOG has been involved in county-level SDG processes in Nyandarua County.

5. Madagascar

Advocacy groundwork paying off with new favorable national policies coming into effect



Figure 9. Practical Forest and Landscape Restoration and Land Use Planning training for FFF Madagascar stakeholders in Antanetibe Mahazaza, Analamanga region, November 2023. Source: FAO Madagascar

5.1 History of FFF engagement in Madagascar

Escalating deforestation rates in Madagascar – trebling to 321,000 ha per year in the past decade – pose a significant threat to the country’s distinctive and often endemic biodiversity. As part of AFR100, Madagascar aims to restore 4 million hectares by 2030, with the government recognizing FFPOs as crucial partners in achieving this goal. The government has identified Reforestation and agroforestry as a key priority, aligning with its overall objectives of restoring forest landscapes and facilitating income generation for smallholder farmers and FFPO enterprises.

Initiated in June 2019, the FFF program in Madagascar kicked off with comprehensive baseline studies to identify national FFPOs with broad grassroots membership. The FFF national advisory committee includes representatives from key entities, such as the Ministries of Environment and Agriculture, apex FFPOs like the Syndicate of Agricultural Organizations (SOA), the Association for Progress among Peasant Farmers (FIFATA), both supported by FERT and AFDI, Agricord’ members, the National Women’s Platform for Sustainable Development and Food Security (PNFDDSA), the Madagascar Farmers Coalition (CPM), the Chamber of Small Producers and Family Farming (TTM) which are the national umbrella of these apex FFPOs, agri-agencies such as FERT and AFDI, as well as GIZ and FAO Madagascar. In 2023, the implementation of FFF in Madagascar was concentrated on four geographical regions with six FFPO partners. LoAs were signed again with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and its decentralized offices in the four FFF regions. This year, FFF

Madagascar continued collaborating with the GIZ project Forest for Future (F4F) to support and accelerate the implementation of the AFR100 initiative in the Diana region.

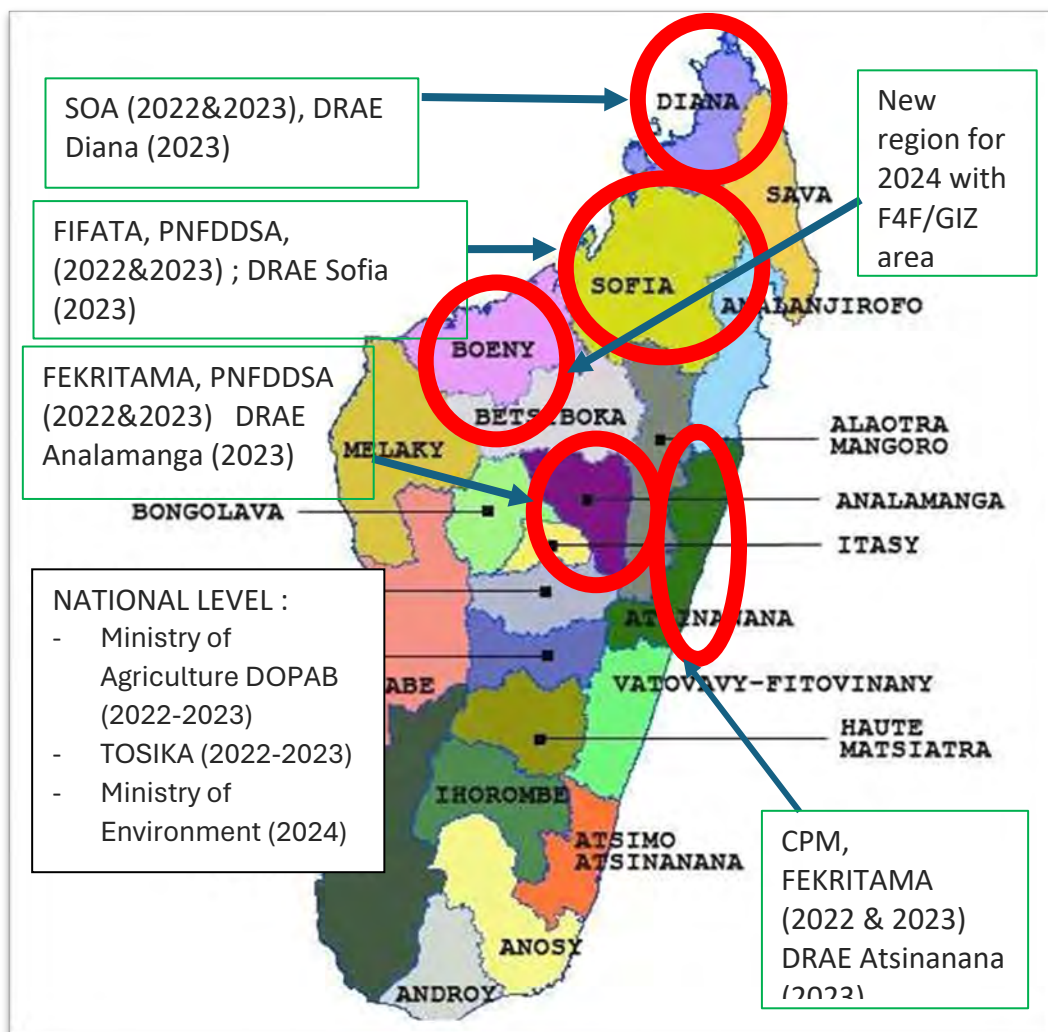


Figure 10. Map of FFF implementation in Madagascar

5.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Madagascar.

FFF Madagascar supports six FFPOs representing 3,915 households responsible for 10,144 hectares with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 2,434 hectares (an increase of 1,211 hectares from 2022).

Table 5. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Madagascar

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location (Regions and Districts)
1	Women's National Platform for Sustainable Development and Food Security (PNFDDSA), 600 members, 1,500 hectares	Rice, dried grains, corn, peanuts, livestock, seeds, essential oils, fruits and vegetables, milk, honey, moringa, vegetable oil, eggs	Sofia and Analamanga: Port Bergé, Mampikony, Ambohidratrimo, Ankazobe, Antananarivo Avaradrano (Ambohimalaza), Ankazobe
2	Association for the Farmer's Progress (FIFATA) 829 members, 4,532 hectares	Vegetables, livestock, honey	Sofia: Antsohihy, Bealanana
3	Farmers' Organizations Syndicate (SOA) 1,413 members, 1,100 hectares	Seeds, fragrant rice, fruits and vegetables, small livestock, cocoa	Diana and Analamanga: Ambohidratrimo, Ambilobe, Diégo I, Diégo II, Ambanja,
4	Big Chamber of Small Producers and Family Farming (TTM), Five member FFPOs	Agriculture, livestock, and aquaculture products	All FFPO intervention districts
5	Madagascar Farmers Confederation (FEKRITAMA) 650 members, 1,150 hectares	Livestock, corn, arboriculture, cinnamon, honey, nurseries, cloves, rice, vegetable crops	Atsinanana and Analamanga: Vatomandry, Mahanoro, Antanambao Manampotsy, Andramasina, Anjozorobe
6	Madagascar Farmers Coalition (CPM) 423 members, 1,861 hectares	Livestock, corn, cinnamon, cloves, lychees, coffee, rice	Vatomandry, Mahanoro
7	Direction of Support to the Organization of Producers and Agribusiness/ Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (DOPAB/MINAE)		All FFPO intervention districts
8	Subnational subdivisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in Analamanga, Diana, Sofia and Atsinanana regions (DRAE)		All FFPO intervention districts

5.3 Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Successful policy advocacy takes time. Since the inception of FFF in Madagascar in 2019, groundwork has been laid to support FFPOs in developing advocacy strategies and facilitating their involvement in national and international policy processes. Through FFF support, 13 FFPOs have now written advocacy agendas, with 48% and 30% of those involved in the approval process of these agendas being women and youth, respectively. This groundwork richly bore fruit in 2023, when seven changes in national-level policies

and processes favoring FFPOs came into effect with the help of FFF support. These include changes in land tenure policies promoting producers' access to land, national strategies on climate-smart agriculture, agribusiness, digital marketing, rural finance, and the establishment of subnational family farming institutions. This year, FFF Madagascar has also supported apex FFPOs in contributing to updating the national strategy of FFPO professionalization led by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The advocacy work of FFPOs also directly impacted favorable policies of relevance in the global context, namely the National Strategy on Organic Farming and the second version of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) of Madagascar under the Paris Agreement. Indeed, through FFF support, producers like the members of the Farmers' Organization's Syndicate (SOA) can directly engage with international climate negotiations by SOA, now being included in the Thematic Group on Climate Change (GTCC) which prepares the Madagascar inputs and delegation's participation in UNFCCC COPs.

To date, FFF Madagascar has supported 340 FFPO members' representation in seven cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder policy processes, such as establishing national implementation guidelines for Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) and national guidelines on land use and development planning in 2023. Both guidelines are being developed together with the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, FLR experts (with the commitment of the FLR National focal point), and stakeholders to help producers with concrete techniques for restoring forests and landscapes.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Export quality is now a reality for some Malagasy FFPOs. In 2023, the leading value chains supported by FFF Madagascar included livestock, fruit and vegetables, rice, maize, pulses, cinnamon, cocoa, vanilla, cloves, essential oils, saplings, coffee, moringa, vegetable oil, and honey. For example, this year, FFF Madagascar helped the SOA in the Diana Region in Northern Madagascar to support its cocoa-producing members in meeting international cocoa export quality standards. With FFF support, SOA can now link its cocoa producer members with exporters, ensuring the required quantity and quality; Madagascar's cocoa is among the best in the world. FFF has also succeeded in linking up SOA and the Madagascar Farmers Coalition (CPM) with several national and international aid programs such as "Fihariana," providing technical and financial support (loans) to Malagasy businesses, the United States' Millennium Challenge Account agricultural investment grant mechanism and the African Development Bank Emergency Food Production Project (PURPA). Through this support, FFPOs became suppliers of export products such as cinnamon, peppers, and turmeric.

This year, 36 small and medium-sized FFPO enterprises were supported by FFF, leading to a total of 172 (40% led by women) since FFF support began in Madagascar through events such as the facilitation of their participation at market fairs at national and sub-national level to strengthen their marketing efforts. Another vital component has been the 258 entrepreneurship trainings since 2019 for FFPOs in Madagascar, covering all aspects of small and medium enterprise development, including improved processing, packaging, business plan development, marketing, financial management, and risk analysis. Importantly, FFF Madagascar also supported training courses for support organizations of FFPO SMEs through training in business incubation, business consulting, and value chain

development. Additionally, FFF recognizes the importance of mobilizing FFPOs' internal finances to attract external financial services to FFPO operations. FFF Madagascar has thus supported the development of village saving and loan associations (VSLAs) in four regions by distributing necessary office supplies, calculators, and safes. In the Sofia Region, 15 VSLAs with 404 members (over 50% women and over 30% youth) are active. They are supported by the FFPO "Association for the Farmer's Progress" (FIFATA), reaching even beyond the communes FFF works with directly.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

In recognition of the vital role small-scale forest and farm producers play as stewards of the landscapes they operate in, the FFF supports FFPOs in scaling up measures that restore the resilience of landscapes and people. In 2023, Malagasy FFPO members carried out various landscape restoration activities based on previously developed resilience intervention plans through FFF support. Individual and collective action by producers led to the establishment of 127 forest nurseries. In the Diana Region, apex FFPOs, through a synergistic approach with the GIZ, implemented the Forest for Future (F4F) project and lent support to their members by procuring forest production inputs through F4F. With the support of FFF, FFPOs in Madagascar are actively promoting plants with high nutritional and energetic value, and timber species sought for construction in their reforestation efforts as they make rapid progress in contributing to AFR100 goals. These activities promote income generation and improve food security and nutrition for FFPO members and their households. To date, FFF support has led to the reforestation of 2,434 hectares and the restoration of 6,400 hectares of soil. The remaining challenges in these efforts relate to bushfire control to secure landscape and forest restoration actions and securing landscape and forest tenure. Producers have little incentive to plant trees on land they don't own.

While FFPOs are actively involved in climate action, FFF support also allows them to contribute to national and international climate and landscape-level programs, thus increasing their outreach. For example, FFPOs supported by FFF Madagascar were involved in national climate initiatives and platforms such as the GTCC. Further partnerships have developed between FFPOs and forest and agricultural projects/programs such as F4F and PRADA (Adaptation of agricultural value chains to climate change project), both implemented by GIZ as well as the Biodiversity Conservation, Restoration and Integrated Sustainable Development of Mangoky sub-watersheds funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF7). The general recognition of FFPOs as key actors in forest and landscape restoration has led to mainstreaming the FFF approach in project developments for GEF and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in Madagascar.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

Mobilizing accessible finance for FFPO members is a critical social service. In 2023, FFF supported FFPOs to expand the provision of social services to their members, with the number of forest and farm producers receiving funds through the Village Saving and Loan Association (VSLA) doubling since 2022 (1,276, 45% women). Through VSLAs, vulnerable producers, who would not usually be able to obtain microfinance or bank loans for the lack of guarantees (materials, equipment, and livestock for guarantees), can receive credit at acceptable rates.

FFF support in 2023 has also contributed to improved nutrition for women and children. FFPOs were supported in adopting climate-smart agriculture techniques (crops association and rotation, agroforestry in association with annual crops with fruits and forest trees, etc.), which diversified production and nutrient diversity. With FFF backing, FFPOs in Madagascar have also engaged in environmental education to sensitize school children on the vital role of trees and forests for the environment and the importance of reforestation for a sustainable future.

6. Nepal

Women's leadership translating into diversified high-quality production businesses



Figure 11. FFF-supported women's handicraft group achieved top honors at an exhibition hosted by Hetauda Submetropolitan City.

6.1 History of FFF engagement

About 35% of Nepal's population is organized in Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs). Collectively, they manage almost 2.3 million ha of land. Approximately 14 million forest users belong to 22,415 community forestry user groups (CFUGs), covering 2.9 million households federated into FECOFUN. Community forestry in Nepal is globally recognized as a successful example for its ability to integrate rural livelihoods, biodiversity protection, and climate resilience. Despite significant successes, there is still an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of FFPOs in Nepal, especially during the process of federal reconstruction, which has been ongoing since 2015. Against this backdrop, FFF was officially launched in 2012, with activities starting in 2014. During the implementation of this first phase of FFF and in recognition of the challenges and opportunities for FFPOs presented by Nepal's new constitution and federal structure, FECOFUN invited the support of the Ministry of Forests and the Environment (MoFE), the FAO, and IUCN to propose a second phase of FFF support in Nepal jointly. Phase II was launched in September 2018, with FECOFUN leading the program implementation in collaboration with other apex FFPOs and MoFE. A program execution task team comprising FECOFUN, IUCN, the FAO, and MOFE, an advisory committee, a consortium of FFPOs, and a business advisory group together support program implementation with regular interactions in 7 districts spread across three provinces. The committee held a meeting on July 2023, where MoFE reinstated that the FFF goal is directly aligned with the Nepal government's focus on a prosperous Nepal.

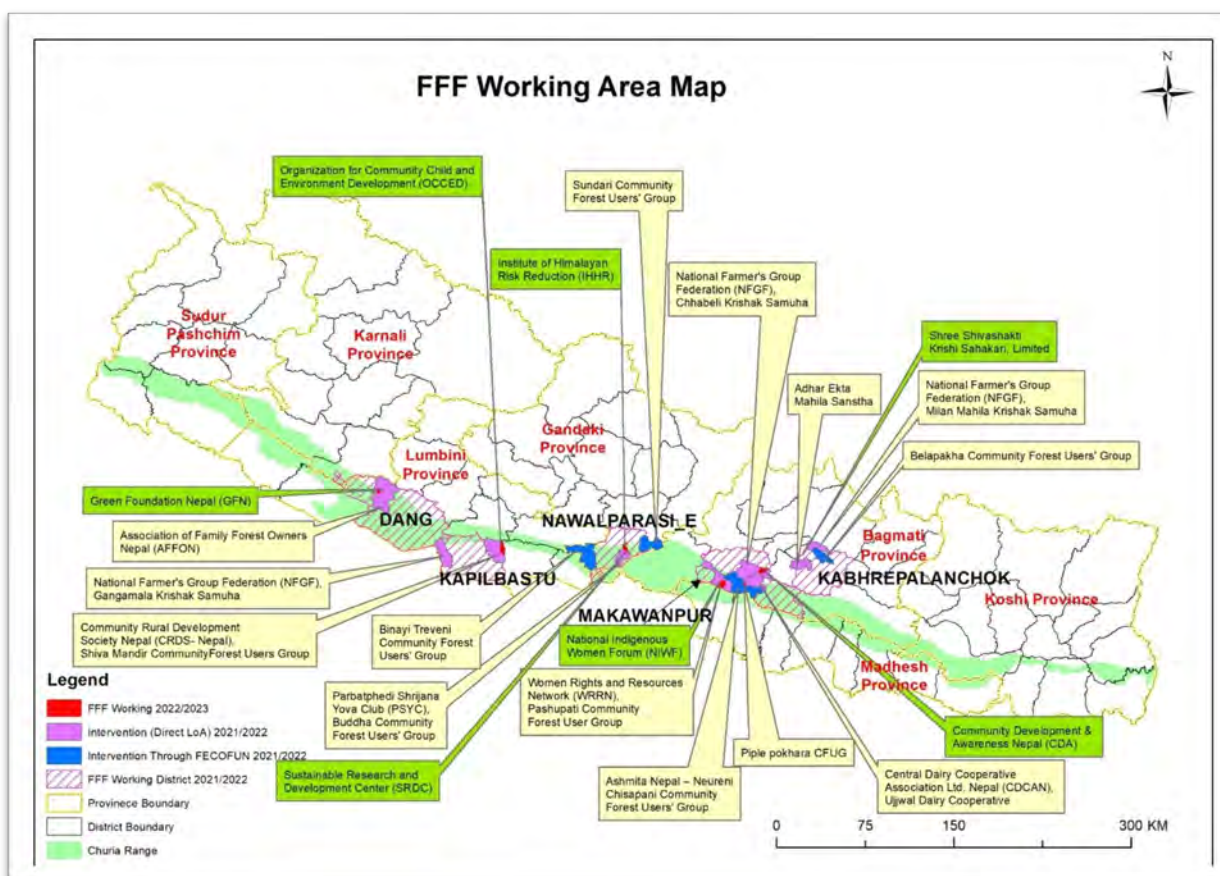


Figure 12. Map of implementation in Nepal

6.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Nepal

FFF Nepal supports four main umbrella FFPOs representing more than 3.4 million households responsible for 2.3 million hectares – and 25 enterprise groups within those larger umbrella organizations. Direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements have totaled approximately 340 (an increase of 104 hectares from 2022), and broader support to FFPOs has contributed to sustainable management and restoration of an estimated 15,186 hectares of forest and farmland.

Table 6. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Nepal (with new groups for 2023 in italics)

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	Association of Family Forest Owners, Nepal (AFFON) 10,000 households, 1,550 hectares	Garlic, ginger, turmeric, cardamom, wood, broom grass, tea, and other cash crops	All seven provinces of Nepal, excluding 14 districts
1.1	AFFON: Agroforestry group – Tulsipur Tharkot Krishi Samuha, Sundardevi Krishi Samuha, Siddhababa Krishi Samuha, Makhatakura Krishi Samuha, Chameligufa Krishi Samuha, Hariya Krishi Samuha	Sichuan Pepper	
2	Federation of Community Forestry User Nepal (FECOFUN) 2,900,000 households, 2,300,000 hectares	Timber-based forest products, NTFPs, livestock	77 districts, 7 provinces, 749 municipalities
2.1	Bungdal Community Forest User Group	Turmeric	
2.2	Shiva Community Forest User Group 94 households	Indian Bay Leaf	
2.3	Dangdunge Community Forest User Group	Organic Vegetable	
2.4	Bharayangkali Community Forest User Group	Indian Tree Butter	
2.5	Nuerepani Community Forest User Group	Sal Leaves	
2.6	Belapakha Community Forest User Group 13 households, 25 hectares	Sichuan Pepper	
2.7	Binayi Community Forest User Group 1,341 households,	Forest weeds - biofertilizer	
2.8	Sundari Community Forest User Group 15 households, 81 hectares	Gooseberry, Harro, and Barro	
2.9	Piplepokhara Community Forest User Group, 17 households, 71 hectares	Bamboo and Timber	
2.10	Parbatfedi Social Youth Group - Buddha Community Forest Users Group (PFSYC) 186 households	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	
2.11	Shivamandir Community Forest User Group	MAPs and NTFPs	
2.12	Pashupati Community Forest User Group 1,511 households, 279 hectares	Ginger and Turmeric	
2.13	Kalika Malika Pakare Forest User Group	Bamboo	
2.14	Buddha Community Forest User Group	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	
2.15	Manakamana Community Forest User Group	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	
2.16	Nawadurga Community Forest User Group	NTFP (Tejpat, Amala, Harro and Barro)	
2.17	Pokharital Community Forest User Group	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	
2.18	Janakalyan Community Forest User Group	Medicinal and Aromatic Plants	

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
3	National Farmers Group Federation Nepal (NFGF) 5,000 households, 300 hectares	Basket of agricultural products	63 Districts of all 7 provinces of Nepal
3.1	NFGF: Milan and Srijansil Farmers Group	Farm resources- Organic vegetable	
3.2	NFGF: Kanaya Farmers Group	Agroecological practices- safe agriproducts	
3.3	NFGF: Gangamala and Chhabeli Farmers Group	Farm resources- Organic vegetable	
4	Central Dairy Cooperative Association Ltd. Nepal (CDCAN) 500,000 households	Milk & dairy products	Nepal
4.1	Ujjwal Dairy Cooperative	Fodder and Forage	
5	Adhar Ekta Women Producer Group, 548 members, 1 hectare	Vegetables, cardamom, broom grass, bamboo	
6	Shivaskhakti Agriculture Cooperative	Organic agriculture products	
7	NIWF Bankariya Bikas Mahila Sangh (Women Soap Producer Group) Gautam Buddha Tharu Mahila Samuha (Dhakia Group)	Woven basket And Soap (Allovera, Titepate (mugwort)	
8	Green Foundation Nepal: Suryodaya Women Dhakiya entrepreneur group Ganari Mahila Dhakiya Udhyami firm Ragaicha Duna Tapari Udhyog Milijuli Tilkanya duna Tapari Udhyog Firm	Wooven baskets and other products Leaf plates of various sizes	
9	Community Development and Awareness Nepal: Shramjibi Hastakala Mahila Samuha	Wooden Handicraft	
10	Shuvakamana Social Development Organisation and Banganga Women Beekeepers Group	Honey processing and value addition	
11	Jagaran Community Development Center: Mandhyabindu Lime Fruits and Vegetable Producer Groups	Lime value addition -pickle	
12	Mount Everest Forest Botanical Alliance: Bharyankali Community Forest	Chiuri butter processing	
13	Rastriya Dalit Network : Milijuli Krishak Samuha	Fisheries Producer Group	

6.3 Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

The scale of Nepalese apex FFPOs makes for powerful policy advocacy. In 2023, FFF-Nepal has strengthened FFPO representation in local, provincial, and federal cross-sectoral platforms (CSPs). More and more CSPs are becoming mainstream, with 37 CSPs in FFF intervention areas now appearing in local government budget allocations. FECOFUN and

NFGF are also scaling up the CSPs outside FFF intervention areas. CSPs have been instrumental in linking FFPOs with ongoing policy discussions on, for example, Municipal Forest Acts. Hundreds of these forest acts (led by local municipal governments) have been formulated with which FECOFUN collaborates. FFF provides direct facilitation support to FECOFUN to be part of the formulation of the local forest Acts in 7 municipalities (4 completed in FFF intervention sites this year). CSPs have also linked NFGF to the formulation of Municipal Agricultural Acts – and NFGF has successfully supported 53 local municipal governments in the process of developing these to incorporate provisions in line with the interest of the producer groups concerning farmers identification, insurance, participatory guarantee system, and the promotion of organic and ecological practices (3 completed in FFF intervention sites this year).

Particular successes have been achieved in policy advocacy this year by most of the main umbrella FFPOs supported by FFF (with FECOFUN developing its advocacy strategy in 2019, AFFON and CDCAN in 2021, and NFGF currently being revised in 2024). For example, FECOFUN's unceasing media advocacy at different levels has led Nepal's Constitutional Court to issue a stay order on the laws that require community forest user groups to pay taxes to the local, provincial, and federal governments. This builds on previous successes, such as lobbying in 2021 that resulted in the Cabinet's dissolution of the scientific forest management procedure to be replaced by a Sustainable Forest Management Guideline, with FECOFUN sitting within the committee formed and meeting over the last two years to develop the guideline. Additionally, through the consistent advocacy of AFFON, MoFE has lifted the restriction on Sal (*Shorea robusta*) timber. Current provisions now allow harvesting, transporting, and trading of the Sal grown on private land, as well as 32 other species of timber grown on private land, that can now be traded as agricultural commodities. Furthermore, NFGF continued its advocacy against wildlife-induced crop damage, resulting in farmers getting compensation. The government has implemented a new guideline, 'Relief Distribution Guideline 2080 for 'Damage Caused by Wildlife,' which expands and increases the government's relief to farmers for wildlife-induced damage.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurial cooperatives are steadily advancing in Nepal from established community forest user groups and farmer organizations. In 2023, the main value chains supported in Nepal were essential oils, non-timber products, wooden and bamboo products, and various agriculture products, such as sal leaf plate, organic vegetables, cardamom, garlic, bay leaf, ginger, turmeric, Sichuan pepper, and other cash crops, honey, lime, milk and dairy and chiuri butter (Indian tree butter), biofertilizer, gooseberry, Harro and barro, bamboo, timber, fodder and forage, medicinal and aromatic plants, woven baskets, soap (Allovera, Titepate [mugwort]).

FECOFUN (with its Business Development Committee Members) facilitated interested CFUGs in establishing larger collective enterprises (such as cooperatives- based on formulated guidelines) this year. Two examples include Shanti Krishi Udhya Sahakari and Tulsipur Krishi Ban Udhya Sahakari. Strengthening of business incubation services was also seen in NFGF, which has strengthened its enterprise support unit. This unit has supported enterprise groups to facilitate the Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) process, linking the producer groups to market actors and local government officials. In CDCAN (Central Dairy Cooperatives Association), efforts were made to form dairy

cooperatives, with capacity building for product diversification, technology transfer (for example, the good milk manufacturing practice training workshop), and links with larger value chains. The results have included several enterprise groups developing new value-added products in 2023, including Wooden Handicraft (Quality and value addition and product diversification); Sichuan Pepper (Product aggregation, grading, processing, and packaging) agri-product development (PGS labeling including for chemical-free safe agri products in the Shivahakti Cooperative) and organic soap manufacture (using local aromatic plants) Dhakiya handicraft (Woven baskets and other products), Leaf plate of different sizes (product diversification). FECOFUN has helped CFUGs link with AloI (a fintech company) for subsidized loans, the Himalayan bio trade, and Jagadamba Agro firms for turmeric and ginger sales. In 2023, six more enterprise groups completed their business plans (adding to the total of 23 since 2018). These included Namuna Women Enterprise Group selling processed broom grass products, Ramjhadi Community Forest User Group selling leaf plates, Sundari Community Forest User Group selling Trifala, Didi Bahini Pickle Enterprise selling lemon pickle, Bankariya and Chepang Women Soap Enterprise Group selling aromatic soap

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

One of the desired outputs of FFF is that FFPO contributions increase the delivery of climate and landscape-level programs. The year 2023 saw significant progress in FFPO beneficiaries of FFF using some of their resources to foster partnerships with other climate projects. For example, FECOFUN and NFGF strengthened a partnership with CARE to implement a project on climate change adaptation (see below). Similarly, CDCAN worked with district federations of FECOFUN to apply successfully for a GSMA Innovation Fund for Climate Resilience and Adaptation. Another example is that FECOFUN negotiated successfully to collaborate with the USAID-funded JAL JANGAL project in the climate change thematic area (in TAL and CHAL landscapes). NFGF negotiations to join that program are also ongoing. Additionally, FECOFUN is the lead FFPO and Co-Chair of the National Steering Committee of the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM), and the DGM has issued a call for proposals for small grants for producer groups that is accessible for several of its members (similar to FFF).

These linkages into significant climate programs are also facilitated by the ongoing FECOFUN work developing 27 climate resilience plans (up from 21 in 2022) that have been incorporated into community forest operational plans. NFGF, too, has facilitated the development of 4 climate resilience plans by four producer groups in the FFF intervention area (alongside climate resilience plans for 400 farmers' groups in collaboration with the Farmers Field Business School project funded by CARE USA). FFPOs supported by FFF have contributed to restoration and sustainable forest and farm management to improve climate change mitigation or adaptation in 340 hectares – an increase of 104 hectares during 2023. FFF has contributed to the sustainable management and restoration of 15,186 hectares of forest and farmland. For example, the Pokharital CFUG adopted sustainable forest management, restored degraded forest areas, and adopted practices for reducing the effects of climate change and adaptation. It identified and incorporated the practices in its community forest operational plan. Nawadurga CFUG identified, allocated, prepared, and planted Harro, Barro, and Amala in 2.4 hectares as a climate-resilient land use option. Developing robust and verified databases to track such figures is an important part of this work. For example, FECOFUN has established an online data portal that will include data

that can be used to assess the contribution of CF on landscape-scale adaptation and mitigation – linked to FFF training in the use of tools like SEPAL, which generate time trend analysis in forest cover change, and enables FFPO to advocate and lobby with evidence.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

To improve access to social protection services in Nepal, FECOFUN has been progressively developing a Community Forestry Data Portal that records data on its members and the services they are receiving. Each of the four main umbrella FFPOs (FECOFUN, AFFON, NFGF, and CDCAN) provides inputs and feedback as members in different governmental development processes, such as the Food Security Committee and Rapid Pesticide Analysis/Assessment Committees of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) the Gender Strategic Team and enterprise promotion task teams of the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE), the Enterprise Task Team of the Social Welfare Council, alongside more forest related issues such as the Sustainable Forest Management Guideline Drafting team and the Interministerial Coordination Committee on Agroforestry. Additionally, FECOFUN conducted a 16-day “No gender-based violence” program, which strengthened collaboration and coordination among the stakeholders, such as local authorities, civil society organizations, and media and service providers, to address gender-based violence issues. In 2023, FECOFUN also worked on: a forest fire training and awareness campaign, a wildlife rehabilitation and human-wildlife conflict awareness campaign and activities, improving the process of the CF operational plan revision to provide better technical support to resource-poor CFs by allocating funds by divisional offices and municipal government. Work has also been done with the technical backing of resource-rich CFs to help them collaborate with municipal government in social development activities. Additionally, NFGF has provided 2023 relief materials (including seed kits) to farmers who have been victims of cold snaps and floods.

7. Tanzania

FFPO advocacy leading to recognition of farmer-led seed systems and enterprises



Figure 13. Sustainable honey production developed by MVIWAARUSHA. Source: Duncan Macqueen

7.1 History of FFF in Tanzania

The establishment of the FFF in Tanzania was a direct outcome of the second FFPO African Regional Conference in 2019. During this event, the Government of Tanzania, as well as two apex FFPOs (National Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania MVIWATA and the Tanzania Tree Growers Association Union TTGAU), clearly articulated the need to strengthen FFPOs' capacities to increase their production and deliver tangible results on the ground. Tanzanian FFPOs face challenges similar to producer organizations in other FFF countries. These challenges relate to low efficiency, low quality of production outputs, limited access to production inputs, financial and technical extension services, profitable markets, and decision-making processes.

The first FFF activities in Tanzania started in July 2020 with preparing a situation analysis and inventory of FFPOs in Tanzania and forming a national advisory committee (NAC). This committee includes government officials and representatives of NGOs and rural grassroots organizations. The role of the NAC is to help guide and monitor the implementation of FFF. A multistakeholder inception meeting of representatives, including government officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), FFPO groups, and private sector representatives, was the official launch of FFF Tanzania in October 2020. The two apex FFPOs, MVIWATA and TTGAU, lead the program implementation.

FFF Tanzania- Implementation Locations

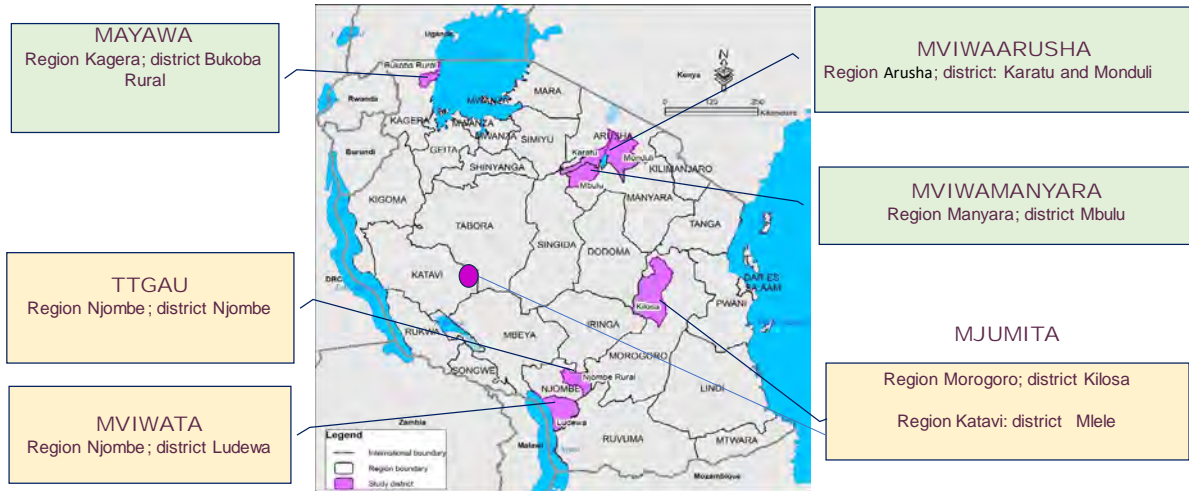


Figure 14. Map of implementation in Tanzania in 2023

7.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Tanzania

FFF Tanzania supports six FFPOs representing 1,278,362 households responsible for 447,425 hectares with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 5,282 hectares (an increase of 1,009 hectares from 2022).

Table 7. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Tanzania

No	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	National Network of Farmers' Groups in Tanzania (MVIWATA) 301,100 members, 361,320 hectares	Maize, potatoes, timber, avocado, vegetable and bee products	Njombe, Ludewa district (NJOMBE REGION), Sumbawanga DC, Kalambo, Nkansi (RUKWA REGION)
2	Tanzania Tree Growers Association Union (TTGAU) 1,504 members, 358 hectares	Timber, charcoal, avocado, bee products, and aquaculture	Njombe districts (NJOMBE REGION)
3	Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA) 3,280 members, 67,212 hectares	Sustainable charcoal products, bee products, timber, and non-timber forest products	Mlele districts (KATAVI REGION) and Kilosa district (MOROGORO REGION)
4	Network of Farmers and Pastoralists Groups in the Arusha Region (MVIWAARUSHA) 13,454 members, 1,560 hectares	Forest products, crops (maize, beans, pigeon pea), bee products, vegetables and fruits	Karatu and Monduli districts (ARUSHA REGION)
5	Network of Farmers and Pastoralists Groups in the Manyara Region (MVIWAMA) 3,125 members, 15,625 hectares	Garlic, sunflower, maize, onions, potatoes, beans, bee products, tree nursery	Mbulu district (MANYARA REGION)
6	Maendeleo ya Wakulima (MAYAWA) 115 members, 1,350 hectares	Vanilla and bee products	Bukoba district (KAGERA REGION)

7.3. Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Having a clear vision of the type of enabling environment FFPO members would like to operate in stands at the beginning of organizing for policy change. All six Tanzanian FFPOs supported through FFF have developed written advocacy agendas approved by their members. Through dialogues with decision makers and among themselves, FFPOs have continued to implement 19 advocacy agendas set in the previous years. Four additional new agendas were developed by FFPOs in 2023. These were related, among others, to political representation at the local level, access to technical extension services and farming inputs, and the removal of value chain obstacles.

Overall, FFPO advocacy and policy engagement in Tanzania this year has resulted in three policy changes and new legal processes at national as well as local level of direct benefit to local producers: Sustained FFPO advocacy efforts on the National Organic Agriculture Strategy 2023/30 resulted in the Ministry of Agriculture allocating funds for research on local landraces and farmer-managed seed systems as well as significantly increasing funding to the National Genetic Resource Center (NGRC) for community seed bank management. With FFF backing, members of MVIWAARUSHA and MVIWAMA also successfully lobbied the Parliamentary Agriculture Committee for favorable legislation on forest and farm seed systems, acknowledging and legitimizing farmers' seed systems. Finally, at the local level, MJUMITA successfully advocated for policy challenges related to beekeeping and forest business enterprises with the Kilosa District Executive Director (DED) and District Commissioner (DC) and on request of the Ministry of Environment and Union Affairs, MVIWAMA and MVIWAARUSHA through the national farmer platform SHIWAKUTA also contributed to the review of the Environmental Management Act (EMA) of 2004.

Through FFF support in 2023, Tanzanian FFPOs are better represented in several cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder policy processes, including regional environmental platforms, district-level product-based associations, and policy-making platforms (such as Parliament and District Councils). Furthermore, FFPOs actively participated in various zonal and national expos, including the TARI Agro-Expo, the first East Africa Agroecological Conference, the National Farmer Exhibition, and the Africa Food System Forum (AGRF). This multifaceted engagement reflects the commitment to influencing policies at different levels contributing to broader environmental and agricultural conversations.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Moving up the value chain through developing processing and trading capabilities is one FFPO priority in Tanzania. In 2023, the main value chains supported by FFF Tanzania included timber, charcoal, non-timber forest products, bee products, maize, sunflower, fruit and vegetables, and seedlings. In addition to the 17 businesses established in 2021 and 2022, nine new beekeeping and tree nursery enterprises have been established this year. FFF support enabled eleven of these businesses to occupy more favorable value chain positions by adopting value-adding processing of beekeeping products into cosmetic

products, candles, and medicinal supplements. This has directly benefited 183 small-scale producers (40% women).

With a particular focus on advancing youth entrepreneurship this year, FFF support enabled Youth Business Plan Competitions designed to empower and support youth entrepreneurs in beekeeping and tree nurseries. Selected young entrepreneurs received comprehensive legal, technical, business, and financial training. Mentorships with more experienced entrepreneurs were then facilitated to help refine business plans and marketing strategies. Competition winners were then linked to local cooperative Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies (SACCOS) to access a special loan package tailored to their specific needs and business goals and to kick-start and expand their businesses.

Through sensitization and training, general awareness of these local financial services has grown among FFPOs, and more producers feel encouraged to use them. FFF training on microfinance services has also helped improve the financial literacy of community microfinance groups (CMG) and SACCOS members. In only four such microfinance groups (EDEN, AMKENI, ENENEZA, and MATUMAINI), savings increased from 1.4 million to 3.7 million TZS (up to US\$ 1470), and loan access was improved from 1.7 million to 4.6 million TZS (US\$ 1830).

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

FFF strives to empower FFPOs to facilitate their members' engagement in restoration and environmental conservation activities. FFF-supported FFPO members have initiated enterprises that contribute to financial earnings and environmental conservation. In Tanzania, these include engagement in tree nursery management, tree planting, and beekeeping enterprises promoting forest conservation. Using biogas as an energy source also reduces pressure on the forest by minimizing tree cutting and preserving forest resources. In 2023, Tanzanian FFPOs, with FFF's support, restored 1,008 hectares of land. This adds to the 4,274 hectares restored in previous years through tree planting and regeneration efforts by FFPOs.

To upscale FFPO restoration contributions, FFF Tanzania has provided initial inputs into FFPO assessments under the GEF Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Programme (DSL-IP) implemented by the Tanzanian Forest Services Agency (TFS). The DSL-IP aims to restore 34,885 hectares of Miombo woodland, focusing on FFPOs' sustainable and profitable beekeeping value chains. As the DSL-IP implementation grows, FFF's experience supporting FFPOs in Tanzania is a definite asset.

All six FFPOs supported by FFF in Tanzania have developed climate resilience plans and climate-responsive practices. Training of trainers in climate change adaptation or mitigation or resilient practices conducted in the past years has served as a useful basis for follow-up coaching and capacity building carried out among FFPOs through the facilitation of TRIAS and IUCN.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

The past years' mobilization and sensitization of Community Microfinance Groups on providing social and cultural services has continued to bear fruit, with nine groups comprising 261 members (61% women) offering such services, amounting to three million

TZS this year. Social services funded include, for example, the rehabilitation and protection of village forests as vital spaces for traditional social practices and sourcing medicine and other forest products. FFF support to FFPOs in offering such social and cultural services is thus contributing to a sense of belonging and fostering social cohesion.

In the previous years of FFF implementation, three FFPOs (MVIWAARUSHA, MVIWAMA, and MAYAWA) conducted assessments of their members' social and cultural services needs. In 2022/23, supported by the ComDev initiative, these three organizations documented the social and cultural context of specific value chains linked to their respective landscapes (Karatu, Monduli, and Mbulu) to increase their products' visibility and marketability.

8. Togo

Hosting a regional event on FFPO's key contributions to forest landscape restoration



Figure 15. Women's involvement in forest landscape restoration in Ando Akpuive (Togo), Source: CVD Ando Akpuive, Région Maritime

8.1 History of FFF engagement

FFF in Togo was launched in April 2019 following an expression of interest for collaboration by the apex organisation CTOP (Coordination Togolaise des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles), representing 500,000 Togolese smallholder farmers. FFF activities in Togo build on previous support to CTOP through the agriagency Agriculteurs Français et Développement International (AFDI). AFDI is a member organisation of the FFF implementing partner AgriCord.

Togo is also one of the AFR100 countries with a national goal set to restore 1.4 million ha of forested landscapes by 2030. The government has recognised shifting cultivation by smallholders as a significant contributor to forest loss across the country in the past decade. FFPOs are therefore recognised as key players in the national effort restore and rehabilitate forest cover. It is in this context that FFF is partnering with the GIZ Forest4Future (F4F) project to help generate baseline information underpinning ongoing efforts by FFF partners and other stakeholders, to help to contextualise programme objectives, to streamline interventions and create synergies.

In 2022, six new LoAs and 17 Direct Beneficiary Grants (DBGs) were signed with FFPO partners in line with the work plan validated by the FFF Advisory Committee. These LOAs and DBGs were implemented in 2023.

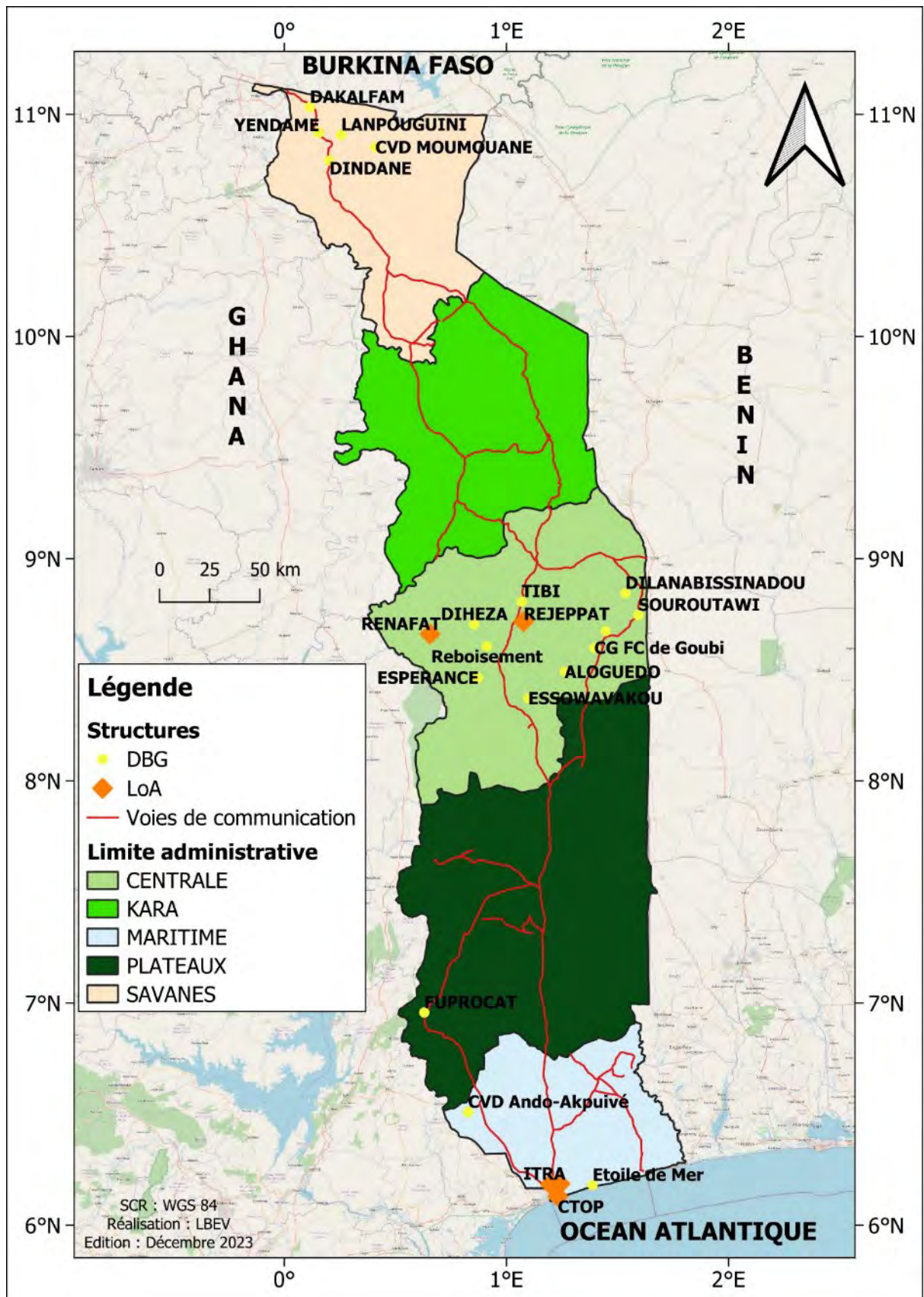


Figure 16. FFF Togo main FFPO partners in 2023 with implementation zones

8.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Togo.

FFF Togo supports **45 FFPOs (and 3 government and research partners)** representing up to **551,422** households who have responsibility for **2 187 523** hectares with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 2,061 (an increase of **1,650 hectares** from 2022).

Table 8. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Togo

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	Togolese Coordination of Farmers' Organizations and Agricultural Producers (CTOP) 550,000 members, 2,178,000 hectares (include the effort of restoration of FFPOs via DBGs at grass root level)	All sectors (cereals, legumes, cash crops, vegetables, livestock, etc.	All 5 economic regions of Togo
2	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) 48 members, 120 hectares	Processing: Cassava, palm oil, palm kernel oil, coconut oil, traditional soap. Agriculture: soya, rice, millet, corn. Forestry: nursery, reforestation, transformation of wood into charcoal	Maritime and Plateaux regions
3	Federation of Unions of Cooperative Societies of Coffee and Cocoa Producers of Togo (FUPROCAT "COOP-CA") 332 members, 150,000 hectares (this is included in area reported under CTOP)	Coffee, cocoa	West plateaus (Prefecture of Agou, Kpélé, Kloto,)
4	National Forum of Farmers and Breeders of Togo (FNAET) 48 members, 45 hectares	Tree nurseries, organic soybean	Prefecture of Haho and Zio
5	Environmental Action for Sustainable Development (AE2D) 22 households, 8370 hectares	Shea butter, mustard, market garden products, nurseries	Prefecture of Tchamba and Dankpen
6	Network of Farmer Self-Promotion Centers (RECAP) 1,400 households, 26 members, 350 hectares (this is included in area reported under CTOP)	shea butter and soap, mustard, rice processing and packaging, tomato (fresh, pureed and dried)	Prefectures of Tandjouare, Kpendjal, Kpendjal-Ouest, Oti, Oti-sud, Tone

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
7	Network of Young Producers and Agricultural Professionals of Togo (REJEPPAT) 2,598 members, 1,948 hectares (this is included in area reported under CTOP)	Cassava, soybeans, rice, maize,	Maritime, Plateaux, Central, Kara and Savannah Regions
8	National Network of Women Farmers of Togo (RENAFAT) 4,150 members, 10,000 hectares ((this is included in area reported under CTOP)	Peanut, néré, tomato, cereal, soybeans, rice	Savannah region, Kara, Centrale, Plateaux, Maritimes and Lomé-Commune
9	Association for rural communication (APCR) 10,720 members, 50,000 hectares (this is included in area reported under CTOP)	Cassava, Plants and Néré	Aouda, Sotouboua, Fazao, Tchamba, Kouka, Kétau
10	Togo Cereal Producers Central (CPC), 29,123 members, 1,200,000 ha (this is included in area reported under CTOP)	Maize, soybeans, rice, millet, sorghum	Maritime Region
11	Botanical and Plant Ecology Laboratory (LBEV)	Training module, documentary production	All the extent of the Togolese territory
12	National Agency for Civil Protection (ANPC)	Civil protection	National
13	Togolese Institute for Agronomy Research (ITRA)	Agronomic Research	National

Table XX. List of Direct Beneficiary Grant partners

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
National level			
1	FEPROMAT Members: 960 (women)	Juice processing, capacity building of women, organization of stakeholders post COVID 19	Adeticope, Lomé
2	FENOMAT Members: 12033	Market gardening and agro ecology, organization of stakeholders post COVID 19	Kara
Region Maritime			
3	FENAPFIBVTO Members: 10.000	Management of livestock and dairy products, organization of stakeholders post COVID 19	
4	FENUCOOPETO Members: 5.450	Fisheries and seafood, organization of stakeholders post COVID 19	Baguida
5	SCOOPS NOVIVA Members: 10	Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Tokpo
6	SCOOPS ASSILASSIME Members: 30	Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Bas mono

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
7	CVD ANDO AKPUIVE Members: 35	Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Ando akuive
8	ETOILE DE MER Members : 15 (these are included in the number of members reported for FENUCCOOPETO)	Fisheries and seafood, organization of stakeholders	Baguida
Région des Plateaux			
9	SCOOPS TERRE BENIE MEMBERS: 10 (these are included in the number of members reported for REJEPPAT)	Soap processing (palm oil), internal governance and stakeholder capacity building-COVID 19	Agoto, haho
10	SCOOPS LOLONYO Members: 25 (these are included in the number of members reported for FENUCCOOPETO)	fish processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Atakpame
11	AZONKO (these are included in the number of members reported for RENAFAT)	Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Otandjobo, Wawa
12	COOP-CA- AEH Members: 456	Honey Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Kpalimé
13	ESSEWLE ABOE Members: 20	Fonio production and processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Amou
14	SCOOPS AMEN Members: 15	internal governance and stakeholder capacity building and stakeholder capacity building-COVID 19	adeta
Region centrale			
15	SCOOPS ALOUGUEDO Members: 30 (these are included in the number of members reported for RENAFAT)	Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Tchavade
16	SCOOPS TIBI Members: 15 (these are included in the number of members reported for REJEPPAT)	Market gardening and agro ecology, organization of stakeholders	Sagbadai
17	Akidjetan Cooperative in Kamboli Members: 637	Honey Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Kamboli, Tchamba

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
18	Scoops DIHEZA Members: 15	Casava processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Dadjalikadi
19	SCOOPS LE REBOISEMENT Members: 10	Nursery business, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Sotouboua
20	SCOOPS HEZOUWE Members: 10	Market gardening and agro ecology, organization of stakeholders	Alibi, Tchamba
21	SCOOPS DILANABISSINADO Members: 35	Shea butter processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Kitangoli, Tchamba
22	GOUBI Members: 300 Area: 963	Community forest restoration, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Goubi, Tchamba
23	SCOOPS ESPERANCE Members: 15 (these are included in the number of members reported for APCR)	Juice processing, capacity building of women, organization of stakeholders post COVID 19	Tchamba
24	SCOOPS ESSOWAVAKOU Members: 15	Nursery business, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Kparataou, Sokode
25	SCOOPS SOUROUTAWI Members: 10 (these are included in the number of members reported for RENAFAT)	Shea butter processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Tchamba
Région de la Kara			
26	TOUMOUKAIN Cooperative Members: 10	Yam processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Guerin Kouka
27	CVD LASSA SAMALA HAUT Members: 25	Community forest restoration, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Samala Haut
28	APRODIFE Members: 60	internal governance and stakeholder capacity building post COVID 19	Kozah
	Region des savanes		
29	LAMPOUGUINI cooperative Members: 15	Shea butter processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Djimotiga
30	SCOOPS YENDAME Members: 10	Strengthening the capacities of actors in the value chains of the poultry sector for better adaptation to the effects of climate change and the Covid-19 pandemic	YAYANE

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
31	CAP KPALAN'DO SIKBAOG Members: 20 (these are included in the number of members reported for RECAP)	internal governance and stakeholder capacity building post COVID 19	Dapaong
32	SCOOPS TIADIMPO 10 (these are included in the number of members reported for RECAP)	internal governance and stakeholder capacity building post COVID 19	Cinkasse
33	SCOOPS DINDANE Members : 10 (these are included in the number of members reported for RECAP)	Mustard processing, internal governance and stakeholder	Dapaong
34	SCOOPS DAKALFAM Members :20 (these are included in the number of members reported for RECAP)	Shea butter processing, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	Bogou, Tandjouare
35	CVD MOUMOUANE Members : 20 Area: 25 hectares	Community forest restoration, internal governance and stakeholder capacity building	MOUMOUANE PAK

8.3. Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Effective involvement of FFPOs in policy making is increasing government recognition of their importance in delivery policy objectives. In 2023, FFF continued to support Togolese FFPOs in the development of targeted advocacy strategies resulting in official FFPO-led declarations on a range of policy aspects of concern for forest and farm producers in the country. These include among others improved access to agricultural inputs for young farmers, the recognition of women producers to climate action and their need to improved access to information, climate-adapted germplasm and land. As an example of a concrete change in enabling environment through FFF support, the FFPO Goubi Classified Forest Management Committee has successfully lobbied for the creation of a community forest monitoring committee in Tchamba 3 commune in the Central Region, thus enabling closer involvement in community forest management decisions for the local producers.

This year, Togolese FFPOs have had direct inputs to a range of cross-sectoral decision-making platforms, including a dialogue with local authorities to involve women in the Planned Agricultural Development Zones (ZAAPs), a consultation framework for poultry cooperatives in the Savannah Region on the prevention and control of pests, a prefectural platform working on sustainable natural resource management issues in the Tandjouare Prefecture, as well as a diagnostic study of the reference level of ecosystem restoration

indicators by FFPOs in Togo. Overall, the involvement of FFPOs in various cross-sectoral processes as well as the recognition of their vital role in forest and farm related decision-making processes has led to a total of 52 FFPOs obtaining their official registration certificate from Directorate for Training, Technical Dissemination and Professional Agricultural Organisations (DFDTOPA) since the inception of FFF in Togo.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Embedding business incubation in apex level FFPO structures provides a sustainable route towards green economic development. In 2023, the main value chains FFF supported Togolese FFPO enterprises engage in include cassava, groundnut, maize, rice, soy, vegetables, moringa powder, néré, mustard, cereal, shea butter, cashew products, coffee, cocoa, soap, forest seed and tree seedlings. This year, 14 different training courses on business development aspects have been offered to FFPOs in Togo through the FFF, including on resource management, value-adding production techniques, packaging, labelling, hygiene and quality control, business relations, e-marketing, business management and forest entrepreneurship. The programme has backed 115 FFPOs in their business development efforts, five of which are new or enhanced value-added activities. This year, FFF has also enabled the participation of members of the women's chapter of CTOP and of the CTOP commercialisation platform "Vitrine du Paysan Togolais" in four major national trade events, resulting in FFPOs obtaining 14 new trade contacts. With FFF support the FFPO UROPC-M has developed a mobile application to support market research for its members.

Developing apex FFPOs internal business incubation capacities is one of the core aims of FFF outcome 2 in an effort to scale up business development efforts across the country in a self-sustaining, adaptable and comprehensive manner. From 2019, the year the FFF was launched in Togo, to date, 40 experts have been trained and have business incubation skills within FFF-supported FFPOs. An incubation and support centre for FFPOs was set up at the national level within the apex FFPO (CTOP). This centre provides ongoing support to its member FFPOs and strengthens their skills in marketing and promoting local products. The centre has continued to build the capacities of 25 FFPO focal points (business coaches) in the CTOP member umbrella organisations in business incubation, market analysis and development tools (MA&D), business risk management, etc. These focal points are now developing incubation and support services within their umbrella organisations. In 2023, FFF support also allowed one CTOP monitoring and evaluation officer to receive specialised business incubation training in Ghana. Furthermore, 17 DBG recipient FFPOs have been trained in business incubation approaches.

In 2023, FFF support has enabled several FFPOs to form links with financial and business service providers. An example of this is a new partnership between the Alibi Community Forest Management Committee in the Central Region and the FFPO DILANABASSINADOU on the collection of shea nuts and néré seeds in the community forest. Since 2019, a total of 55 FFPOs have developed credible business plans that facilitate engagement with service providers, financial institutions as well as potential business partners. Through FFF support a total of 75 FFPOs have to date received information on and have been connected with microfinance institutions, banks and insurance companies.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

This year, FFF Togo has contributed to 1,019 hectares of land being put under protection, restoration or sustainable use. FFF backed FFPOs have this year engaged in reforestation, agroecological practices, enrichment planting, agroforestry restoration as well as wood-energy plantations. Through FFF support eight permanent nursery sites with a capacity of 40,000 agroforestry seedlings have been established. A total of 1,795 people (68 % women and 44 % youth) have benefited from these landscape-level climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures. FFF has also enabled the training of 20 FFPO staff of regional CTOP platforms in the use of resilience assessment tools to help them better equip local producers with information on how to fortify their production systems against external challenges.

FFF Togo has supported various activities to help increase local producers' resilience to negative climate change impacts. A total of 570 people have benefited through activities such as training in agroecological practices, plant production techniques, agroforestry as well as the production and use of biofertilizer and bio-pesticides (263 FFPO staff trained), support for the development of the tree nurseries, the provision of solar-powered watering systems and improved cooking stoves as well as the strengthening coastal management committees to combat illegal fishing.

The AFR100 commitment of the Togolese government has received a major boost with FFF Togo being instrumental in the organisation of the regional conference on the "Contribution of FFPOs to FLR under AFR100 Initiative" in September 2023 in Sokodé, Central Region. The conference gave stakeholders from across the region the opportunity to discuss and develop the Sokodé Declaration, demonstrating the collective determination of FFPOs to restore African forests. The declaration agreed by over 150 representatives of FFPOs, government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and national platforms of farmers' organizations from across Africa delivers a strong foundation for governments to shape future policies and decision-making.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

The provision of insurance products to local forest and farm producers is an essential social service that FFPOs can play a crucial role in. In 2023, FFF supported the training of 20 FFPO staff on agricultural insurance (FarmCover) products. As a consequence, 267 farmers (81% women) are able to benefit from FarmCover agricultural insurance for the 2023-2024 crop year against drought and flood. This service contributes a vital element to forest and farm producers' resilience to the negative impacts of climate change.

Marginalised groups anywhere in the world often struggle to access basic social services such as health insurance, which is vital for providing financial protection against medical expenses and ensuring access to essential healthcare services. In 2023, FFF Togo has thus supported 400 FUPROCAT members (74% women) to learn about their health insurance options.

This year, 25 FFPO staff have participated in ComDev training, enhancing their organisations' ability to provide an effective communication platform for members.

9. Viet Nam

Green funds investing in circular economies with significant IT innovation



Figure 17. Poultry income generation under forest plantation in Thai Nguyen province. Photo: VNFU

9.1 History of FFF engagement

From 2002 to 2022, Vietnam lost 740 ha of humid primary forest, making up 22% of its total tree cover loss of 3.46 million hectares in the same period. But those aggregate figures driven primarily by commodity agriculture hide forest cover gains of more than 1 million hectares in the same period, 86% outside of plantations – mainly in the preserve of more than 1.4 million smallholder forest and farm producers. For Vietnamese farmers, tree planting is an increasingly good business. Almost 50% of these households have only up to 1 hectare – and struggle to gain high income from forest products on such small-scale land. Following the launch of FFF in September 2012, the Viet Nam Farmers' Union (VNFU) joined FFF Phase I in 2014. It worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to create scale through organization that would transform livelihoods and landscapes.

Such was the success in FFF Phase I that an application by VNFU to continue into FFF Phase II was approved and signed in 2018. A re-launching workshop was completed, and by December 2018, the FFF II project dossier was approved by the Governmental Office, with the formal commencement of activities on 8 March 2019. Program Management Units (PMU) of FFF at central level and in four provinces were set up – doubling the provincial

reach of the program. A baseline study² was conducted in the 12 communes of the 4 Provinces of Yen Bai, Bac Kan, Hoa Binh, and Son La – with Thai Nguyen added shortly after that. A scoping study³ also informed the re-establishment of an advisory committee on 6th June 2019 in Hanoi with representatives of 22 organizations (including 4 Provincial representatives of FFPOs). A National Advisory Committee oversaw substantial progress from 2019 onwards, and in 2022, Viet Nam hosted a major global conference on climate resilience. With an original end date of 2022, a protracted period of program extension was completed in June 2023.

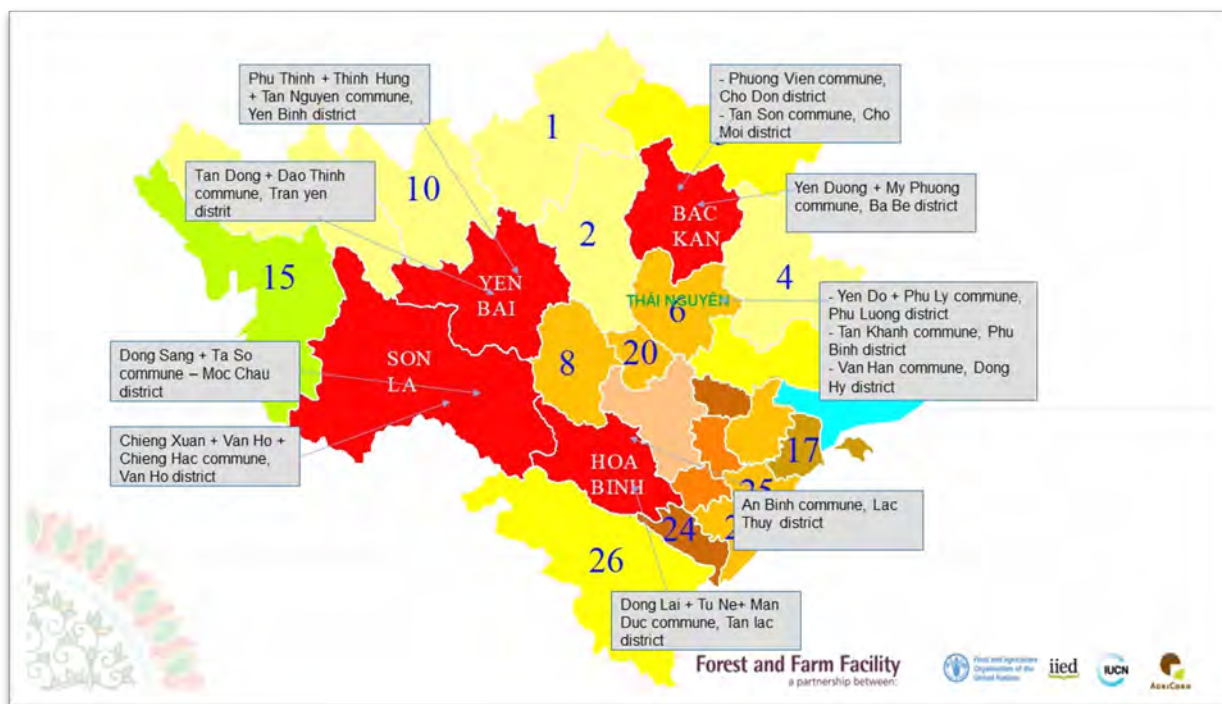


Figure 18. Map of implementation in Viet Nam

9.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Viet Nam

FFF Viet Nam is coordinated through the Viet Nam Farmers’ Union as an apex-level body comprising 10,192,039 individual members, of whom 35.5% are women (having a total of 25,480,098 direct dependents). VNFU farmer members control about 580,000 hectares of land in FFF Provinces. Additionally, FFF-VNFU supports 43 FFPOs with small grants representing 1,291 household members and more than 15,000 direct beneficiaries (40.5% female, 63% ethnic minority, and 11.7% youth). The FFF program has led to direct protection, restoration, and sustainable forest management impacts in 44,619 ha hectares, including approximately 17,000 ha of certified forest and farm production: >12,000ha of FSC timber (an additional 3,250ha in 2023), 7,000 ha organic, VietGap, OCOP (an additional 1,950ha in 2023).

² VNFU (2019) A summary of the baseline study for FFF Phase II in Viet Nam. Available from FAO, Rome, Italy.

³ Voan, V.L.Y, Thăng, P.T., Thủy, L.T.T., Hà, T.T.T, Thăng, N.T. and Tấn, P.T. (2019) Report results – FFF II (2018-2022) scoping study in Viet Nam. VNFU, Hanoi, Viet Nam.

Table 9. Names and locations of FFPOs supported in Vietnam in 2023

No.	Name of FFPOs	Products
I Yen Bai province		
1	Organic cinnamon and star anise cooperative, Dao Thinh commune, Tran Yen district: 25 household members (7 females), 85.7 ha of cinnamon, 550 associated members,	Cinnamon, different kinds of spice products
2	Herbal medicine collective group, Dao Thinh commune, Tran Yen district: 18 household members (5 females), 77ha cinnamon, 8ha herbal medicine (Khoi Nhung)	Raw and dry herbs, herbal tea
3	Environment & agricultural services coop, Dao Thinh commune, Tran Yen district: 13 household members (5 females), 23,5 ha cinnamon	Clean community environment, organic composting, biofertilizer
4	Cinnamon handicraft collective group, Dao Thinh commune, Tran Yen district: 14 household members (11 females), 21,7ha cinnamon	Handicraft from cinnamon
5	Herbal medicine collective group, Tan Dong commune, Tran Yen district: 10 household members (4 females), 5,2 ha herbal medicine, 51 ha cinnamon	Raw and dry herbs, herbal tea
6	Mulberry and cinnamon collective group, Tan Dong commune, Tran Yen district: 81 household members (39 females), 15,7 ha mulberry, 251 ha cinnamon	Silk, cinnamon
7	Beekeeping under the forest coop, Tan Dong commune, Tran Yen district: 9 household members (2 females), 397 bee boxes, 29 ha cinnamon	Honey
8	Tan Dong cinnamon collective group, Tan Dong commune, Tran Yen district: 28 household members (11 females), 211 ha cinnamon	Cinnamon
9	Thinh Phat Forestry production and beekeeping coop, Thinh Hung commune, Yen Binh district: 17 household members (11 females), 117 ha acacia, 670 bee boxes, 100 associated members	Honey, FSC timber
10	Agri-forestry service cooperative, Tan Nguyen commune, Yen Binh district: 15 household members (4 females), 129 ha timber	FSC timber
11	Binh Minh Agri-forestry cooperative, Phu Thinh commune, Yen Binh district: 12 household members (3 females), 100 ha acacia, 700 associated members	FSC timber
12	Hung Thinh Cinnamon cooperative, Hung Thinh commune, Yen Binh district: 21 household members (12 female), 135 ha cinnamon	Cinnamon, herbal medicines
II Backan province		
1	Yen Duong agri-forestry coop, Yen Duong commune, Ba Be district: 45 household members (29 females), 200 ha of forest, more than 250 associated members	Green and processed zucchini, sticky rice, herbal tea, vermicelli, bamboo handicraft, forest, and farm experience tourism
2	Yen Duong Coop coordinates Ba Be Forest and Farm Cooperative Union, which comprises 13 FFPOs = 296 household members	Herbal tea, Green and processed zucchini, vermicelli,
3	Nhung Luy agri-forestry trading coop, Yen Duong commune, Ba Be district: 18 household members (14 females), 77 ha forest, 70 associated members	Raw and oil of star anise

No.	Name of FFPOs	Products
4	Thach Ngoa Star anise production and processing collective group, My Phuong commune, Ba Be district: 9 household members (3 females), 41 ha forest, 9 ha star anise	Timber seedlings, green zucchini
5	Ta Anh agroforestry production coop, My Phuong commune, Ba Be district: 14 household members (6 females), 125 ha forest, 115 bee boxes	Forest vegetables
6	Thach Ngoa fresh vegetable collective group, My Phuong commune, Ba Be district: 12 household members (11 females), 57 ha forest, 2,7 ha vegetable	Timber
7	Dia Linh agroforestry cooperative, Dia Linh commune, Ba Be district: 15 household members (11 females), 57 ha forest, 2,7 ha vegetable + 65 associated members	Beekeeping under the forest, fruit trees, animal raising
8	May Phay Forest and Farm Collective Group, Chu Huong commune, Ba Be district: 16 household members (6 females), 116 ha forest	Rice, herbs
9	Hoan Thanh coop, Phuong Vien commune, Cho Don district: 8 household members (4 females), 53 ha forest, 25 ha of rice	Timber, ginger, herbs
10	Tong Chieu agroforestry collective group (forestry production, herb tree, rice, aquaculture), Phuong Vien commune, Cho Don district: 9 household members (3 females), 28 ha forest, 8 ha herb and ginger	Timber, ginger, herbal medicines
III Hoa Binh province		
1	Organic Pomelo production coop (including herb, honey bee), Dong Lai commune, Tan Lac district: 29 household members (13 females), 27 ha organic pomelo, 75 ha forest	Pomelo, herbs, honey
2	Agroforestry production collective group (pomelo, acacia, aquaculture, animal husbandry), Tu Ne commune, Tan Lac district: 22 household members (8 females), 11 ha pomelo, 47 ha forest	Timber, honey
3	Forestry production and beekeeping collective group, Tu Ne commune, Tan Lac district: 24 household members (5 females), 32 ha forest, 42 ha fruit trees, 500 bee boxes	Honey, timber
4	0789 cooperative, Thanh Hoi commune, Tan Lac district: 15 members (05 female), 20 associated members, 30ha forest	Timber, nurseries, herbal medicines
5	Tan Lac Son Agroforestry coop, Tu Ne commune, Tan Lac district: 14 household members (6 females), 21 associated members, 15 ha VietGAP pomelo, 42 ha forest	Herbal tea, timber
6	Hai Dang Forestry production and chicken raising coop, An Binh commune, Lac Thuy district: 103 household members (31 females), 213 ha forest, 30,000 chickens, 270 associated members	Chickens, timber, mushroom
7	An Sinh cooperative (mushroom, timber), An Binh commune, Lac Thuy district: 32 household members (17 female), 87 ha forest, 3,7 ha VietGAP mushroom, 600 bee boxes	Mushroom, timber
IV Son La province		
1	Ban Ang tourism coop (homestay, forest conservation, vegetable production), Dong Sang commune, Moc Chau district: 18 household members (9 females), 28 ha forest, 3,5 ha vegetable	Homestay, herbal cosmetic

No.	Name of FFPOs	Products
2	Agroforestry collective group (Organic vegetable, forestry protection), Dong Sang commune, Moc Chau district: 12 household members (5 females), 2,3 ha vegetable, 18 ha forest	vegetable
3	Dong Sang Organic Agriculture Cooperative, Dong Sang commune, Moc Chau district: 21 household members (11 females), 13,5 ha vegetable and fruit trees, 22 ha of forest	Strawberry, vegetable
4	Tu Nhien vegetable coop, Dong Sang commune, Moc Chau district: 51 household members (17 females), 19 ha vegetable, 55 ha forest	Different kinds of vegetable
5	Pa Phach Agri and Tourism Coop, Dong Sang commune, Moc Chau district: 15 household members (5 females), 3,7 ha vegetable, 97 ha forest, 5,7 ha fruit trees	Experienced tourism, vegetable
6	TienThanh Fruit Trees Coop, Chieng Xuan commune, van Ho district: 25 household members (8 females), 31 ha forest, 48 ha fruit trees	Orange, mango, logan
7	Van Ho Organic Fruit Trees Coop, Chieng Xuan commune, Van Ho district: 7 household members (2 females), 29 ha forest, 9 ha fruit trees	Organic fruits
8	Van Ho fruit trees cooperative, Chieng Xuan commune, Van Ho district: 14 household members (10 females), 12 ha fruit trees, 33 ha forest	Organic fruits
9	A Cao agri-forestry coop, Van Ho commune, Van Ho district: 9 household members (3 females), 50 associated members, 110 ha forest, 15 ha fruit trees	Timber, fruit trees
10	Tan Xuan 269 Cooperative in Tan Xuan Commune, Van Ho district, Son La province: 56 household members, 27 female	Bamboo shoot
11.	Cha May raising local chickens under the forest, Cha May commune, Thuan Chau district: 17 household members (7 females), 55 ha forest, 5,000 local chickens	Chicken, timber
V Thai Nguyen province		
1	Lam Sinh forest and farm coop, Yen Do commune, Phu Luong district: 21 household members (10 females), 78 ha forest, 3,2 ha nursery garden	Timber seedlings saw timber
2	Yen Do chicken under the forest collective group, Yen Do commune, Phu Luong district: 17 household members (7 female), 51,5 ha forest, 7,500 chickens	Chicken,
3	Van Han Forestry and Processing Timber Coop, Van Han Commune, Dong Hy district: 27 household members (11 females), 173 ha forest	Timber, tea
4	Phu Binh chicken under the forest coop, Tan Khanh commune, Phu Luong district: 27 household members (9 females), 150 associated members, 27 ha forest, 45,000 chickens	Chicken, timber, tea
5	Viet Bac multi-purpose coop, Phu Ly commune, Dong Hy district: 10 household members (4 females), five h ha forest, 5 ha of tea, raising animals under the forest	FSC timber

1.3. Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Experience shows that facilitating FFPOs in policy engagement is the fastest way to increase the value of agricultural and forestry production and mobilize resources for sustainable forest production and business. Beyond the national support to the VNFU, FFF Vietnam now supports 43 FFPOs in 5 mountainous provinces. It has assisted 24 FFPOs (up from 21 in 2022) in developing advocacy plans, which they use in the commune, district, province, and national policy round tables. In 2023 this led to progress in addressing 13 FFPOs policy challenges resulting for example (in Yen Bai Province): government resources to upscale integrated forest and farm production including carbon credit issuance, new resources for buying machinery and equipment for value added production and processing; advances in timber legality and product certification (One-Community-One-Product [OCOP], organic, Forest Stewardship Council), establishment of Participatory Guarantee Scheme groups coordination committees; (in Bac Kan Province), Provincial Post Office e-commerce platforms for marketing 14 products; market outlets in provincial speciality stores, an expansion of 3.5km of forest road for market access; (in Hoa Binh Province) LienViet Postbank, Agribank and Social Policy Bank providing loans to FFPOs with interest rates 5-10% lower than market interest rates, market links through the Provincial Cooperative Alliance, new agroforestry models supported by the Commune People's Party (CPC) including long rotation timber, organic production, product certification and market access; (in Son La Province) organic production integrated into the district social and economic and development plan, experimental under-the-canopy tourism model.

A major achievement in the policy arena was the governmental approval for the extension of the FFF program until 2025. Additionally, in 2023, FFF-VNFU has undertaken five advisory committees, planning and expert meetings, 64 policy roundtable discussions with multi-stakeholder partners at the province, district, and commune levels, and two national policy workshops. Through these dialogues at different levels, government departments agreed on seven main challenges of FFPOs that need to be addressed in higher-level decision-making: low incomes from forests, income-restricted to tangible values (wood and NTFPs), potential intangible values (carbon market) have not yet been exploited, lack of resources to implement policies in localities, need to develop agroforestry, biodiversity, long rotation timber models, the need to improve social inclusion within FFPOs, and the importance of securing tenure rights. However, in four FFF provinces, there is now concerted development of long rotation timber, FSC or other SFM-certified production, Organic Agriculture, PGS systems, and other environmental conservation measures proposed by VNFU-FFF into provincial agroforestry development resolutions.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship across multiple value chains provides a climate-resilient future for FFPO businesses. In 2023, the main value chains supported by FFF in Viet Nam have continued to include tree seedlings, timber, and FSC-certified timber, cinnamon (including handicraft from the wood), star anise, ginger, turmeric (and many other spices and oils), raw and dry herbs, various herbal teas, herbal medicines, mushrooms, honey, organic compost and biofertilizer, green and processed zucchini, sticky rice, vermicelli, bamboo shoots handicraft, silk, eco-tourism, a wide range of forest vegetables, many different types of

fruit, various livestock and poultry. In 2023, FFF Viet Nam conducted 21 skills and technical trainings on sustainable production and business, alongside trade fairs, with the participation of 601 FFPO members, which helped to gain more skills in business. Value addition was noted in expanding areas of FSC timber production, organic cinnamon, honey production under the forest, long timber rotation, chicken raising, PGS-certified organic vegetables, and local rice production. Some 23 new forest and farm models were documented (each being 1.3 – 11ha in extent), including agroforestry, timber-chicken-mushroom systems, organic vegetable production, and honey under the forest.

Business incubation services were organized by the Social Economic Department of the Provincial Farmers' Unions in 4 provinces. 34 of the 45 FFPOs were trained or conducted entrepreneurship trainings for their members, such as Market Analysis and Development, business planning and incubation, marketing, product certification, and cooperative financial management. These trainings were organized by FFF and facilitated through related departments and agencies such as the cooperative alliance, trading and industrial departments, and planning and investment units. Market expansion was recorded for 19 well-packed products, 11 of which were certified either as organic, OCOP, FSC, or VietGap. A total of 26 FFPOs mentioned specific improvements in products or outputs, new buyer partners, the application of digital marketing and commerce, and business plans that encouraged the participation of women and Indigenous People. Additionally, 27 FFPOs accessed more loans from banks or the Support Fund for Farmers of VNFU to increase investment in processing, transportation, seedlings, etc. (more than US\$ 200,000 of loans were secured in 2023). Records from those FFPOs show that an average of 15-30% increase in income generation resulted in FFPO members being involved in such businesses, alongside improvements to the forest and farm environment and agrobiodiversity.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

Profits from sustainable tree-based businesses are driving reforestation in Viet Nam. In 2023, the area protected, restored, or brought under sustainable forest management rose to 44,619 hectares, including an additional 3,250 ha of FSC-certified timber established, bringing the total since 2018 to more than 12,000 hectares. An additional 1,950 ha of organic, OCOP or VietGap-certified production developed, bringing the total since 2018 to more than 7,000 hectares. A total of 37 FFPOs (since FFF phase II) have developed climate resilience plans, including internal 'green fund' finance mechanisms to allow flexible investment for climate resilience. More than 2,500 households or more than 15,000 individuals benefit directly from protection, restoration, and sustainable forest management through FFF trainings, workshops, peer-to-peer learning, and capacity development on organic, agroecological based farming and agroforestry (since 2018). More than 2,500 people (44% women, 13% youth, 67% Indigenous People) have been supported to cope with the impacts of climate change.

These developments have been made possible in part through VNFU's ongoing partnerships with at least 15 agencies which in 2023 included: the Forest Department of MARD, the Forest Economics Research Centre under the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Science (VAFS), the Silvicultural Research Institute of VAFS, the Vietnam Forestry University, the Vietnam National University of Agricultural, the Farmers Unions at provincial level in Yen Bai, Bac Kan, Hoa Binh, Son La, the Centre of Organic Agriculture (COA) of the Vietnam University of Forestry that promotes organic production and PGS

certification, an MoU with Hoa Phat private company, linked to IKEA for sustainable forest management and FSC applications, herb production, and carbon monitoring, work with VINASAMex company to expand organic cinnamon and star anise, partnership with the Mountain Bee Development Joint Stock Company, the E-commerce Development Centre (EcomViet) of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the National Centre for Codes and Barcodes, work with the Department of Tourism of FFF provinces to support FFPOs on community-based ecotourism development and social and cultural activities promotion, work on standards with NTFP-EP Asia, and communication support from ComDev partners in FAO and the University of Los Banos.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

Business and social and cultural protection can go hand in hand. From 2018 to now, 32 increasingly profitable FFPOs have maintained and provided members with social protection and cultural services. In 2023, 14 social and cultural activities were facilitated or organized by FFF (including community festivals, traditional dances, community sports competitions, Indigenous People’s costumes, traditional tool development, etc.). They were recognized by local authorities and related agencies and mobilized more resources for these activities. In addition, communication activities continued, such as maintaining FFF stories on the sub-web of the VNFU website, with news and articles on new potential products, policies, best practices in the forestry sector, forest and farm development policies, climate change, video clips of FFPOs and so on. These have built momentum around the four outcomes of the FFF II. FFF has supported 23 FFPOs to develop “Green funds” with the total amount in these funds rising from USD 11,500 to approximately USD 95,000, which their members can access for forest and farm investments or health care, school fees, and other social protection needs. Additionally, 19 FFPOs accessed the VNFU Farmer Support Fund with loans totaling USD 158,000. To draw attention to the services provided by FFPOs, 27 FFPOs, and forest and farm case studies have been documented, including 7 case studies documented by IIED and shared widely for FFFVN work communication purposes.

10. Zambia

Expanding community forestry areas and offtake agreements from FFPOs



Figure 19. Displaying improved quality of craft products from FFPOs in Zambia

10.1 History of FFF engagement

Zambia's forest resources are still extensive, covering 49.9 million hectares (66 percent of the land area). However, Zambia lost 1.71Mha of tree cover between 2000 and 2019, mainly due to commodity-driven agriculture alongside some clearance for subsistence agriculture and charcoal to meet the needs of a growing population. The forestry sector contributes about 5.4% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), mainly from forest-based industries (3.7%), charcoal production (2.2%), fuel wood collection (0.8%) commercial logging (0.3%), and non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs (0.1%). It is estimated that 60% of the households in rural communities rely on forests for their livelihoods, providing up to 20% of rural household incomes. A new Forest Act was approved in 2015, bringing hope for community forest management and forest and farm producers to access better rights and benefits from the country's forest resources.

Following its launch in 2012, FFF started work in Zambia in 2015 in the Southern and North Western provinces. Success stories from that first phase were woven into a successful submission by the Cotton Association of Zambia in Collaboration with the Zambia National Forestry Commodities Association and the Forestry Department for participation in FFF phase II. The FFF phase II was launched in Zambia on the 30th of November 2018 by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre. Scoping and baseline missions⁴ were undertaken to

⁴ Ziba, V. (2019) Zambia forest and farm facility phase II baseline support for Petauke and Nyimba districts. FAO Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia.

identify suitable sites, and the national technical committee approved implementing the second phase in Choma, Nyimba, and Petauke. The European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme supported an additional program on wood fuel value chains in the Mushindamo district of North Western province. Additionally, two districts of the Eastern province, Nyimba and Petauke, were identified to develop synergies with the World Bank-funded Zambia Forest Integrated Landscape Programme (ZFILP) that would run in the same period with the FFF phase II.

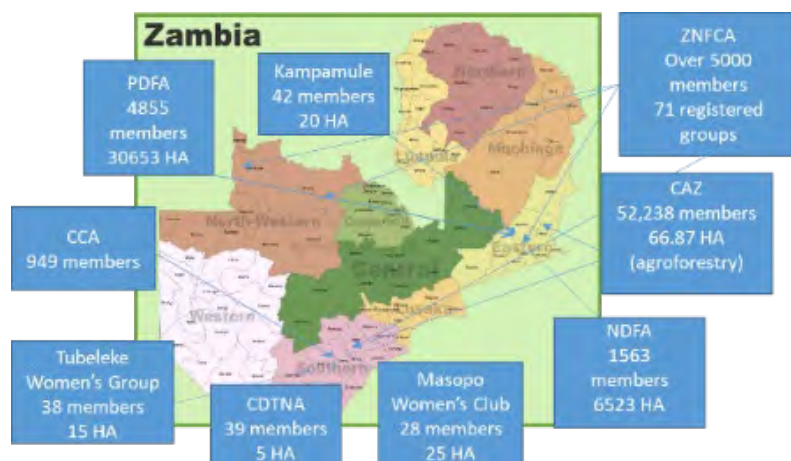


Figure 20. Map of implementation in Zambia

10.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Zambia.

FFF Zambia supports two main apex-level FFPOs (ZNFCA and CAZ) and seven further provincial FFPOs. It also provides some support to the Forestry Department of North-Western Provinces. FFF Zambia provides support to FFPOs representing more than 64,945 households who have responsibility for 38,583 hectares (excluding the extensive area of cotton production under CAZ) with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 1563 hectares (an increase of 451 hectares from 2022).

Table 10. Names and locations of FFPOs supported in Zambia in 2023

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	Zambia National Forest Commodities Association (ZNFCA) 5000 members, with 1000 hectares of restored productive land	Forestry fruits: <i>Adansonia digitata</i> (Mabuyu), <i>Tamarindus indicus</i> (Usika), <i>Pilliosigma thonningi</i> (Msekese), <i>Ziziphus mauritania</i> (Masau), <i>Azanza garckeana</i> (Makole), <i>Vaquera infausta</i> (Ngai ngai) and other fruits. Herbs: Herbs for treating various diseases Cosmetics: <i>Schinziophyton rautanenii</i> (Mungongo tree) Other plant products: Forestry foods, leaves, seeds, nuts, tubers, roots, fungi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choma (Southern Province) • Nyimba and (Eastern Province) • Petauke Districts (Eastern Province) ZNFCA has members in other provinces: Central, Copperbelt, Lusaka, and North-Western.

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
2	Cotton Association of Zambia (CAZ) 52,238 members with 91 hectares of agroforestry	Cotton, agroforestry in the cotton landscapes, livestock fodder feed, soil fertility	Southern Province (Monze, Mazabuka, Choma, Sinazongwe, Kalomo, Chikankata), Central Province (Kabwe, Chibombo, Mumbwa, Chibuyunji), Eastern Province (Nyimba, Petauke, Sinda, Katete, Chipata, Lundazi), Muchinga province (Chama)
3	Choma Charcoal Association (CCA) 1047 members, 250 hectares of forest	Sustainable charcoal	Choma District, Southern Province
4	Masopo Women's Club 34 members, 25 hectares	Baskets, bushels, mobile money booths, garden, wild fruits, goats, and chickens.	Choma District, Southern Province
5	Tubeleke Women's Group 39 members 15 hectares	Baskets and Bushels but also pigs, chicken, goats, gardening, medicinal and mobile money booth business	Choma District, Southern Province
6	Choma District Tree Nurseries Association (CDTNA) 127 members, 5 hectares	Nursery, including plants and tree seedlings	Choma District, Southern Province
7	Nyimba District Farmers Association (NDFA) 1563 members, 6523 hectares	Cooking oil, banana chips, and groundnut powder	Nyimba District, Eastern Province
8	Petauke District Farmers Association (PDFA) 4855 members, 30,653 hectares	1. Museke (piliostigma thonningii) processing 2. Forest Honey processing 3. Cooking oil 4. Nsenga Herbs 5. Livestock Feed processing 6. Millie Meal processing 7. Wood furniture 8. Traditional beehives	Petauke District, Eastern Province
9	Kampamule multipurpose cooperative society 42 members, 20 hectares	Beekeeping, tree planting in the community forest, and piggery	Petauke District, Eastern Province
10	Forest Department North-Western Province		Mushindamo, North-Western Province

10.3 Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

Both traditional and nation-state government agencies can advance enabling policies. All ten FFPOs supported continue with advocacy plans and interact with decision makers through six different platforms (the National Task Force on Charcoal, District Development Committees (DDCs), District Sub-committees on Environment, Ward Development Committees (WDCs), Constituent Development Fund committees, and Chiefdom level management units). This year, FFF supported the Government in hosting a national Community Forest dialogue that brought together multiple stakeholders to review and agree on policy actions. ZNFCA has established a beekeeping policy discussion platform to push forward support for local honey producers. ZNFCA has also joined the Community Based Natural Resources Management (CBNRM) Forum, championing women groups to obtain community forest management (CFM) areas as security of forest tenure. The Choma Charcoal Association continues working with Kasisi and the Forest Department to expand a participatory guaranteed system (PGS) of charcoal certification. Continuing advocacy on behalf of FFPOs has also led to their targeting in a major GEF 7 program and increased direct funding this year by the Government in Zambia to FFPOs (5 Constituent Development fund set up for FFPOs).

In 2023, one major success was the NDFA-facilitated ward-level strategic plans signed by the chief and WDC. With FFF support, NDFA worked with communities in the Nyimba district to form Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) with Msima, Nkasako, and Kaselekete in Chief Ndake's area at the forefront of this initiative. Subsequently, these groups were linked to the FAO-supported Climate Change Adaptation project within the Forest and Agriculture mosaic landscape implemented by WWF – and the three villages came together and formed a Community Forest Management Committee (CFMC). The committee conducted a comprehensive forest survey, mapping its boundaries and identifying areas needing urgent attention. With the support of NDFA, the Forestry Department granted these communities licenses for the first-ever community-managed forest in Chief Ndake's area. They demarcated areas for sustainable logging, ensuring that only a set number of trees were harvested yearly, and implemented strict measures to prevent illegal logging. They sought to diversify their income sources while reducing pressure on the forest. Ndake Chiefdom became a hub for learning and exchange, hosting NGO-sponsored study visits and training programs for other communities interested in implementing similar initiatives – increasing the momentum behind community forestry in Zambia. Mboole has supported Choma Chiefdom in reviewing its strategic plan to include climate change issues, as it is under the traditional leadership that community forestry management and carbon trading could be done. Through links through the FAO-supported GEF project, Chief Lukama, as a representative of the traditional leadership of Western province, went to the climate COP in Dubai and was able to share at the Zambia pavilion with the Minister of Green Economy that over 10,000 hectares of land under his leadership was now earmarked for community forestry and carbon trading.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Seedling production can make good business sense. During FFF Phase II, the CDTNA has grown from 30 to 111 nursery members, producing more than 450,000 seedlings of more than 56 species of tree, including indigenous species, a wide variety of fruit trees, timber trees, ornamentals and nitrogen-fixing species for agroforestry. In 2023, it was regarded as a primary commercial supplier of trees for forest restoration projects with NGOs and programs such as the Netherlands Development Organization (SNV), Plant a Million, New Apostolic Church Relief Organization (NACRO), and the Brethren in Christ Choma Development Programme (BICC-CDP), and Catholic Relief Services plus with local schools, colleges, and individual growers. This year saw five private companies registered by members from within the association. Elsewhere, 2023 saw the development of bulking centers of the baskets and crafts developed by Tubeleke and Masopo women's clubs – with improved labeling of forest products and use of social media by FFPOs for marketing, including in national galleries.

Another highlight in 2023 has been ZNFCA signing agreements with four private companies as off-takers of forest-based FFPO value chains from Nyimba, Petauke, Choma, and Mwinilunga. The value chains include honey, Musekese pods (*Piliostigma thonningii*), Baobab fruits, Tamarind fruits, and also wild vegetables that include Pupwe (Knobwood), Mundambi (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*), and cassava leaves. Signed contracts have been achieved with Umulyo Foods, Africa Nature Organic Foods, Dairy Gold, and Kunowa Essential oils. They have now been linked to FFPO suppliers of the products through ZNFCA, such as the Mwinilunga Honey Association, Nyimba District Forest Commodities Association, and Petauke District Forest Commodities Association. For example, the Mwinilunga Honey Association and ZNFCA supplied Umulyo Honey with 20 x 20 liters of honey on behalf of its members in October of 2023, translating into a sale of 1000 USD for the Mwinilunga Honey Association. Additionally, Visimumba IC signed an agreement with CIFOR-ICRAF for Bamboo value chain development.

Outcome 3 – towards climate resilient landscapes

Secure tenure rights often pave the way to forest restoration. In 2023, FFPOs mobilized 451 hectares of land for restoration, protection, and sustainable forest management. One key element of this has been over 100 hectares of land for community forestry management, with the 3 FFPOs in Msima, Nkasako, and Kaselekete described above formally recognized by the Government. Other innovations include the establishment of 20 hectares of citrus plantation by the Mboole Rural Development Initiative (MRDI) in the land of Chief Choma. Following FFF-supported market analysis and development (MA&D) training, MRDI established a tree seedling nursery with over 10,000 grafted citrus seedlings ready for sale and planting in the 2022-2023 planting season, alongside a 20-hectare demonstration of oranges with beehives. The groups also established woodlot demonstrations with 600 pines in 4 plots of ½ Ha each and 600 eucalyptus in 5 plots of ½ ha each with 15 traditional beehives. MRDI has invested in solar irrigation from a borehole for the longer-term citrus establishment and the shorter-term vegetable production project. In the short term, the area will be producing vegetables and honey, while by 2027, a total of 400 plants X 20 Ha = 8000 plants X 500 fruits = 4,000,000 fruits are projected to be produced for local consumption and trade.

As noted in previous reports, all the FFPOs have written strategies on climate change enshrined in their constitution and work plans. All six women groups supported by the FFF have diversified livelihoods and income-generating activities to adapt to climate change. On average, members earn 10 USD monthly more than before FFF interventions. Additionally, in 2023, the Choma Charcoal Association began to partner with local schools to establish woodlots for fuel. They have also started making briquettes as biomass fuel to complement their regular PGS-certified sustainable charcoal production. The work of CAZ continues to integrate agroforestry in cotton production areas for fuel wood and has put 30 hectares of land under agroforestry in deforestation-free cotton production areas.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

All the groups supported by the FFF in Zambia have started savings and loan groups. And 2023 has seen increased use of ZANACO mobile banking services for lending and savings schemes by six groups, including Tubeleke, Kalonda, Masopo, Chiyambi, Temwani, and Tiyeseke groups. This allows investment in production – for example, by Tubuleke in a hummer meal to add value to their agricultural maize for animal feed and human consumption. Aggregation, sales, and investment planning have allowed such groups to diversify production – with Tubuleke selling 304 baskets (US\$396), 450 grass brooms (US\$85), 4000 heads of cabbage (US\$ 912), 200 boxes of tomatoes (US\$114), herbal medicine (US\$57), sugar beat (US\$ 174), while also acquiring 12 pigs, 14 goats, 38 local chickens, 300 fish fingerlings, 450 kg of maize seed and 15 hectares of community forest land.

FFF has also facilitated FFPOs to join the National Pensions and Health schemes at low cost in their areas of operation. Over 500 FFPO members now receive cash transfers and government input support as social protection. All FFPOs supported by FFF have developed basic communication strategies and are actively sharing information about their work on social media – including for issues such as pensions and health benefits. As a result of such work, FFPOs are increasingly considered partners in national, district, and ward events by government authorities. For example, FFPO reports are even shared during some DDC meetings and, in some cases, form part of the public service contracts.

Annex 2. Summary of country progress for FFF network countries

11. Gambia

Embedded business incubation within the National Farmer Platform paying off



Figure 21. Community Forest Management Committee planning meeting in the Gambia

1.1 History of FFF engagement

The Gambia was a core country in FFF Phase I between 2013 and 2017. FFF played a vital role in unlocking the country's Community Forestry tenure reform process, which had been stagnant for over a decade, with a total of 116 community forests covering 9,408 hectares (representing 30 percent of all community forest tenure agreements in the country) transferred to local communities as a result of a series of targeted actions and support from the FFF program. The All Gambia Forestry Platform (AGFP) saw a surge in membership, including the National Farmers Platform of The Gambia (NFPG). Of the 16 main FFPOs supported, many community forest management committees (CFMCs) diversified their income generation from timber to include eco-tourism, handicraft, beekeeping, tree nursery management, timber, fuel wood, and salt. The National Beekeepers Association of the Gambia (NBAG) restructured and merged with a Professional Beekeepers Association to form one apex organization – and two national associations for Cashew farmers decided to join forces and formed a national Federation of Cashew Farmers Associations diversifying their products beyond nuts to include juice, jams, cakes, and candles. In 2018, the country was again selected as one of the network countries to benefit from the FFF Phase

The goal of FFF in The Gambia is to empower FFPOs to navigate and manage climate challenges, fostering resilient landscapes and improved livelihoods. The Gambia program

contributes to national priorities outlined in the National Development Plan (NDP) (blueprint of the Government), particularly in areas such as the modernization of agriculture, human capital development, and youth and women empowerment.

1.2 Main partners involved with FFF in the Gambia.

FFF Gambia supports two Apex Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) and one Ministry, namely: National Farmers Platform, Gambia (NFPG), National Coordinating Organization of Farmer Associations, Gambia (NACOFAG), and the Ministry of Environment Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR) and both FFPOs operate in all the five administrative regions. These two Apex FFPOs have a total membership of 830,345, of which 60% are female. These FFPOs have become at the forefront of sustainable forestry and agricultural practices. They are responsible for 217,693 hectares with direct restoration impacts from FFF agreements of approximately 164,946 hectares.

Table 11. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Gambia

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	National Farmers Platform, Gambia (NFPG) 451,580 members, 187,500 hectares	Crops, Cereals, Livestock, Fisheries, Poultry, Forest Products, Policy advocacy	Nationwide
2	National Coordinating Organization for Farmers Associations, The Gambia (NACOFAG) 378,765 members 30,193 hectares	Policy issues, Crop Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forest and Food processors	Nationwide
3	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR)	Government Organization (GO) responsible for Policy issues related to the Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources Chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Multi-Stakeholder Policy Platform	Nationwide

1.3. Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

The drafting of the Traditional Medicine Act in 2023 highlighted policy influence by FFPOs in the Gambia. Since 2018, FFF Gambia has successfully supported FFPO representation in the reform of five significant policies. First, the Forest Policy provisions on handing over 200,000 hectares of forests to local communities and strengthening co-management of forest parks have resulted in 36,000 hectares of transfer. Second, the Climate Change Policy now clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the local population in adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of climate change. Third, the national Extension Policy has been modified such that the ratio of extension officers to farmers reducer from 1:3000 to 1:1500. Fourth, the Cooperative Policy has established the legal basis for forming cooperatives and cooperative credit unions – with two major new cooperative credit

unions (National Livestock Owners Association (NaLOA) and the National Bee-keepers Association of The Gambia (NBAG) and four new cooperatives established in 2023. Finally, as noted above, the Traditional Medicine Act was drafted to mainstream traditional medicine into conventional medicine practices. An improved understanding of the key policy provisions (in forest, climate change, and cooperative policies) is helping FFPOs take advantage of those provisions. The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) platform was strengthened through joint meetings and field assessment visits, resulting in improved coordination and wise use of resources.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

Gambia provides another strong example of how building business incubation into apex FFPO structures can improve sustained support for business development. In 2023, the main value chains FFF supported Gambian FFPO enterprises engaged in included horticulture, tree nurseries, incense, honey, and other bee products. Fifteen FFPO Representatives were trained in forest business incubation using the ForBInc toolkit. There now exists an NFPG Business Incubation Hub with eight incubator staff and five women business champions (for peer-to-peer incubation services), and this is improving access to Business Development Services, including new techniques, reduced spending and increased productivity (for honey, horticulture, incense, and tree nursery value chains. For example, in 2023, the capacities of 20 female vegetable producers were built by women champions in the Business Incubation Hub to minimize post-harvest losses and improve techniques in producing organic rapid compost that increased farmer income and reduced spending in procuring imported fertilizer. FFF supported them by participating in the World Food and Rural Women's Day celebration, and four won prizes. A total of 15 FFPOs accessed business development services and other core capacity development activities in 2023 through peer-to-peer incubation services, resulting in increased productivity and income. Five new business plans and one eco-tourism enterprise plan were developed. Four new product-based cooperatives established in 2023 (beekeeping, tree nurseries, and incense) supported by NFPG are raising internal group funds through joint production and marketing of finished products. With three of these led by women, accrued earnings of the cooperatives will be used to provide initial capital needs for individual product development initiatives with attractive interest as per their constitutions. Formal registration of cooperatives with the newly established Department of Cooperative Development and the Ministry of Justice provides opportunities for the cooperatives to access services such as training events and monitoring. Two FFPOs involved in eco-tourism and incense production accessed finance for their promising options and securing market space for their products. Three further cooperatives are dealing with microfinance institutions with zero interest rates.

Outcome 3 - towards climate-resilient landscapes

In 2023, the roles of women and youth in combating climate change and applying measures towards mitigation and adaptation were discussed within the National Climate Change Committee and incorporated into the 2nd National Determine Contributions plan. Awareness-raising events conducted by NFPG, NACOFAG, and MECCNAR and the implementation of controlled early burning along fire risk areas contributed to reducing the frequency and location of forest under sustainable management burnt by 40% nationwide of the 36,000 hectares of forests under community management. Additionally, FFPOs protecting natural regeneration in farmlands increased significantly in observance of

the Banjul Tree Cover Deceleration. Forest management strategies were implemented in the five regions covering 36,000 hectares, and forest management agreements were concluded with 500 communities to ensure tenure security and increased income through sustainable forest management. Climate change adaptation has also advanced, with farmers in 3 Regions (WCR, LRR, and NBR) now growing early maturing crops and cereals to adapt to climate change impacts – following lessons learned through FFF-supported farmer-to-farmer exchange and learning visits. Improvement plans developed by the 4 FFPOs include climate resilience plans and are being implemented.

Outcome 4 – towards more accessible social and cultural services

In terms of social and cultural protection, collaboration with line Ministries in 2023 will provide social safety nets to FFPOs in the upcoming 2nd phase of the Social Safety Net Project (SSNP) of the World Bank. FFF has also helped link FFPOs to the upcoming AfD Project under MECCNAR, which plans to pilot an insurance scheme for crop and livestock farmers. Weekly WhatsApp messaging on weather and climate developed by the Water Resources Department has also been shared with FFPO forums. Finally, FFF has helped catalog traditional medicinal plants and identified missing plants for the promotion of assisted natural regenerations in the Gene Bank of the Traditional Healers Assembly (TRAHASS), for which a ten-year management plan has been developed for TRAHASS traditional medicine forest / Gene bank and validated by 25 participants.

12. Liberia

Peer-peer exchanges that can motivate diversified new production systems



Figure 22. Nursery seedlings preparation of Grain of Paradise (NTFP) by women in Nimba County, Liberia Photo: Fedrick Gongantee

2.1 History of FFF engagement

The country program was launched in Liberia in 2013 under FFF phase I and concluded in 2017. During FFF phase I, the major apex FFPOs engaged by the FFF included the Farmers Union Network (FUN) and the National Charcoal Union of Liberia (NACUL). Liberia was unsuccessful in expressing interest in joining FFF Phase II in 2018. Still, it was invited in 2021 to rejoin FFF as a network country following additional finances raised by the facility co-management team. The initial focus in 2021 was to strengthen FFPOs for policy engagement, business development, and cross-sectoral coordination – and initial work prioritized strengthening the internal governance of charcoal and cashew producer groups in Gbarpolu and Grand Bassa Counties. Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) and business incubation processes were also initiated. In 2022, the program expanded to three FFF-targeted counties: Nimba, Lofa, and Gbarpolu. FFF Liberia supported the National Union of Community Forest Development Committees (NUFDC) and the Botanical Products Association of Liberia (BOPAL) to strengthen FFPO's internal governance further – but also to start to facilitate a new national FFPO structure (a federation). A cross-sectoral platform to establish that federation, an exchange visit to improve market linkages and value-addition, and a pilot woodlot for sustainable charcoal production in Liberia were all initiated at that time

2.2 Main partners involved with FFF in Liberia.

With limited resources as a network country, FFF Liberia supports just three main apex-level FFPOs representing 1,532 households responsible for 1,501,516 hectares with direct restoration impacts of approximately 21,425 from FFF agreements.

Table 12. Names, products, and locations of FFPOs supported by FFF in Liberia

No.	Name of FFPO	Main products	Location
1	Botanical Products Association of Liberia 500 members, 16 hectares	Non-timber forest products	Gbeh-leh Geh, Twah River, and Yemah Districts in Nimba County, Liberia
2	National Union of Community Forest Development Committee 230 members, 1,500,000 hectares	Forest Resource Management	Salayea,
3	National Charcoal Union of Liberia, 802 members, 1,500 hectares	Charcoal	Garma District, Gbarpolu County; Salayea District, Lofa County

1.3. Achievements by Outcome

Outcome 1 – towards more enabling policies

The National Union of Community Forest Development Committee (NUCFDC) is an APEX structure based in Monrovia with sub-offices in offices in various counties where forest concessions are ongoing in Liberia. Over time, NUCFDC has advocated for the full adherence to the National Forestry Reform Law of 2006, which mandates the government to remit 30% of land rental fees to communities through the National Benefit Sharing Trust Board (NBSTB), which has not yet been done. In 2022, a draft amendment was made through the Legislative Committees on Forestry, Fisheries, and Agriculture. In 2023, a joint MOU was signed between various relevant ministries to establish a transitory account for direct community payment, thanks to advocacy from NUCFDC supported by FFF. Additionally, NUCFDC has engaged the national government in reviewing the forestry concession contracts and the forest policy to fully comply with the concession contracts and advocacy for climate financing and benefit-sharing for FFPOs. In 2023, a technical working session on Liberia's carbon market readiness was established, and the National Forest Policy Review was initiated and is currently underway.

The National Charcoal Union of Liberia (NACUL) is an APEX member-based organization for charcoal producers based in Monrovia, Montserrado County. Following successful engagement in 2021 with the Forestry Development Authority (FDA), the FDA tabled a charcoal regulation. In 2022, NACUL engaged with the House of Legislature, particularly the House Steering Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the office of the Speaker from the lower House of Representatives, to draft legislation for the formalization of the charcoal sector in Liberia. Passing this legislation will, in principle, strengthen the charcoal sector with more robust policies and laws to reduce the high deforestation rate and promote sustainable charcoal production in Liberia. There is, however, much need for enforcement in implementing the policy, which was the focus of NACUL's lobby in 2023.

Outcome 2 - towards increased entrepreneurship

In 2023, the main value chains FFF supported Liberian FFPO enterprises to engage in included timber from community forest areas, non-timber forest products (notably the grain of paradise spice, honey, and xylopia), and sustainable charcoal. The Botanical Product Association of Liberia, an FFPO involved in non-timber products (NTFPs) production, harvesting, and sales in Liberia, conducted an exchange visit with four

representatives to Ivory Coast to explore NTFPs value-added processes. Following the successful knowledge gained and lessons learned, 2023 saw an increase in interest in Grain of Paradise (GOP) spice. BOTPAL cultivated about 3,000 seedlings of Grain of Paradise, a non-timber forest product (NTFP) with a high economic and medicinal prospect in Liberia. The idea was to protect some indigenous species from local extinction threats. A market analysis and development (MA&D) training for 25 NTFP harvesters and collectors—15 males and 10 females—was conducted to develop a strong agri-food business approach to address food security challenges.

Outcome 3 – towards climate-resilient landscapes

In 2023, with the FFF's support, NACUL embarked on a pilot for sustainable charcoal production. In efforts to mitigate climate change and build resilience, NACUL, with support from its members, initiated a tree planting campaign, establishing the first of several planned woodlots with 2.5 hectares of Acacia trees for sustainable charcoal production for its members. Additionally, NACUL adopted best practices by using a kiln oven to increase conversion efficiencies, providing technical training to 19 charcoal producers (11 males and eight females) on using and operating the efficient and cleaner kiln oven. BOTPAL has established 3 hectares of restored grain of paradise agroforestry. NUCFDC is implementing sustainable forest management plans in Salayea County to restore 21,420 ha.

Annex 3. FFF gender monitoring results

Gender equality and women empowerment stand as fundamental cross-cutting themes for FFF. The 2020 mid-term evaluation of the program emphasized the necessity for a more substantial approach to gender transformation. A critical component of this is better capturing and reporting ongoing activities and results in the country and reporting them at the program level. In response, the FFF set out to assess and improve the gender monitoring of the program. A gender monitoring toolbox was developed, including a new data collection tool based on an intuitive and accessible mobile application, guidance on data collection and analysis, as well as terms of reference for a national gender consultant to carry out gender analysis on an annual basis in each country. To establish a reference against which progress can be measured, FFPOs were asked (with support from national gender consultants) to collect baseline data in the first iteration of 2022. Data collection is then carried out at the end of each subsequent calendar year, with progress data becoming available in 2023 for the first time.

The questionnaire is administered through the KoBoCollect application, which can be used on any smartphone online and offline. The collected data can then be easily sent to cloud storage once the internet becomes available. FFF-FAO collates all countries' gender monitoring data at a central level. Once data is collected, the national gender consultants in each country analyze it according to a template developed by FFF and prepare a draft FFF country gender report. These reports are then validated in a 1-day national gender meeting. The final recommendations form the basis for deciding on gender transformative action to be implemented in the following calendar year.

Overall, the new FFF gender monitoring systems allow a much closer following of the impact of FFF support on women's equality and empowerment. It is a useful tool to plan FFF's future work, highlighting what has worked (and what has not) in the past, what should be scaled up, and where FFPOs have expressed their need for further support. The following sections provide a brief overview of the highlights, challenges, and recommendations as described in the FFF country gender reports available to date:

Highlights:

The FFF has yielded impactful outcomes for women producers and their organizations, with notable themes emerging across the diverse regions.

Inclusive governance and participation:

The impact of FFF-supported efforts at the country level to increase women's participation in FFPOs, including capacity building and awareness raising for gender equality, is evident: In Vietnam, 100% of surveyed FFPOs said that the FFF had encouraged women to participate in FFPOs, reflecting a commitment to fostering gender inclusivity. In Ghana, the gender gap in membership in all supported FFPOs has closed with 56% of all FFF supported FFPO members being female and the gender gap in FFPO leadership positions closing (46%). Bolivian FFPOs also report an increased gender balance among their members.

FFPOs in Togo and Ecuador use up to 75% of their LoA/DBG budgets to strengthen internal gender equality, with 9 out of 10 FFPOs in Ecuador reporting an increase in women's rights and access to resources thanks to FFF support. In Madagascar, of all supported FFPO members, 67% are women. In Tanzania, FFPOs report that FFF has fostered transformative changes by enhancing women's inclusion in internal governance processes. This inclusivity has brought forth unique perspectives and priorities, allowing women to steer their organization's direction. In Nepal, the percentage of women in the executive committees of FFPOs increased from 33% to 40% through FFF support. The Gambia reports that 95% of FFPOs in the country have group finance and assets controlled by women due to FFF support, which has increased greater transparency and accountability.

Entrepreneurial empowerment:

Gender-related discussions frequently involve sensitive and controversial topics such as family division of labor as well as cultural and traditional perspectives on gender. Yet, promoting gender equality in business often offers a more acceptable entry point to enhance women's empowerment. In Ghana women's entrepreneurship in agrifood systems has expanded and moved higher up the value chain, driven by the building women's capacities, the provision of experience-sharing opportunities, the facilitation of market linkages, as well as of access to finance. In Nepal financial literacy capacity-building activities have positively impacted women members in understanding financial terms and engagements with different actors in their personal and professional transactions. Technical units of Nepalese apex FFPOs responsible for business development support to their members are now staffed 50% by women. Thanks to FFF capacity building support, in Bolivia, women are increasingly actively participating in traditionally male-dominated productive activities, such as carpentry and pulp processing. A similar phenomenon is taking place in Ecuador where through the FFF women are increasingly engaged in managing geographic information and carrying out marketing activities within their organisations or taking up leadership positions in public administration. Peer-to-peer mentoring, for example, by women champions among business incubation staff in The Gambia, often contributes enormously to the professional growth of women producers and entrepreneurs. In Ecuador, the FFPO TOISAN in Intag has formed the marketing network 'Kutakachi' comprising ten women's associations to collectively market women's products at the local and regional level in Cotacachi by facilitating access to sale locations. On the increased confidence of women in business, the FFPO member Ignacia Supepi Huasase Cacique of the Río Blanco community notes: "I have seen several changes, many things are discovered, knowledge of women that sometimes they have kept and when given the opportunity they show their skills for leadership or development of enterprises that help us in the development of the community, I learned a lot, and the trainings have helped us to discover our skills and enhance them, we have more ideas and we are putting together projects for later."

Climate change and sustainable practices:

The Gambia recognizes the crucial role of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation, as evidenced by their contributions captured in the 2nd National Determined Contributions (NDC). In Madagascar, FFF-supported FFPO members engage in market gardening using agroecological practices and contributing to sustainable and resilient livelihoods. In Nepal 72% of FFPO gender monitoring respondents named resilience and sustainable production as the most successful engagement areas of FFF in 2023. In

Ecuador, 70% of FFPOs have developed applied climate-sensitive practices that address women's resilience needs thanks to FFF capacity building and in-kind support. Ghanaian women's knowledge about resilience and the adoption of climate-smart practices has increased, as this quote from Hamidatu, a member of maaltaaba FFPO bears witness: "I did not know how to prevent erosion and protect my land from degradation. But through the sustainable land management training I received, I learned how to plant trees in my farm to prevent soil erosion."

In summary, the FFF program demonstrates diverse positive impacts on women, spanning entrepreneurial empowerment, inclusive governance, climate change resilience, capacity building, and financial inclusion. These themes collectively underline the program's commitment to advancing gender inclusivity and empowering women across different regions.

Challenges:

Despite the many advances toward women's forest and farm producers' equity, the FFF gender monitoring also brought to light opportunities to deepen the gender impact of the program.

Economic disparities and resource access:

The increasing 'feminization' of poverty is apparent in several countries, for example, in Vietnam, where despite tremendous national economic development, women and girls in isolated locations face continued disadvantages. Limited access and control over crucial resources such as land, production inputs, information, and technology are prevalent issues in all FFF countries. Access to financial services, especially credit, remains a significant obstacle in Bolivia, Ghana, Ecuador, and Togo. In Nepal, women seldom own assets that could be declared as potential collateral in credit applications. In Vietnam, where innovations in product traceability improve the overall marketability of forest and farm products, women often struggle to cover costs related to these systems as they often run only small-scale productions and lack the necessary computer skills. A recurrent theme in several FFF countries is the need for adequate financial commitment to gender-related initiatives at all levels to address inequalities appropriately.

Workload and care responsibilities:

Finding ways to reconcile family and work life is challenging for working women everywhere. Women's time burden is a recurrent obstacle in all FFF countries. Gender monitoring reports in Vietnam, Ghana, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Togo reveal that care work and overburdening due to traditional gender roles pose challenges to women's participation in income-generating activities and decision-making processes within their organizations and communities.

Traditional and societal barriers:

Several FFF countries, including Ecuador, Ghana, Nepal, Tanzania, Vietnam, Bolivia, and Kenya, grapple with traditional gender gaps, social attitudes discouraging equality, and entrenched traditional roles that significantly impede women's progress. For example,

although forest value chains in Tanzania could offer a wealth of income-generating opportunities for women, they are culturally and traditionally dominated by men, creating barriers to women's participation. In Nepal, the Federation of Community Forest Users of Nepal (FECOFUN) originally had provisions for 50% women participation in the community forestry committee (specifying two key/vital roles in the executive committee). This provision has been revised, which might lead to less representation of women in the executive committee. In Ecuador, 64% of FFPOs still lack specific regulations for women's participation and gender balance among their members and economic initiatives targeting women have not resulted in widespread economic autonomy for women.

Addressing these overarching themes—economic disparities, traditional and societal barriers, workload and care responsibilities, limited access and control, and organizational and technological challenges—will be crucial for fostering gender equality and empowering women forest and farm producers in the future.

Recommendations:

The first FFF country gender reports have highlighted a range of valuable recommendations at the country as well as program level, which form the basis for the development of work plans for the following calendar year:

Economic empowerment and independence:

Women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship can be a useful entry point to other forms of empowerment. FFPOs in Kenya and Togo stress the link between women's economic empowerment and broader women's equity. Customized training on business development, like Market Analysis & Development (MA&D), exclusively for women as well as support for accessing financial services are, is mentioned in several gender report recommendations as a crucial step in fostering economic empowerment. In Nepal, 95% of gender monitoring participants nominate business development training as a top priority for FFF in the future. In Ghana, women's entrepreneurship development (declared as a top priority by 100% of gender monitoring participants) needs to go hand in hand with training provision on how to access more lucrative regional markets and on export readiness. Vietnamese FFPOs recommend that successful FFPO models led by women be documented to facilitate sharing their experiences and lessons learned with others. Madagascar calls for advocacy efforts that prioritize strengthening women's access to resources.

Targeted program interventions:

In Kenya, specific and targeted FFF interventions for women are deemed essential at the program level, and the FFPO level suggests making them compulsory. All interventions should also consider and accommodate women's time burdens linked to their multiple responsibilities in their households and communities. Tanzanian FFPOs suggest the gender-earmarked budget needs to be increased, and strategic collaboration with 'likeminded' initiatives in intervention locations should be sought to achieve deeper impacts for women producers. Gender-related activities should be based on thorough analyses of which interventions are suitable and useful for women living in traditional value landscapes. In

Ghana the development of a gendered policy engagement strategy based on prior policy and stakeholder analysis is needed.

Family and household-level initiatives:

Several countries suggest a multifaceted gender approach, not shying away from targeting traditional gender gaps and emphasizing the importance of working at the household and family levels. Raising awareness of gender equality for both men and women within families is considered essential. From Ghana comes the suggestion to pilot gender transformative approaches that include the engagement of men to address gender-based social norms that are disadvantageous for women. The Kenyan FFPO CHEAKOFA suggests that creating gender allies/champions who will work hand in hand with FFPOs in advocating for gender and women empowerment is the most efficient and socially acceptable way to change the community perspective and mindsets towards gender equality and inclusion. Ms. Nguyen Phuong Dong, Vice chairwoman of Yen Bai Provincial Farmers' Union in Vietnam, notes: "[...] The solution to helping women in agroforestry-based farming [...] is to raise awareness of gender equality for both men and women in the family and create good conditions for them to join skills trainings".

In summary, the identified recommendations form a comprehensive strategy for advancing gender equality and empowering women through FFF support.

Annex 4. Knowledge generation and training

1. Enhancing gender communication for women's entrepreneurial empowerment

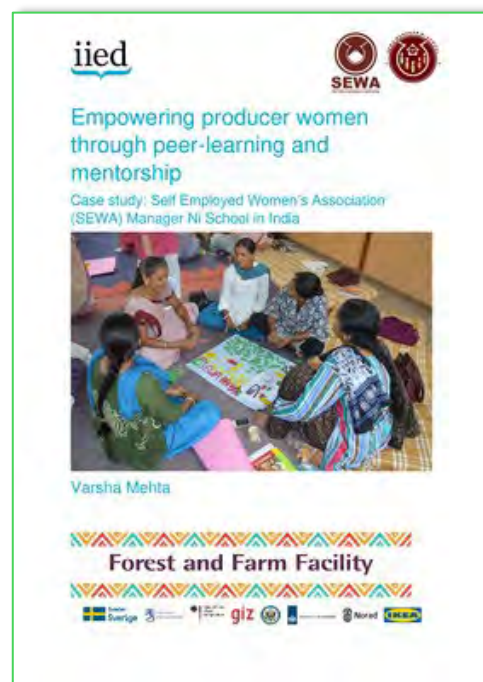
This year saw the first in a series of dialogues on women's entrepreneurial empowerment as part of an enhanced communication platform for FFF, emphasizing communication material designed to be accessed by rural women entrepreneurs and FFPOs.

As background material for that first dialogue, IIED completed the editing and uploading of the first two online in a set of case studies on women's entrepreneurial empowerment. These include the following reports:

Mehta, V. (2023) Empowering producer women through peer-learning and mentorship. SEWA and IIED, London, UK. Available at: <https://www.iied.org/21531q>

Masso, R.P. (2023) Strengthening the role of women in agriculture and natural resource management. REFACOF and IIED, London, UK. Available at: <https://www.iied.org/21536q>

Despite major progress in reducing overall global poverty levels, new research shows a 'feminization' of poverty, meaning that women are at greater risk of slipping into or remaining in poverty. This is especially true in the agriculture and forest sectors of the global South, which FFF aims to serve. Even though women play important roles along agricultural and forest value chains, they suffer large gender inequalities in access to agricultural assets, inputs, services, new technology, education, information, markets, rights and legal protection, networks, and decision-making processes. They also have less control of the products and income from their sale. This causes high costs to their countries, communities, and households.



Within FFF, support for women-only producer organizations can be crucial where existing producer organizations are restricted to men or where it is culturally not foreseen for men and women to negotiate jointly and make decisions. However, women-only groups often remain limited to the local level. In mixed organizations, on the other hand, women may be well represented as members, but few of them occupy leadership positions. Generally, women are often excluded or poorly represented in such organizations, which tends to reinforce existing gender inequalities.

Finding ways to reconcile family and work life is challenging for working women everywhere. Greater women empowerment can increase public childcare, education, and health investments. This has many positive effects on women's livelihoods and well-being. Issues of gender often touch on deeply sensitive and controversial topics, including the division of labor at the family level or the treatment of gender by religion. However, gender equality in business is often a more acceptable entry point for reducing women's vulnerability and empowering their status within organizations and households.

Women's economic empowerment through entrepreneurship is an entry point to other forms of empowerment. It is also one of the most critical factors contributing to equality between women and men. Women's economic empowerment is essential for poverty reduction and sustainable economic development. Enhancing gender equity and women's agency is one of FFF's core cross-cutting themes. As part of its gender strategy, the FFF aims to offer opportunities for women producers to participate in peer-to-peer (women-to-women) sessions to exchange knowledge and experiences and to enable greater economic empowerment. While women's economic development challenges are manifold, FFF acknowledges that many trailblazing women producers and producer organizations in its extended network may offer valuable lessons to their peers. In this spirit, FFF-IIED is working with women leaders of these organizations to initiate a global rural women producers' exchange platform.

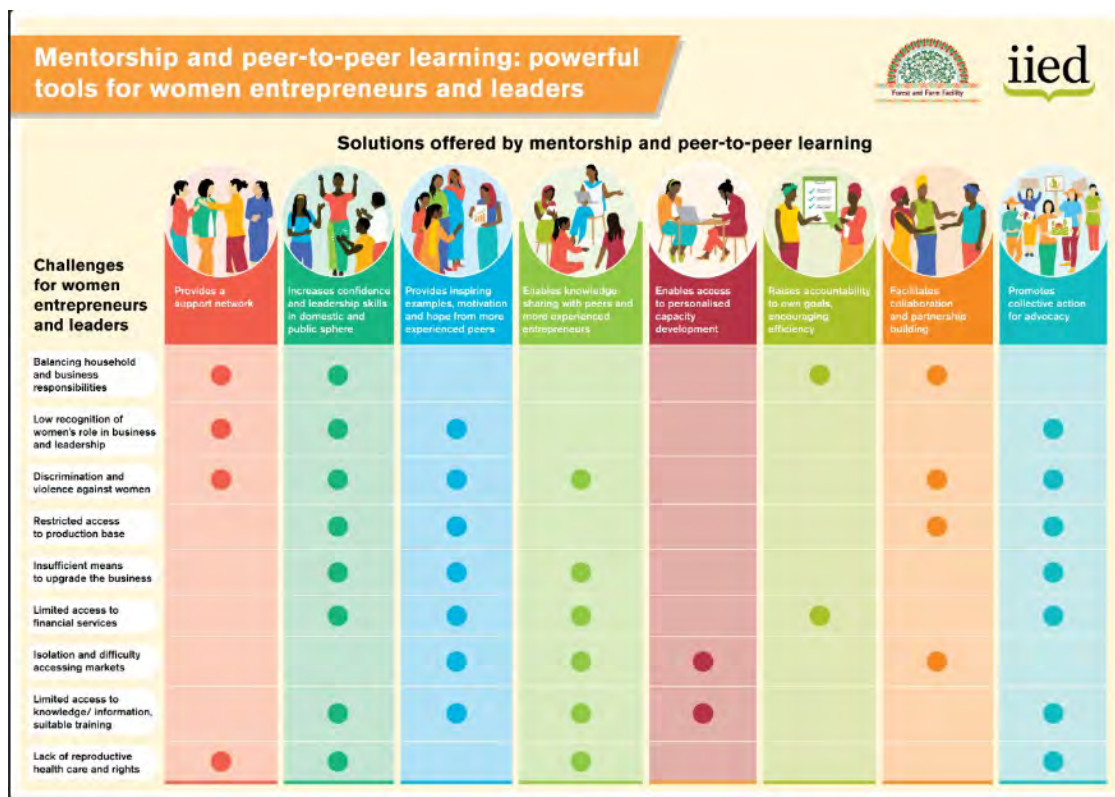
As one of the implementing partners of FFF, IIED hosted on 30 March 2023 the first online dialogue series for women-led or majority-women FFPOs. The aim is to create a space for women producers, entrepreneurs, and leaders to connect, share, and exchange experiences and ideas and support and inspire one another around women's empowerment in their contexts. Each dialogue focuses on rural women producers' agency and entrepreneurship and will feature case study presentations by invited speakers, the opportunity for conversations in small circles, and facilitated discussions.

The first online dialogue unpacked entrepreneurial and leadership mentoring and peer-to-peer learning as valuable approaches for providing guidance and support, networking opportunities, skill development, confidence building, and accountability to self-set goals and commitments for aspiring women entrepreneurs and leaders. Three such initiatives were introduced:



- The Manager School, an initiative of SEWA, aims to help its many women microentrepreneur members develop leadership and business skills
- The Women Leadership Circles in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management, an initiative implemented by the African Women’s Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF) in Cameroon, provides peer-to-peer mentoring for advocacy leadership, and
- The capacity development work of the Women’s Association of Deir El Ahmar (WADA), a member of the WeCaN Nurturing Community of Knowledge Practice for Women network in dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems.

In group discussions, the participants collectively generated a range of recommendations on how women producer organizations, businesses, and leaders could be supported. The solutions that mentorship and peer-to-peer learning services offer to address common challenges for women entrepreneurs are shown in [this infographic](#), designed to be used by FFPOs and their support partners in advocating for and developing such services.



A recording of the dialogue can be found on the IIED YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZl2s2blTUw>



2. Research to uncover the scale of smallholder adaptation investment

Smallholder farmers are at the front line of climate risk and have to invest hugely in adaptive measures. In 2023, IIED built on a China survey conducted in 2022 and worked with FFF partners to conduct a global online survey of 1800 smallholders to show the current scale of investments (in terms of time and money) by smallholder forest and farm producers into climate and nature actions. Following analysis and report preparation, a press release was issued on 14 November before the COP.

The global survey across 13 countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America suggests smallholder farmers are spending US\$368 billion of their own income every year on measures to adapt to climate change, including through conserving or restoring biodiversity, according to the Forest and Farm Facility and IIED.

The survey found that, on average, each farming household was investing \$838 every year. With 439 million smallholder farmers globally, they are likely collectively investing \$368 billion annually on climate change adaptation, dwarfing the \$230m pledged for the Adaptation Fund at last year's COP27 climate negotiations. The hosts for this year's



negotiations, the United Arab Emirates, have said agriculture and food production will be a major focus of the discussions.

A separate analysis released by farmer networks representing over 35 million small-scale producers in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Pacific reveals that only around 0.3% of international climate finance was spent helping small-scale family farmers adapt in 2021 (\$2 billion) even though they produce a third of the world's food. The UN's recently published Adaptation Gap report said spending on adaptation needs to increase by 10 to 18 times to help the most vulnerable communities adapt to climate change.

In 'The Unsung Giants of Climate and Nature Investment,' researchers reveal that every single respondent to their survey had noted some kind of impact on their farming from climate change, including floods, droughts, increases in pests or disease, changes in seasons, or amount of rainfall. On average, farmers in the survey spent between 20% and 40% of their annual income on trialing and implementing ecological farming practices to adapt to these changes. The most common measures mentioned include changing their farming hours or planting and harvesting schedules; controlling pests, erosion, and surface water run-off and improving soils through ecosystem-based approaches; protecting natural areas and increasing the number of species of crops, trees, and animals on their land; and attending training courses in how to adapt to a changed climate.

Xiaoting Hou-Jones, a senior researcher at IIED, said: "Farmers working small plots of land around the globe are the unsung heroes of the battle to adapt to the climate and nature crises. Climate change has already had profound impacts on their ways of life. They are also investing significant amounts of their time and money to adapt, often in ways that can help people and nature thrive together, dwarfing the contributions from rich governments."

The \$368 billion figure is likely a gross underestimate of these farmers' investment because it doesn't consider the time they spend on implementing these measures. The survey indicated that each smallholder household was spending, on average, 107 days per year on adaptation measures, with 41% of respondents spending more than 40% of their farming time on them.

About a third of survey respondents indicated they had received external support to adapt to climate change, mostly from non-governmental organizations and farmers' cooperatives or associations. However, many told researchers they still needed help, including financial support, training, and education in various technical topics.

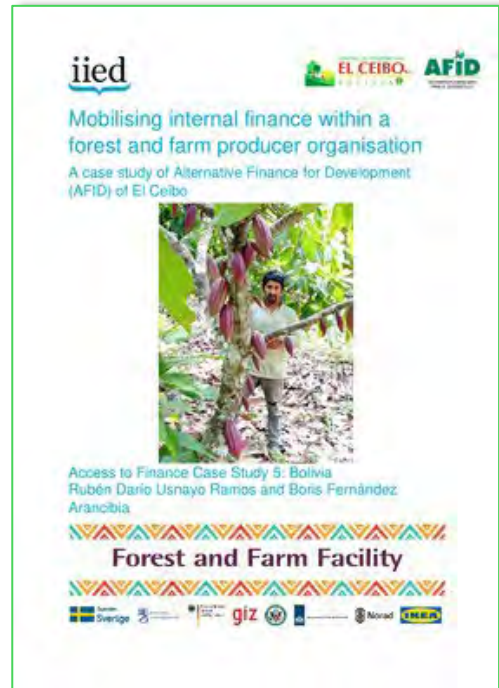
Damian Sulumo, program officer at Tanzanian Farmers Association MVIWAARUSHA, whose members took part in the survey, said: "Billions of dollars have been pledged by public and private investors to projects designed to help society adapt to climate change and address nature loss, but we know too little money is getting to the farmers whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by a heating planet.

"The international community needs to heed the evidence that providing direct finance through producer organizations like cooperatives, associations, and territorial groups can support and encourage smallholder producers to take action. By working collectively, we

can reach the scale needed to influence policies and markets for the betterment of our farmers’ prospects and the global fight against climate change and biodiversity loss.”

3. Showing how FFPOs mobilize internal finance

In a remote forest landscape, access to external finance is problematic. But all is not lost. FFPOs routinely sell products and can mobilize internal finance to provide their own credit facilities. In 2023, IIED completed the revision and uploading of six case studies on FFPOs mobilizing internal finance. She has continued to pursue her research plan with FFF partner FFPOs on ‘Mobilizing finance from within FFPOs.’ how FFPOs can evolve through the gradually more sophisticated use of internal savings and credit facilities to financial maturity and track record that facilitates access to finance for members. Building on past Latin American work and expanding this with a global literature review, and six case studies of FFPOs that have developed more advanced credit facilities for their members (three in Latin America, two in Africa and one in Asia). IIED concluded that FFPO internal finance mechanisms currently supply up to 25% of all rural finance. A report has been drafted and is currently in the external review process in line with IIED’s peer-review process.



4. Assessing FFPO-led strategies and tactics for managing agrobiodiversity

Agriculture now covers the largest portion (46%) of the global land surface area; its ecological health and resilience in a changing climate is critical to human survival. The biodiversity found within agricultural and wild systems is what sustains us. But this agrobiodiversity is rapidly eroded by a spiraling cycle of inequality driven by economic forces and power politics.

IIED has completed research on how FFPOs manage agrobiodiversity and agroecology, including six country case studies and a set of policy conclusions and recommendations. These have been presented in an IIED policy briefing note:

Macqueen, D.J. (2023) Agrobiodiversity — the way to save earth’s skin. IIED, London, UK. Available at:

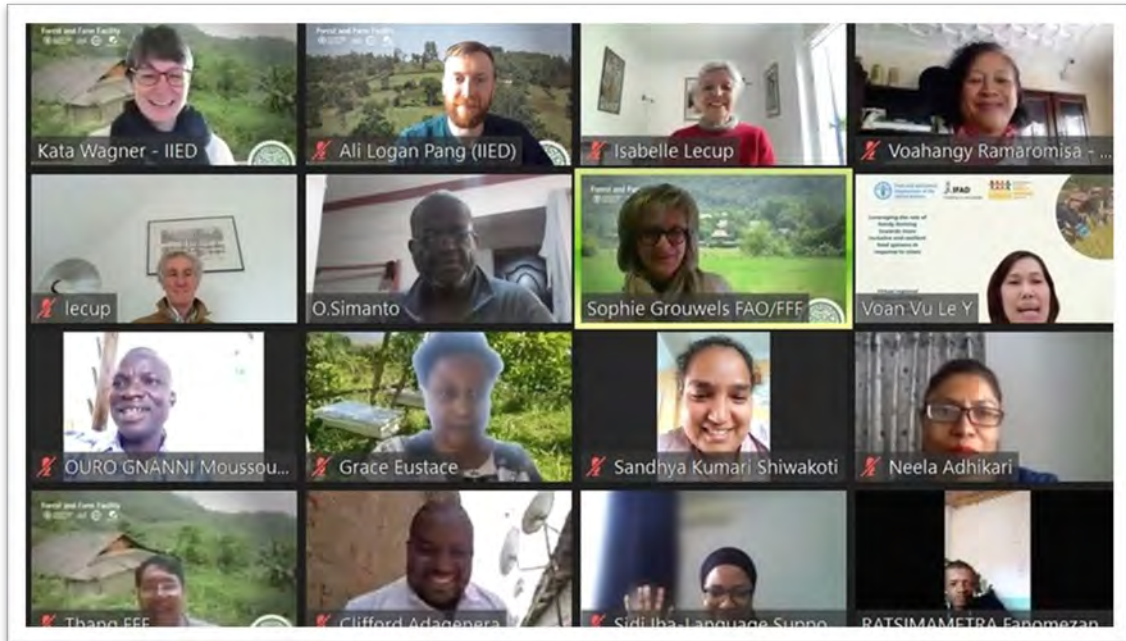
<https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2023-09/21626iied.pdf>

Smallholders and Indigenous Peoples maintain most of the world’s remaining agrobiodiversity. Forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs), Indigenous Peoples, and local community groups have developed at least five strategies and 18 tactics to incentivize and sustain agrobiodiversity conservation.



5. Refresher trainings in Market Analysis and Development

Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) is a key entry-level training course to build entrepreneurship and business plans. In March 2023, the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) ran refresher training on the market analysis and development (MA&D) approach designed to enable local forest and farm producers to develop sustainable income-generating enterprises – see <https://www.iied.org/market-analysis-development-building-sustainable-forest-farm-based-smallholder-businesses>



The FFF is committed to increasing entrepreneurship and access to markets and finance through business development services within forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs). FFPO members took part in a four-day online course about the MA&D approach. This approach empowers local producers, manufacturers, and traders to be primary actors in planning and developing equitable and sustainable enterprises.

The MA&D methodology is based on participatory principles and empowerment rather than direct intervention in people’s livelihoods. It uses a facilitative approach to help ‘entrepreneurs’ rather than ‘beneficiaries’ know and control all elements of their enterprises.

MA&D enables entrepreneurs to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to undertake sustainable livelihood development activities that will continue after the training ends and external support has finished.

Sustainability is a key element of MA&D. The approach allows entrepreneurs to continuously screen five crucial areas that may impact entrepreneurial success. These are:

1. Market/Economy
2. Natural resource management
3. Social/cultural concerns
4. Institutional and legal context, and
5. Technology and research and development.

The MA&D capacity building toolkit is a key way the FFF supports collective entrepreneurship and business incubation for FFPOs and their members based around a basket of products.

During the sessions, the training participants – FFPO staff in charge of providing business incubation services to members – had the opportunity to clarify any concerns or questions from using MA&D in the past and to learn from other MA&D implementers’ experiences.

The objective of the training was to enable participants to train MA&D field facilitators and MA&D trainers in their respective contexts, with the long-term aim of institutionalizing MA&D capacity development within FFPOs. The fully participatory training course ran over four 2.5-hour sessions. It covered the entire MA&D process, including its preparatory activities. Participants were guided step-by-step through each phase with a focus on allowing ample space to share their experiences in implementing MA&D and to ask questions.

Recordings of the online training sessions can be found on the IIED YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/o2dJlBrF4jY?si=x8oeAtkJ1eWCjt4I>

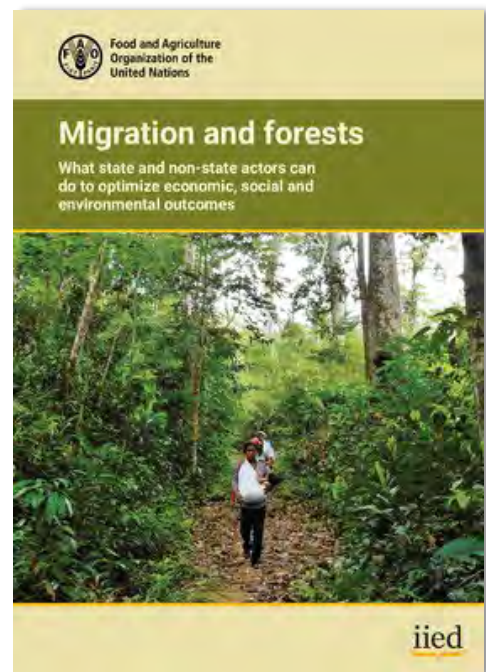


6. Reviewing what FFPOs can do to optimize the outcomes of forest-liked migration

As climate change intensifies, it exacerbates existing drivers of human migration. This poses a challenge for rural FFPOs – when energetic youth leave to take up urban education and job opportunities and when displaced populations move into rural areas in search of subsistence.

While not funded by FFF, Duncan Macqueen of IIED prepared a report on Forests and Migration that drew heavily on previous work for FFF, ‘Prosperity in Place – Meaningful work for mobile youth that enhances forest landscapes’ and referenced many FFF case studies in which FFPOs had found ways of encouraging youth remainers to stay in their place of origin, build ties with those choosing to leave for education and employment, and reintegrate those choosing to return into forest areas. This report explores what state and non-state actors can do to optimize economic, social, and environmental outcomes – emphasizing strengthening FFPOs as the front line in delivering migration-aware services. See:

Macqueen, D. (2023) Migration and forests - what state and non-state actors can do to optimize economic, social and environmental outcomes. FAO and IIED, Rome, Italy. Available at: <https://www.iied.org/22216g>



7. Strengthening coherence between forestry and social protection for sustainable agrifood system transformation

Approximately one-third of the world's population depends on forests for their livelihoods. Forest-dependent people require social protection because they are often poor, geographically, politically, and socially marginalized and vulnerable to a variety of risks and shocks. Forestry and social protection programs and policies share similar objectives of reducing the vulnerability of forest-dependent people, enhancing economic inclusion, and promoting sustainable development. Therefore, coherence should be sought to ensure complementarity in objectives and coverage. Although not funded directly by FFF, this report again draws heavily on FFF case studies to promote how FAO promotes linkages between social protection and agriculture, food security, nutrition, natural resource management, decent rural employment, and resilience building.



The report presents a guiding framework to assist mainly governments, development organizations, and civil society organizations (CSOs) in attaining coherence between social protection and forest policies to improve the well-being of forest-dependent people. It outlines knowledge and evidence on the vulnerabilities of forest-dependent people and analyses gaps in the provision of social protection to forest-dependent people; frames the rationale for promoting the coherence between forestry and social protection; and identifies the enabling environment and options to coherently design and implement forestry and social protection at the program and operational levels.

Annex 5: Regional and Global Activities

Technical support to regional and global partners of the Forest and Farm Facility

January 2023 – December 2023

Regional and global networks

The Forest and Farm Facility has continued supporting five grantees during 2023 and will go on in 2024:

- the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB (*Spanish acronym*)),
- the Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA),
- and the Global Alliance of Territorial Communities (GATC)
- the World Rural Forum (WRF)
- the Eastern Africa Farmers Federation (EAFF)

Five new FFPO organizations at regional and global levels have received FFF support following the proposal call in March 2023 and will continue to do so in the coming year:

- Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO)
- Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)
- Pacific Islands Farmers Organizations Network (PIFO)
- Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmers Organizations (INOFO)
- Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado (COPROFAM)

In 2023, FFF has provided technical support for the implementation of regional and global activities, including:

- Pursuing policy influencing opportunities at COP28 and on the road to COP29. For instance, WRF is focusing on actively enhancing the understanding of family farming organizations' climate agenda and advocacy capacities. This will enable them to participate more effectively and have a greater impact on key climate policy debates.
- Facilitating the development of regional and global consensus on the advocacy agenda for small-scale family farmers regarding climate action and climate financing. This included supporting farmers and building capacity to ensure their key messages were effectively communicated at COP28.
- REGEN10 granted the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB) USD 75,000 from June 2023 to December 2023. The grant aimed to strengthen women's entrepreneurship and has been used to organize regional events to advocate for climate change and influence policy outcomes in the Mesoamerican region.
- IUCN has been awarded a grant of USD 50,000 by the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG) to support its efforts in collaboration with FFF to create a global campaign on food and climate. This campaign will be led by and for small-scale family farmer networks through coalition building, media training, and digital communication campaigns. The grant period runs from June 2023 to March 2024.

Main Highlights from global and regional organizations

Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests (AMPB)

AMPB is a forum for coordination and exchange among territorial authorities who manage or influence the main forest masses of Mesoamerica. Leadership training by AMPB led to the forming of the Coordinadora de Mujeres Líderes Territoriales de Mesoamérica as part of AMPB's territorial agenda. This organization focuses on empowering indigenous and community women to have access and a voice in the key areas of the environmental political agenda. The goal is to address the challenges and threats that these women face in their efforts to defend their territory, natural resources, forests, and culture.

Additionally, the organization aims to develop solutions that ensure women's inclusion in environmental policies related to their territorial rights.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Western medicine faced challenges in providing care to indigenous and local communities. As a result, traditional medicine recipes that are still used by various indigenous groups in the Mesoamerican region have been documented in [three books](#). These books represent the medicinal practices of the Mayan, Miskitu, Mayangnas, Bribri, Cabecar, Gunas, and Embera peoples.

One of the books focuses on the medicinal practices of the Miskito people and aims to show how these practices use the biodiversity of the Caribbean forests, highlighting the close relationship between the survival of indigenous peoples and the forest. Another book focuses on the Mayangna medicinal practices and highlights the contribution of the Bosawas forest in their use of medicine.

The use of traditional medicine not only holds cultural value for these indigenous communities but also provides a nature-based solution that should be preserved.

Further, FFF supported the formation of a network of women guardians of ancestral seeds to foster dialogue on good practices for seed safeguarding, land care, and promotion of regenerative agriculture:

<https://www.mujieresmesoamericanas.org/mujeres-mesoamericanas-tejen-red-regional-para-rescatar-las-practicas-ancestrales-de-siembra/>

Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)

Pre-COP Capacity Building sessions for Forest and Farm Producer Organizations for advocacy on climate financing

These sessions aimed to increase AFA delegates' understanding of COP28 processes and build their capacities to make powerful speeches, interventions, and pitches. The training consisted of two sessions; the first was virtual on November 27, attended by all AFA delegates to the COP28. The discussion clarified COP, the UNFCCC process, and AFA's key messages and action plans.

The second session, on 7 December, consisted of media training in Dubai conducted by AFA in partnership with the Global Strategic Communications Council. The training helped delegates understand how to engage in media interviews and provided practice interviews to prepare them for different media interventions. Given the time constraints of most media interviews, the training focused on helping farmer delegates deliver and communicate agreed key messages in interviews, side events, and other activities.

During the activity, delegates practiced answering various media questions using pre-discussed key messages, which helped to build their confidence when answering difficult questions from the media.

International Conference of Family Farmers on Climate Action (ICFFCA)

AFA, with the support of the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), organized the International Conference of Family Farmers on Climate Action (ICFFCA). The conference aimed to facilitate the development of regional and global consensus on the advocacy agenda for small-scale family farmers on climate action and climate financing. The Global Conference took place from 21–22 October in Rome, bringing together eight global and regional farmers associations: Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), International Confederation of Organizations of Family Farmers in Mercosur (COPROFAM), Intercontinental Network of Organic Farmer Organization (INOFO), Network of Producers and Farmers' Organizations in West Africa (ROPPA), World Farmers Organization (WFO), World Forum of Fishers People (WFFP), World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers (WFF), Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO). These organizations represent a significant share of smallholder family farming constituencies, including women, men, young farmers, fishers, IPs, herders, and pastoralists. The conference provided a platform for sharing information, building consensus on key messages and a call to action, and defining a roadmap for family farmers' climate action leading to COP28. The joint message from the Family Farmers participants was presented at a COP28 presidency event on 10 December as part of the Food, Agriculture, and Land Use Day:

**Steering Committee of the Global Farmers
Forum**

Call to action

Delivered by :

Sok Sotha, Board member, WFO

We are in a climate state of emergency that puts our role as sustainable production of food in a serious risk.

That is why, We - Family Farmers' , including men , women, young farmers, fishers , pastoralists, herders, forest users, including persons with disabilities -

Call on Governments, Research and Academia, International Organizations, Financial Institutions, Food Chain companies, Philantropists, NGOs and any other entities or structures that has a role in the Climate Action Agenda:

- 1) We, Family Farmers experience daily challenges due to the climate change. But, we also have solutions , like regenerative agroecological practices, to be resilient and keep our planet healthy. Therefore, we want to be acknowledged as a big part of the solution.
- 2) Through our Farmers' Organizations, we want to contribute to Nationally-Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans;
- 3) We want to identify our own representatives in governance mechanisms, according to our decision-making processes, to allow us to effectively participate in policy making and implementation.
- 4) We ask for a fairer share of risks and benefits throughout the value chain, and support the strengthening of economic initiatives of farmers groups, organizations, cooperatives and social enterprises .
- 5) Agriculture research, innovation and extension services should be farmer -led, using co innovation, co design and participatory action and learning processes.
- 6) Increase direct climate financing for farmers through our organizations by creating financing windows within existing climate financing facilities such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Loss and Damage, and others.

World Rural Forum (WRF)



FFF has supported WRF in empowering family farming organizations by increasing their understanding of climate change negotiation processes and climate financing.

As part of this goal, WRF organized a workshop on 16 November, which aimed to actively strengthen the overall understanding of the climate agenda and the advocacy capacities of family farming organizations, enabling them to participate in and influence key climate policy debates more effectively.

The program included recognized experts and organizations on COP, negotiation processes, climate finances, and stakeholder diversity.

The workshop consisted of three sessions:

1. Understanding the COP and the negotiation process: This session covered diverse topics related to COP, offering participants a comprehensive view of the climate change discussions and potential avenues for influence and collaboration.
2. Insights on the Climate Finance Architecture: This session equipped participants with knowledge and strategies to navigate the intricate architecture and advocate for family farmers globally.
3. Partnerships: This session provided an overview of possible partnership approaches, offering valuable insights for fostering collaboration and achieving common goals in climate change and family farming.



More than 70 people from five continents attended the workshop, including national, regional, and international family farming organizations, multilateral organizations, and civil society. The workshop is the first step in a series to delve further into the key issues.

Farmer Led Communication Campaign:

As part of an initiative to address the climate emergency and in line with the roadmap to COP28 and the United Nations Decade on Family Farming, a consortium consisting of regional member organizations of the World Rural Forum convened to collect information on the challenges faced by family farmer's organizations and the solutions they were pursuing. The participating organizations included the Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado (COPROFAM), Eastern and Southern Africa small-scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF), Regional Rural Dialogue Program for Central America and the Dominican Republic (PDRR), Pacific Islands Farmers' Organizations Network (PIFON), Central African Farmers' Organizations (PROPAC), and Union Maghrébine et Nord Africaine des Agriculteurs (UNMAGRI).

The subsequent report can be downloaded here: [Untapped Potential – An Analysis of International Public Climate Finance Flows to Sustainable Agriculture and Family Farmers – Foro Rural Mundial \(ruralforum.org\)](https://www.ruralforum.org/en/untapped-potential-an-analysis-of-international-public-climate-finance-flows-to-sustainable-agriculture-and-family-farmers)

WRF prepared an urgent Call to Action that moves from understanding the facts to making commitments and implementing them (moving from "why" to "how"), encompassing three key messages and demands:

1. Call for recognition of the catalytic role of family farming in climate action, food systems transformation, and biodiversity protection:

- Family farmers present the most promising prospects for achieving food transformation towards more sustainable practices;
- Family farmers are already playing a crucial role in addressing the climate crisis through both adaptation and mitigation;
- Family farmers are critical to food security and nutrition in their own countries and around the globe, and
- Family farmers play a crucial role in the supply chain.

2. Call for ensuring an enabling policy environment and the participation of family farmers in climate policy-making

- The participation of Family Farmers' organizations in climate negotiations has been largely overlooked, often sidelined from critical discussions. A sustainable future needs an enabling policy environment and the active participation of family farmers in climate and biodiversity policy discussions at national, regional, and global levels, as well as in the debate on the structure of the Loss and Damage Fund.
- This is not "about" family farmers but "with" family farmers; it is crucial, then, that the key actors, the family farmers, are at the center of the decision-making processes.
- Women represent almost half of the agricultural workforce in developing economies. However, gender disparities persist in land ownership and resource

access, among others, and the climate crisis further amplifies these inequities, heightening women's vulnerability. Inclusive and equitable policies and their implementation with dedicated funds are essential in overcoming these barriers.

- Stimulating the role of young family farmers and rural youth in general is crucial. It is imperative that public policies, programs, and funds prioritize the needs of young family farmers, creating an environment where family farming becomes a sustainable, profitable endeavour that fosters personal growth, well-being, and high quality of life. Rural youth have an invaluable potential to incorporate innovations and new technologies, which will contribute to the modernization of the countryside and the efficiency of the agricultural sector.

3. Call for proportional access to climate funds.

- Family farming, involving one-third of the world's population⁵ and 600 million family-run farms worldwide,⁶ produces around 80 percent of the world's food in value terms.⁷ Farms of less than two hectares produce 35 percent of the food supply in just 24 percent of croplands.
- Family farmer organizations have the expertise, infrastructure, and determination to promote climate resilience, but the existing architecture of international funding falls short.
- Direct and tailored financial support is essential in accelerating family farming resilience and realizing its full potential in building sustainable and climate-resilient food systems.
- The very worst impacts of climate change on family farms in the most vulnerable countries must be compensated by the Loss and Damage Fund.

The three key messages resonate with urgency, highlighting the far-reaching impacts of the climate crisis on Family Farming, from livelihoods to food systems. The central Call to Action is unequivocal: we must transition from understanding 'why' to implementing 'how,' empowering family farmers with comprehensive policies and resources and recognizing the indispensable roles of women and youth in the fight. Furthermore, the gravity of this State of Emergency demands family farmer-centered decision-making processes and a united front, with collaboration between family farming organizations, governments, donors, and non-state actors. It is high time to recognize, support, and amplify the tireless efforts of family farmers to pursue a sustainable and resilient future for all.

Comisión Nacional de Fomento Rural (CNFR) and Confederación de Organizaciones de Productores Familiares del Mercosur Ampliado (COPROFAM)

In 2023 and continuing into 2024, CNFR and COPROFAM worked to strengthen cross-sectoral policy and influence processes to achieve better representation of producer organizations (POs) in the Mercosur.

The Specialized Meeting of Family Agriculture of the Expanded Mercosur (REAF) held its 39th edition on 21 November. COPROFAM was invited to be part of the inaugural panel,

⁵ FAO. 2014. State of the World's Food and Agriculture. Rome, Italy.

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1395127/icode/>

⁷ FAO. 2021. Which farms feed the world and has farmland become more concentrated? Rome, Italy. 16 <https://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1395127/icode/>

represented by its president, Alberto Broch. In his speech, he drew attention to the severity of the world's climate challenge.

“Family farming must be prepared to mitigate the effects of climate change. It needs investment in research to adapt and generate sustainable and appropriate technologies. Let us prepare to face the great impacts and catastrophes resulting from climate change. We need to work together to build new policies and actions that strengthen family farming to face these great challenges. Otherwise, we will soon compromise the production and supply of food for our people,” he declared.

Over 100 participants attended this REAF. COPROFAM's board of directors represented nine organizations from seven countries in the Expanded Mercosur: Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Peru, and Bolivia.

COPROFAM has made two initial presentations on policy proposals to support POs for the agroecological or organic transition. The first presentation analyzed existing policies, while the second focused on opportunities for MERCOSUR to access resources from international climate funds by formulating a project involving the five countries active in the REAF, plus COPROFAM with the technical support of IICA. The goal is to have the project presented and approved by COP 30, which will be held in Brazil. COPROFAM will collaborate by providing technical studies and documents funded by FFF between 2023 and 2024.

Read more: [COPROFAM dialoga y articula con gobiernos y organizaciones de Agricultura Familiar, Campesinas e Indígenas de la región del Mercosur Ampliado en la XXXIX REAF, en Brasil – COPROFAM](#)



Annex 6: Global outreach

In 2023, the collaboration between FAO, IIED, IUCN, and AgriCord continued to expand FFF's outreach.

Web stories, blog posts, and digital media

- FFF published 58 web stories and news announcements. All events (see Annex 5) were documented through web stories.
- FFF published two success stories on the FAO Home page: [Copaiba: The “miracle” medicinal tree in Bolivia](#) and [Innovative grass charcoal fuels opportunity in Ghana](#)
- Three new videos were produced: [Restoring land and livelihoods with beekeeping in Tanzania](#), [Grass charcoal production in Ghana](#), [Ecuador: Feria Nacional de Semillas Muyu Raymi 2023](#)
- IIED published three blogs: [How Innovative Shared Labels are Promoting Diversity, Biocultural Heritage and Sustainable Production](#), [Empowering Women Forest and Farm Producers: learning from the Best](#), [Smallholder Farmers: Unsung Giants of Climate and Nature Investment](#)

Social media engagement

- FFF continued to produce a monthly newsletter containing updates from the field and, at a programmatic level, circulated by email to its list of contacts
- FFF shared regular updates through Twitter via the “Voices from Forest and Farms” account <https://twitter.com/DavidKaimowitz> (743 followers, around 20 tweets per month, generates between 1,000 and 12 000 impressions per month)
- Social media cards and quotes from speakers were systematically developed for each event and promoted on Twitter by our network. FFF partners are more proactively using social media.

Dialogues and webinars

- The FFF organized and participated in 10 dialogues and webinars.
- The FFF helped identify speaking and media opportunities for indigenous and farm leaders. It funded their event participation and included their critical messages as quotes in web stories or social media cards.

Regional and global events

- FFF partners participated in global events such as COP28 and led the organization of regional events in Togo, Bolivia, and Kenya (see Annexes 2 and 5)

Annex 7: List of events in 2023

Unlocking Finance For Smallholder Forest And Farm Producers (Africa Regional Exchange)
18 – 20 April 2023, Nairobi Kenya

The Regional Exchange for Africa provided an opportunity for the exchange of valuable lessons and sharing perspectives on related projects on finance to help develop a shared understanding of challenges in getting finance to smallholder producers for their innovative and value chain activities and actions for climate and nature-based solutions. Specifically, the Regional Exchange:

- Took stock of lessons learned from successful and scalable experiences and best practices in finance;
- Shared insights on the best ways to mobilize finance; and
- Discussed and identified appropriate financing instruments for scaling up, including carbon and biodiversity finance and internal finance mechanisms developed by smallholder producer organizations.

The Regional Exchange also included a field trip to smallholder cooperatives in Kiambu and Muranga counties of Kenya to facilitate learning of examples of FFPOs' innovative activities, value chain development, and climate and nature actions worth financing, as well as FFPO's internal finance mechanisms.

Event webpage: <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/news-and-events/unlocking-finance-for-smallholder-ffpos/en/>

African regional workshop on forest and farm landscape restoration under AFR100
26 – 28 September, Sokodé, Togo

To build stakeholder capacity and raise awareness on FLR, the Forest and Farm Facility, in collaboration with Coordination Togolaise des Organisations Paysannes et de Producteurs Agricoles (CTOP), the Réseau des Organisations Paysannes et des Producteurs Agricoles de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (ROPPA), the Forest for Future Project (F4F/GIZ), and AUDA-NEPAD organized a regional workshop in Sokodé, Togo, on the AFR100 initiative and climate change adaptation activities. This allowed forest and agricultural producers' organizations, government institutions, civil society organizations, and the private sector to familiarize themselves with the AFR100 initiative, national strategies for restoring landscapes and forests, and the challenges and issues surrounding natural resource use and protection.

The Regional Workshop served as a vital platform to achieve several key objectives:

- Exchange and Share Information: Participants shared the current status of Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) implementation in West Africa and discussed National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategies. The workshop fostered a better understanding of the links between FLR and climate change.
- International Commitments: International commitments related to the protection of forest landscapes were discussed, providing valuable insights to West African Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs).
- Appropriation of RPF Approach: The workshop aimed to facilitate the understanding and ownership of the RPF approach and its connection to climate change, particularly among partners implementing climate action projects.

- Sharing Best Practices: Participants shared experiences and best practices in implementing the AFR100 initiative and national strategies of participating countries.
- Declaration: A declaration highlighting the pivotal role of FFPOs in landscape and forest restoration (LFR) under the AFR100 initiative was prepared and validated.

Event webpage: <https://www.fao.org/index.php?id=118922>

Contribution of forests and the ancestral knowledge of Indigenous, Native and Afro-descendant Peoples and Local Communities to the establishment of healthy and wholesome food and sustainable agrifood systems: Regional exchange of experiences within the framework of the Decade of Family Farming
12 – 16 October, Bolivia

The exchange focused on the vital role of forests and ancestral knowledge in promoting healthy and sustainable food systems. The event aimed to foster innovations in gastronomy that utilized agrobiodiversity, involving various stakeholders, including producer organizations, government representatives, chefs, and more. The goal was to promote conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and the development of sustainable food systems.

The exchange aimed to:

- Encourage the consolidation and scaling up of programs and public policies that promote agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use through the innovations and gastronomic knowledge of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and local communities.
- Exchange knowledge and flavors of the diverse gastronomies of the participating countries and promote debate on:
 - Are there similarities in the knowledge and flavors?
 - What are the particularities that make them unique?
 - Is there a transfer of knowledge to future generations?
 - What role do men and women play in safeguarding "knowledge and flavor"?
 - Are there foods that come directly from the forests, and are they common among countries?
- Promote gastronomic innovations with products from forests, gastronomic tourism ventures, and use of wild or cultivated agrobiodiversity ingredients through practical/experiential training in the landscapes where the Forest and Farm Facility, FAO, and other strategic allies provided technical assistance.
- Identify the knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned through the systematization of traditional knowledge and practices used by indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and local communities related to their food and the conservation, harvesting/use, and management of forests and agri-food systems.
- Identify the main challenges and alternative solutions to achieve the replicability and scalability of actions in favor of the conservation and sustainable use of wild or cultivated agrobiodiversity in the regions with forests as the main input for the generation of public policy proposals and mobilization of resources for the revaluation of ancestral knowledge to achieve a healthy and wholesome diet and sustainable agri-food systems from forests.

- Conduct a commercial meeting (small business roundtable) between the Agricultural and Forestry Producers' Organizations participating in the event with potential national and international buyers.

Event webpage: <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/news-and-events/exchange-of-experiences-between-forest-and-farm-producer-organizations-indigenous-peoples-native-peoples-afro-descendants-and-local-communities-within-the-framework-of-the-decade-of-family-farming/en/>

Unlocking finance for sustainable and inclusive wood value chains: A dialogue toward collaboration on innovative financing opportunities and mechanisms to promote sustainable wood production and consumption in East Africa, including smallholder forest and farm producer organizations

6 November, Nairobi, Kenya

This one-day dialogue took place leading up to the International Congress on Planted Forests 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The event built on discussions at the regional exchange event "Unlocking finance for smallholder forest and farm producers," aiming to:

- Facilitate exchange and dialogue among key players engaged in improving different segments of wood value chains in East Africa.
- Take stock of recent developments related to promoting sustainable wood value chains.
- Share examples, lessons, good practices, and opportunities to increase finance for players who want to contribute to more sustainable wood production and consumption.
- Discuss promising opportunities and scenarios to mobilize finance for wood value chains.

Event webpage: <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/news-and-events/unlocking-finance-for-sustainable-and-inclusive-wood-value-chains/en/>

Additional events, outreach, and training:

16 February 2023: IIED presentation on FFF to UK Government Central African climate and nature group including representatives from Kinshasa and Yaounde, leads for programs (FGMC, BLF, P4F, my program), leads for LEAF, REDD+, and FCLP etc. stretching across FCDO, BEIS, and Defra.

20-22 February 2023: Steering Committee and Donor Support Group meeting in Rome, Italy

23-24 February 2023: Strategic communications' planning meeting with farmer leaders as part of an advocacy campaign

17 March 2023: Business incubation and shared labeling trainings in Tanzania

21-22 March 2023: National Honey Exchange in Tanzania

16-17 April 2023: Facilitators Retreat Nairobi

22-26 May 2023: Zimbabwe GEF DSL regional event with FFF presentations on the benefits of working through FFPOs

8-9 June 2023: Ghana trainings on Risk management and business incubation to national NGOs + meetings with Ghana finance sector

12- 16 June 2023: Climate Week of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities of Mesoamerica 2023, Side Event 1: "Reflection on traditional production systems and the relationship with regenerative agriculture"

19-20 June 2023: Donor Support Group meeting in Berlin to propose Phase III and agree next steps

20-22 July 2023: IUCN organized farmers' advocacy campaign meeting, including preparatory COP 28 coalition planning meeting, with AFA, COPROFAM, EAFF, ESAFF, PDRR, PROPAC, ROPPA, PIFON, UNMAGRI and WRF with support from the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), and the Global Strategic Communications Council (GSCC), face-to-face planning meeting further solidified the collective vision and strategy.

8 August 2023: FFF Manager visit to Embrapa Eastern Amazon with an FAO delegation led by Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director General, in the context of the Amazon Summit

29-30 August 2023: FFF partners meeting in IUCN, Gland

4 October 2023: Presentation of FFF work to FCDO HQ and embassy staff worldwide

6 November 2023: Virtual steering committee to discuss Phase III proposal

07 November 2023: Launch of Untapped Potential report as part of the farmers' advocacy campaign led by IUCN

9 November 2023: FACT (Forest, Agriculture and Commodity trade Dialogue) Webinar Series: Smallholder Institutions and Professionalisation Confirmation

9 December 2023: COP28 International Land Coalition IFAD, ILC, WRF, AFA with FAO/IFAD/Rockefeller meeting on 'Strengthening land rights of small-holders for equitable food systems and climate resilience'

11 December 2023: COP28 Consumers International and WRF at COP28 Food Systems Pavilion for 'Connecting family farmers and consumers to tackle food and climate crises'

11 December 2023: COP28 FAO, WRF, and World Farmers' Organization (WFO) Zayed Sustainability Prize Pavilion for 'Harnessing young farmers' innovation and adaptation to climate change'

11 December 2023: COP 28 Climate Champions team and organized by Global Alliance for the Future of Food organized by Just Rural Transition, World Rural Forum, and AFA for the COP28 Presidency Agenda on 'Climate finance and supportive policies: a call for action from smallholders'

Annex 8. List of letters of agreement

Country	Organization Name	Organiz. type	Total (USD)
Nepal	Association of Family Forest Owners Nepal (AFFON)	Apex	19,324
Nepal	Belapakha Samudayik Ban Upabhokta Samuha	FFPO	18,777
Nepal	Binayi Samudayik Ban Upobhokta Samu	FFPO	18,993
Nepal	Bungdal Community Forest User Group	FFPO	19,956
Nepal	Central Dairy Cooperative Association Ltd Nepal (CDCAN)	FFPO	18,660
Nepal	Federation Of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)	Apex	97,822
Nepal	National Farmer Group Federation Nepal	Apex	18,328
Nepal	Phulabari Community Forestry Users Group	FFPO	19,196
Nepal	Saarc Business Association of Home-Based Workers Nepal	FFPO	32,022
Nepal	Samudaya Batawaran Tatha Bal Bikash Sangh	Civil Society/NGO	19,283
Vietnam	The Silviculture Research Institute (SRI)- VAFs-Vietnam	Civil Society/NGO	34,652
Vietnam	Vietnam Farmers Union – FFF/FAO	Apex	263,654
Bolivia	Asociacion De Organizacion De Productores Ecologicos De Bolivia (AOPEB)	Apex	30,327
Ecuador	Asociacion Agro Artesanal de Produccion De Bienes Agricolas, Pecuarios Y Piscicolas De Napo Kallari	FFPO	199,000
Ecuador	Comite Central de Mujeres De La Unorcac	FFPO	97,000
Ecuador	Corporacion de Asociaciones De La Chakra Amazonica	Apex	149,171
Ecuador	ECOPAR	FFPO	247,000
Gambia	Ministry Of Environment Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNR)	Government	22,176
Gambia	National Coordinating Organization of Farmer Associations The Gambia (NACOFAG)	Apex	49,473
Gambia	National Farmers Platform of The Gambia (NFPG)	Apex	72,752
Kenya	Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FF SPAK)	Apex	89,943
Kenya	Inades Formation Kenya	Apex	20,440
Kenya	The Ngong Road Forest Association	FFPO	49,145
Madagascar	Association Fifata	FFPO	18,317
Madagascar	Association Tosika	FFPO	71,958
Madagascar	Direction Regionale de l'Agriculture de l'Elevage Atsinanana (DRAE Atsinanana)	Government	22,370

Country	Organization Name	Organiz. type	Total (USD)
Madagascar	Direction Regionale de l'Agriculture de l'Elevage Diana (DRAE Diana)	Government	21,221
Madagascar	Direction Regionale de l'Agriculture de l'Elevage Analamanga	Government	25,826
Madagascar	Direction Regionale de l'Agriculture de l'Elevage Sofia (DRAE Sofia)	Government	21,536
Madagascar	Fekritama (Fivondronambenny Tantsaha Malagasy)	FFPO	43,710
Madagascar	La Coalition Paysanne De Madagascar (CPM)	Apex	41,930
Madagascar	Ministere De L Agriculture Et De L Elevage (MINAE) Madagascar	Government	58,772
Madagascar	Plateforme Nationale Femmes Developpement Durable Et Securite Alimentaire (PNFDDSA)	Apex	61,522
Madagascar	Reseau Soa	Apex	61,537
Madagascar	Tranobenny Tantsaha Mpamokatra (TTM)	Apex	47,707
Togo	Coordination Togolaise Des Organizations Paysannes Et De Producteurs Agricoles (CTOP)	Apex	45,083
Togo	Institut Togolais De Recherche Agronomique (ITRA)	Civil Society/NGO	7,292
Tanzania	Mtandao Wa Vikundi Vya Wakulima Mkoa Wa Arusha	Apex	22,045
Tanzania	Regional Administrative Secretary	Government	19,984
Tanzania	Tanzania Tree Growers Association Union (TTGAU)	FFPO	99,315
Tanzania	Trias Tanzania	Civil Society/NGO	73,541
Tanzania	We Effect	Civil Society/NGO	28,777
Zambia	Choma Museum and Crafts Centre		65,202
Zambia	Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre	FFPO	14,200
Zambia	Nyimba District Farmers Association	FFPO	44,513
Zambia	Zambia National Forest Commodity Association (ZNFCA)	Apex	18,835
FAO HQ	Agricord VZW	FFF PARTNER	215,446
FAO HQ	Asian Farmers Association For Sustainable Rural Development	FFPO	37,981
FAO HQ	Asociacion De Comunidades Forestales De Peten (ACOFOP)	FFPO	56,835
FAO HQ	Association For Development World Rural Forum (WRF)	FFPO	67,099
FAO HQ	Comision Nacional De Fomento Rural	FFPO	50,000
FAO HQ	Ghana Federation of Forest And Farm Producers	Civil Society/NGO	72,845

Country	Organization Name	Organiz. type	Total (USD)
FAO HQ	Intercontinental Network Of Organic Farmer Organization (INOFO)	FFPO	44,021
FAO HQ	International Institute for Environment And Development (IIED)	FFF PARTNER	399,179
FAO HQ	Millar Institute For Transdisciplinary And Development Studies	Civil Society/NGO	58,849
FAO HQ	Pacific Island Farmers Organization Network (PIFON)	FFPO	50,433
FAO HQ	Reseau Des Organizations Paysannes Et Des Producteurs Agricoles (ROPPA)	FFPO	78,195
FAO HQ	Soil Research Institute (SRI)	Civil Society/NGO	36,067
FAO HQ	Southern African Confederation Of Agricultural Unions (SACAU)	FFPO	50,735
FAO HQ	The Pan African Farmers Organization (PAFO)	FFPO	50,000
	Grand Total		3,936,372

Annex 9: List of direct beneficiary grants

Country	Organization Name	Organiz. type	Total USD
Bolivia	Asociacion Agro Integral De La Comunidad Campesina Los Mandarinos	FFPO	50,726
Bolivia	Asociacion Beniana De Productores De Cacao	FFPO	50,307
Bolivia	Asociacion Comunitaria De Productores Agropecuario Lago Tumichicua (ACOPALT)	FFPO	50,744
Bolivia	Asociacion De Productores De Cafe Ecologico	FFPO	50,744
Bolivia	Central De Cooperativas El Ceibo Ltda	FFPO	48,308
Bolivia	Central Local De Cooperativas Agropecuarias "Caranavi" RI	FFPO	50,744
Bolivia	Comunidad Indigena Rio Blanco	FFPO	49,490
Togo	Comite Cantonal De Developpement (CCD) Kpangalama	FFPO	51,589
Togo	Comite Prefectoral De Gestion De La Foret Classee De Missahohe (CPG-FCM)	FFPO	29,498
Togo	Comite Villageois De Developpement D Adomde (CVD Adomde)	FFPO	26,441
Togo	La Societe Cooperative Simplifiee (SCOOPS) Choco Togo	FFPO	49,526
Togo	La Societe Cooperative Simplifiee (SCOOPS) Dankpen Vert	FFPO	50,350
Togo	La Societe Cooperative Simplifiee (SCOOPS) Amenuveve De Koudassi	FFPO	27,254
Togo	La Societe Cooperative Simplifiee (SCOOPS) Dissina-Dama	FFPO	50,710
Togo	La Societe Cooperative Simplifiee (SCOOPS) Scpcc Etsonenyo De Tove Ati	FFPO	25,442
Togo	La Societe Cooperative Simplifiee (SCOOPS) Wowonyo De Kuma Apoti	FFPO	12,972
Togo	Societe Cooperative Simplifiee (SCOOPS) Terre Benie	FFPO	25,677
Tanzania	Kikundi Cha Msamaria FGR	FFPO	21,539
Tanzania	Kikundi Cha Namelok Enaisho	FFPO	12,319
Tanzania	Kikundi Cha Ruhunga Farmer	FFPO	14,441
Tanzania	Kikundi Cha Ukombozi	FFPO	28,515
Tanzania	Muongano	FFPO	19,314
Zambia	Chambale Development Club	FFPO	16,387
Zambia	Chimwemwe Womens Club	FFPO	14,826
Zambia	Chitimba Farmers Cooperative Society	FFPO	15,607
Zambia	Kalayi Womens Group	FFPO	13,572
Zambia	Kampamule Multi Purpose Cooperative Society	FFPO	11,758
Zambia	Misefu Cooperative Society	FFPO	11,716
Zambia	Mukwa Youth Club	FFPO	15,139
Zambia	Mushindamo Charcoal Producers Association	FFPO	13,481
Zambia	Mwinilunga Honey Producers Association	FFPO	14,770

Country	Organization Name	Organiz. type	Total USD
Zambia	Nyakhansi Women Group	FFPO	15,103
Zambia	Nyimba District Forest Commodities Association	FFPO	12,796
Zambia	Petauke District Forest Commodities Association	FFPO	15,646
Zambia	Temwani Weavers Womens Development Club	FFPO	13,656
Zambia	Tuswayane Womens Club	FFPO	20,425
Zambia	Vizimumbaa Information Center	FFPO	15,145
Ghana	Asetenapa Cooperative Cocoa Farming And Marketing Society Limited	FFPO	23,551
Ghana	Community Action In Development And Research (CADER-Ghana)	FFPO	62,184
Ghana	Innovations For Sustainable Rural Development	FFPO	43,159
Ghana	Kasena Nankana Baobab Cooperative Union	FFPO	40,688
Ghana	Kokoo Pa Farmers Association	FFPO	40,670
Ghana	Maaltaaba Peasant Woman Farmers Cooperative	FFPO	44,733
Ghana	Private Afforestation Developers Organization	FFPO	58,183
Ghana	Savannah Women Farmers Association	FFPO	43,358
Ghana	Tele-Bere Village Savings And Loans Association (Tele-Bere)	FFPO	61,748
Ghana	Tumu Deanery Rural Integrated Development Programme	FFPO	35,037
Ghana	Wassa East District (CCP) Co-Operative Cocoa Farmers And Marketing Union Limited	FFPO	24,782
Ghana	World Cocoa Farmers Organization (WCFO)	FFPO	25,548
	Grand Total		1,499,774

Annex 10: Collaboration with Communication for Development

Background

Effective communication is vital to successfully implementing the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF). Since the launch of Phase II **Communication for Development (ComDev)**⁸ activities have been systematically implemented with the technical assistance of the FAO ComDev Team, PSUF to:

- a) raise awareness and engage relevant stakeholders on issues related to the FFF goals;
- b) develop/enhance communication capacities of FFPOs and institutions involved in the FFF; and
- c) deploy ComDev strategies to support program delivery knowledge sharing and to promote access to inclusive rural communication services according to FFPO priorities.

ComDev activities contribute to Outcome 4 of the FFF global work plan: “*Improved and equitable access to social and cultural services (SDGs 3 and 10)*”. ComDev components are reflected in the FFF national workplans and implemented mainly through letters of agreement.

The activities are developed on the ground through FFPOs and local communication and media practitioners in close collaboration with ongoing ComDev initiatives in Africa (*Yenkasa Africa*), Asia (*ComDev Asia*), and Latin America (*Onda Rural*). These are also linked to regional Participatory Communication Plans being implemented in connection with the UN Decade of Family Farming (UNDF 2019-28), providing greater visibility to the work of the FFF. The activities are reflected in the overall FFF communication strategy under the “local communication capacities” stream.

The FAO ComDev Team⁹, PSUF, provides technical support and advice to a series of communication activities, including strategy development, awareness raising/information campaigns, knowledge sharing, and trainings. Those are resumed in this report under two main lines of work:

- a) Awareness raising and FFPO engagement
- b) Local ComDev strategies/services and enhanced FFPO communication capacities

A summary of the main activities and results supported by the FAO ComDev team and the regional ComDev initiatives in 2023 is presented below.

Communication for Development is a results-oriented communication approach based on dialogue and participation that can maximize the impact and sustainability of development initiatives, facilitating knowledge sharing, informed decision-making and collective action⁸.

⁹ The team includes 7 ComDev specialists.

II. ComDev activities and results - 2023

A - Awareness raising and FFPO engagement

Awareness-raising and engagement activities focussing on radio use have been implemented in 2023 to support FFF in 9 countries and at the regional level through YenKasa Africa, ComDev Asia, and Onda Rural, in close collaboration with the UNDIFF. The radio activities were funded by PSUF through LoAs with specialized entities through an innovative scheme that transferred resources to FFPOs and allowed them to establish contracts with local radio stations to produce and broadcast series on programs in local languages. Below are the results of the rural radio initiative that supported the FFF.

AFRICA

Yenkasa Africa Rural Radio initiative

Building on the experiences gained in 2021 and 2022, the 2023 **YenKasa Rural Radio Initiative** aimed to foster long-term collaboration between farmer organizations and rural radios.

The 2023 initiative adopted a participatory approach to developing farmer-centered radio programs addressing specific family farmers' needs and priorities. FFPOs actively participated in designing and producing radio programs, defining topics, broadcast schedules, and interviewees, and contributing to the radio broadcasting mechanism. The scheme is intended to empower family farmers, facilitating knowledge exchange and ownership of the communication activities by the farmer's organizations and their members.

Eight countries, ten FFPO organizations, and more than 35 radios in Africa have been involved, with a **potential reach of approximately four million listeners** across the region.

1. **Zambia** with the Zambia National Forest Commodities Association (ZNFCA)
2. **Ghana** with the Ghana Federation of Forest and Farm Producers (GhaFFaP)
3. **Tanzania** with the Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima na Wafugaji wa Mkoa wa (MVIWAMA) and the Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima na Wafugaji Mkoa wa Arusha (MVIWAARUSHA)
4. **The Gambia** with the National Farmers Platform (NFPG) and the National Coordinating Organization for Farmers Association (NCOFAG)
5. **Liberia** with the National Union of Community Forestry Development Committees (NUCFDC)
6. **Kenya** with the Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FFSPAK)
7. **Madagascar** with the Syndicat des Organisations Agricoles (Réseau SOA)
8. **Togo** with the Coordination Togolaise des Organisations Paysannes (CTOP)

The **series comprises 12 episodes per country**, aired weekly and re-broadcasted by other two local stations or networks in each country. Of the 12 magazines, ten are in local languages, while the remaining two are in English or French for a wider international audience.

The main topics identified by farmer organizations and developed according to their local context brought the attention of listeners on issues such as climate change challenges, agroecology

opportunities, forestry, access to finance and markets through village savings and loans associations, the importance of family farming and the growing role of women and youth among others.

ASIA

ComDev Asia Rural Radio initiative

With the same methodology implemented in Africa, the initiative involved **six countries** (Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Nepal, and Solomon Islands), of which 1, Nepal, is part of the FFF program. Furthermore, FFF experiences were also shared at the regional level through ComDev Asia, thanks to the collaboration with the Asian Farmer Association for Sustainable Development (AFA).

The Nepali organization **FECOFUN** was contracted to lead the radio operations and the production of 12 radio magazines focussing on FFPOs' activities and priorities. This approach has been extended to the other countries of the region. The production and sharing of radio products were based on a participatory process: a close collaboration between the FFPO and the selected radio station allowed identifying priority issues and topics to be developed during the series as well as the focal points of the activity and the interviewees. During the production phase, a second meeting identified the production obstacles and monitored and evaluated the impact of the radio initiative.



Meeting between FECOFUN and Radio Prikriti FM

Several topics have been developed with a variety of interlocutors. Among others: the challenges of National Parks and impacts of buffer zone extension on local communities; forest policies & budgets: central, provincial, and local governments; conservation challenges in the Chure, Terai, and Madhesh Regions of Nepal; forest regulation, key provisions for improving the livelihoods of communities and farmers; exploring the potential and obstacles of agroforestry in Nepal; Nepal's forest policies: navigating green growth and biodiversity; taxation on community forest from 3

tiers of government; prospects and challenges of forest-based enterprises in Nepal. Also, in this case, radio programs are available as podcasts and can be shared at the community level during meetings and trainings to foster dialogue and engage stakeholders.

B - Local ComDev strategies/services and enhanced FFPO communication capacities

Developing rural communication strategies and services jointly with promoting FFPOs' communication capacity is an FFF cross-cutting element under Output 4. This is reflected in each country's workplan and is implemented by the FFPOs with the support of specialized communication entities under the direct supervision of the FFF national facilitator and with the technical assistance of the FAO ComDev team. In this case, the FFF allocated the resources under the national budget and delivered through letters of agreement. Meanwhile, in 2023, learning/training activities will be supported and funded by PSUF.

Local ComDev strategies/services

Below is a summary of the progress made in 2023 by the ComDev strategies/services supporting FFF in-country activities.

AFRICA

Country	FFF Partners involved	Local ComDev Strategies Activities/status
Ghana	GHaFFaP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ComDev strategy/plan designed and under implementation. <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: Rural radio initiative 2023 Cycle of 12 radio programs developed by GHaFFaP
Kenya	FFSPAK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ComDev strategy/plan designed and under implementation. <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: Rural radio initiative 2023 Cycle of 12 radio programs developed by FFSPAK
Tanzania	MVIWAMA/ MVIWAARUSHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ComDev strategy/plan designed and under implementation. <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Mission undertaken to Arusha, Tanzania by Farm Radio Trust specialist (March 2023) Development of a campaign plan for 2023: 3 days workshop 14 people attended both secretariat staff and farmers representatives at 2nd tier FFPO groups Connection of garlic honey producers with a new market channel in Monduli districts, Arusha region through a Farmers Market managed by Mviwaarusha One video documentary with the support of FAO on the garlic honey value chain Awareness: Rural radio initiative 2023 Cycle of 12 radio programs developed by Mviwama (6) and Mviwaarusha (6)

Country	FFF Partners involved	Local ComDev Strategies Activities/status
Madagascar	FIFATA / SOA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ComDev strategy/plan designed and under implementation. <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Monthly radio programs (Radio activities assigned to broadcasting partners based on a call for proposal) · Awareness: Rural radio initiative 2023 · Cycle of 12 radio programs developed by SOA.
Zambia	ZNFCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ComDev strategy/plan designed and under implementation. <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Engagement and increased information sharing · WhatsApp group in place sharing audio-visual clips on a regular daily basis, increased publication of audio-visual clips and information on social media, increased flow of information on weather forecast, official initiatives and grassroots activities. Horizontal knowledge sharing increased. · Apex member's organizations ComDev strategies · Some of the apex members are drafting their own ComDev strategy in line with the training received in May 2022 (ex Nyimba District Forest Commodities Association). · Awareness: Rural radio initiative 2023 · Cycle of 12 radio programs developed by ZNFCA · Attendance to the Participatory Video Training
Togo	CTOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ComDev strategy/plan designed and under implementation. <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Training on ComDev Yenkasa tools for the benefit of OPFAs · Support FFPOs to update and implement Communication for Development strategies/plans and consolidate Rural Communication Services (RCS). · Capacity building of FFPOs to access rural communication, social and cultural services towards knowledge sharing and outreach plans and improved FFPOs' communication capacities. · Support the implementation of communication plans within the FFPOs based on Communication strategy developed with Com Dev and FFF HQ team. · Awareness: Rural radio initiative 2023 · Cycle of 12 radio programs developed by CTOP

ASIA

Country	FFF partners involved	Local ComDev Strategies Activities/status
Vietnam	VNFU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ComDev strategy/plan updated. <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Technical Mission undertaken to Vietnam by CDC-UPLB (October 2023) funded by PSUF · Design of a detailed ComDev plan for 2024
Nepal	FECOFUN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · ComDev strategy/plan designed <p>Main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Awareness: Rural radio initiative 2023 · Cycle of 12 radio programs developed by FECOFUN

Enhanced FFPOs communication capacities: Participatory Video modular training

Participatory video (PV) can be used as an interactive tool to promote more inclusive and sustainable forms of development, mirroring local realities, and helping a wide array of stakeholders share knowledge and make informed decisions about specific challenges and opportunities. In partnership with Digital Green and the College of Development Communication of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (CDC-UPLB), the FAO ComDev team is promoting an initiative to build capacities in Participatory Video (PV) production and sharing. The PV methodology enables the co-creation of suitable content and the sharing through in-person interactions, media, and digital platforms. It is based on a user-friendly guide that provides step-by-step instructions for creating and using participatory video within a ComDev process¹⁰ that FFPOs can appropriate for their own uses.

A series of PV virtual trainings have been implemented in 2023 with the participation of institutions and practitioners engaged in promoting inclusive rural communication services in sustainable agrifood systems, including FFF participants. An initial training of trainers (ToT) was organized to jumpstart the initiative and engage a group of practitioners as video master trainers. It was followed by two regional trainings organized by ComDev Asia (Asia-Pacific) and Yenkasa Africa (Africa), designed for field workers (e.g., extension services, farmer field schools, communication practitioners) and farmers' organizations.

Each training has been associated with a dedicated Community of Practice (CoP), a space for participants to share their learnings and discuss the issues they are confronted with in the production and use of participatory video. Coaching activities are also being offered to participants as follow-up within the CoPs to assist participants in using Participatory Video in their work and sharing their experiences among peers.

Participants from FFF-Nepal attended the ToT and the regional PV training for Asia and the Pacific. FFF Tanzania, Zambia, and Ghana participants participated in the regional PV training for Africa. The use of participatory video can be an asset in the work of the FFF in a variety of solutions, including engaging stakeholders; documenting and sharing experiences, good practices, and results; improving opportunities for representing FFPO work to their members; supporting marketing and entrepreneurial activities; monitoring landscape issues; enhancing social and cultural services, among others.

¹⁰ [Participatory video in agrifood systems and digital environments - A practitioner's guide](#)

2023 Participatory Video Training Series		
Training type	Sessions	Supporting platform
Training of Trainers	October 19, 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2023	ComDev
PV Asia and the Pacific	November 6, 8, 10, 14, and 16, 2023	ComDev Asia
PV Africa	November 20, 22, 24, 28 and 30, 2023	Yenkasa Africa

Conclusions

ComDev assistance to FFF countries and partner organizations is being systematically provided and positively received. ComDev plans are being developed/implemented in 10 FFF countries across Africa and Asia. In the case of Latin America, awareness-raising activities have been implemented through the Onda Rural initiative. They could also be re-launched at the field level by designing communication strategies for FFPOs with the assistance of the ComDev team and partners institutions. Furthermore, a new opportunity for collaboration will be provided by a regional training course on participatory video that will be implemented in Latin America in 2024. Awareness-raising and advocacy activities are undertaken at the local and regional levels within the UN Decade of Family Farming to raise the profile of FFPO initiatives. Rural Communication Services have progressively been acknowledged as a specific dimension of cultural and social services that contribute to enhancing FFPOs and deserve increasing attention by the FFF.

The FFF Mid-term evaluation indicates that communication activities should be systematically planned and monitored under Outcome 4 of each FFF country workplan. These activities should be adequately resourced, and collaboration with communication entities and community media should be encouraged.

Capacity development efforts and collaboration with the regional ComDev initiatives should be further strengthened and promoted, taking advantage of the ongoing LoAs established by PSUF/ComDev.

Overall, FFF countries have expressed significant interest in ComDev and are willing to explore activities conjuring communication with the FFF technical topics. An outstanding case in this sense is the FFF Tanzania, which benefits from a ComDev-themed LoA with Farm Radio Trust (FRT). Such agreement enabled the FFF Tanzania to receive tailored trainings and technical support from FRT under the technical supervision of the FAO ComDev team, ensuring comprehensive communication support to the project in the country.

To make the assistance and support provided by the FAO ComDev team more effective, a more systematic involvement in the planning and monitoring of the FFF activities should be ensured. Therefore, it is recommended to establish specific LoAs for ComDev with specialized entities that can design thorough assistance in ComDev while serving the technical core of the project.

Moreover, this approach will also allow better coordination with the UNDF.

Finally, it is very important to ensure that ComDev components are included in the 2024 workplans of the FFF countries and adequately resourced. ComDev activities can greatly enhance program delivery, scale up FFF results, and ensure greater stakeholder engagement and visibility at the local/national, and regional levels, contributing to the sustainability of the initiatives being undertaken by the program.

Annex 11: Final summary table of FFF indicators (2023)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
IMPACT: CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDSCAPES AND IMPROVED LIVELIHOODS												
Outcome 1: More enabling policy and legal frameworks for FFPOs delivered through more FFPO-inclusive governance and cross-sectoral processes												
Outcome indicator 1 (OI1): How many cumulative changes has FFF work led to in policy/legal documents, processes or decisions that are in favour of the interest of FFPOs through direct FFPOs engagement at national level?	11 cumulative changes – Most recent is the National Agenda for Strengthening Family Farming, Agroecological and Non-timber Forest Production	3 policy and decision changes including Ministerial agreement N°034 on bio-enterprises, CCLEA environmental education and MAATE Amazon table of NTFPs	13 policy processes: gender / social protection, MITDS, Tree tenure, National Tree Crops, Child protection, Food / jobs, ISRD, Ghana Green, Trad. Leaders, Agri-business,	6 Policy decisions incl. develop National Agroforestry Strategy, and access and benefit sharing of forest resources by CFA	7 Land tenure; National strategies on climate smart agriculture, on Agribusiness, on Digitalization, on FFPO professionalization, on rural finance, Subnational Family Farming Committee development	153 local forest and agriculture acts; 1 provincial forest act, - 7 national: guideline on SFM, stay order on CFM taxation, dissolution of sci. for. man., lifted restriction on 33 timber sp., relief distribution guideline, Forest Policy 2075 and Forest Act 2076	10 AF strategy; NTFP strategy; the multi-stakeholder policy processes, harmonisation of the timber levy, and two Njombe byelaws, plus in 2023 the EMA, farmer seed laws and NRM.	3 cumulative changes (establishment of women's chapter in Kamboli to address FFPO joint challenge; access for women and youth to land on agricultural development zones. This year: decree setting up a community forest monitoring committee)	40 (14 new this year including PCP SFM support, Provincial Cooperative alliance support, 3 tourism models, OCOP products, PGS, organic ag., e-commerce, road building, favourable loans, AF models, long rotation timber	10 policies (charcoal regulation, PGS guidelines, honey policy, carbon tax utilization, 5 WDC strategic plans, 1 chieftain strategic plan)		256 cumulative changes in policy through work at national level (up from 111 in 2022)
Outcome Indicator 2 (OI2): How many cumulative changes has FFF work led to in policy/legal documents, processes or decisions that are in favour of	5	1 (Participation of FFPO in Amazon table of non-timber forest products led by Ministry of Environment and REED+ Amazon table which	0 (none yet at international or regional level)	None	2 National strategy on organic farming, Lobbying letter from FFPOs for COP27	None	3 international proposals on TFIF, FFPO and PS investment, and interest rates from TADB.	0 (not recorded)	0 (not recorded)	2 (charcoal regulation has involved international exchange and inputs, plus GEF project inclusion of FFPOs)		13 cumulative changes through regional or international policy process engagement (up from 5 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
the interest of FFPOs through direct FFPOs engagement at international level?		is an annual activity)										
Output 1.1: FFPOs have clear advocacy agendas that represent all their members' interest												
Indicator 1 (I1): How many of the FFPOs supported through FFF have developed a written advocacy agenda approved by their members (through a legitimate and representative process)?	30 FFPOs	11 FFPOs (Acai, Kallari, Runashitu, Sacha Laran, Sumak Pacha, Tsatsayaku, UNORCAC, Wiñak, Corporation chakra, CONFENIAE , UOPROCAE)	5 FFPOs (CADER, Wassa East, TELE BERE, PADO, OFFCOP)	2 FFPOs: NASFPA on avocado and NTGMC on timber policy and institutional barriers affecting farmers	13 FFPOs (PNFDDSA FIFATA, SOA, CPM and FEKRITAMA)	6 FFPO (Adhar Ekta, AFFON, CDCAN, FECOFUN, NFGF, RDN)	All 6 apex FFPOs	12 FFPOs with written advocacy plans (Akidjeta, Souroutawi, CTOP, FEPROMAT, RENAFAT, REJE PPAT, CG FC GOUBI, 5 CROPPAs (Regional Coordination of Farmers' and Agricultural Producers' Organizations))	24 FFPOs (with 22 submitting to CPC)	10 FFPOs		119 FFPOs with a written advocacy agenda (up from 94 in 2022)
Indicator 2 (I2): Within those FFPOs, what are the disaggregated percentages of (i) women, (ii) youth, (iii) people of disability, (iv) and Indigenous Peoples who were involved directly in the approval	Ranges of 29%-48% women, 9%-25% youth	38% women, 1% youth, 51% Indigenous peoples	Women: 40-75%; Youth: 10-25%; PLWD: 2-5%; IP: 0%).	20% women, 10% Youth, PLWD 0%	48 % women and 30 % youth	Ranges of 40-51% women, 15-33% youth and 10-36% indigenous	40% women	47% women, 32% youth	40.5% women 11.7% youth 63% ethnic minority	At least 60% women and 10% youth		Advocacy agendas developed with 20-75% women and 1-33% youth and 10-63% indigenous participation

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
process for the development of those advocacy agendas?												
Output 1.2: Cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder policy processes strengthened with better representation from forest and farm producers												
Indicator 3 (I3): How many strengthened or new cross sectoral, multi-stakeholder policy processes have, through FFF support achieved active participation by FFPOs since 2018 at national level?	7 National processes linked to peri-urban agriculture, ecological production, family farming and cocoa, 5 subnational processes linked to Acai and Honey	1 national process (Amazon table of NTFPs) and 1 sub-national process (related to the development of the Chakra brand)	33 cumulative . In 2023, 1 national, 3 zonal, 5 grassroots (cumulative total is 25 (3 national, 6 zonal, 16 grassroots)	6 national processes (AF policy, Social Protection , SDG platform, Forest Value Chain Association, Kenya Forest Investment Expo, and Climate Smart Ag.) and 3 cross-sectoral processes in 2023; TGAN on timber, NASFPA on avocado, and LLMC on honey	7 national processes, including Land tenure, Forest and landscape restoration linked to climate change and organic farming	107 – made up of 37 local level cross sectoral processes, 28 municipal collaboration and 42 municipal Kishan Chautaris	7 (Arusha Environmental Platform, Manyara Environmental Platform, 2 Bee keeping Platform in Arusha and Kilosa, Vanillar producers association platform in Bukoba and 2 Tree Nurseries platforms in Arusha and Manyara)	12 national cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder processes, 2 local policy processes	71 5 advisory committee, 64 round tables at commune / province / district and 2 national	14 in total (2 national processes on charcoal and honey and, 7 district-, 2 provincial-, and 2 ward development committees from last year + chieftain level management unit)		275 multi-stakeholder processes with FFPO input from grassroots to national level (up from 175 in 2022)
Indicator 4 (I4): How many strengthened or new cross sectoral, multi-	0	1 regional process: UOCASI participation in the Latin American network ALCACAO to	3 (Regional workshop on access to finance in Kenya, climate reality workshop	2 FFPOs (KENAFF and FFSPAK)	3 (no details provided)	Not reported.	3 ongoing in East Africa in 2023 linked to SHIWAKUTA, MVIWAMA, and	6 regional and global processes (no new data provided in 2023)	5 global or regional policy and learning exchange	0 (none mentioned)		23 multi-stakeholder processes with FFPO input at regional or international

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
stakeholder policy processes have, through FFF support achieved active participation by FFPOs since 2018 at regional or global level?		represent the FFPOs focused on cocoa value chain	in Accra Ghana, and IUCN Regional dialogue on Sustainable Agriculture in Ougadougou Burkina Faso)				Mviwaarusha .					level (up from 10 in 2022)
Indicator 5 (I5): How many FFPO-representatives participated across those advocacy/policy process (disaggregated data M, F) since 2018?	522 representatives of which 232 are women	5 FFPOs and 29 representatives (Wiñak association, Tsatsayaku association, Kallari association, Corporation Amazon Chakrea, UOCASI)	320 FFPO reps. (women 100 and 220 men); another 9 participated in the advocacy processes (1 national, 3 zonal & 5 grassroots).	9,936 reps (1,988 are women, 993 are youth and 496 indigenous people)	340 producers' members	6161 representatives of FFPOs (3857 men and 2304 women)	2912 (1344 women)	41 participants (32 women (no new data provided in 2023)	2256 (765 women)	200 representatives across 6 platforms		22,717 FFPO representatives in policy shaping processes (31% women) (up from 10,090 in 2022)
Outcome 2: Increased entrepreneurship, access to markets and finance through gender equitable value chains delivered through new capacity to provide business incubation within FFPOs												
Outcome Indicator 3 (OI3) How many FFPO enterprises, based on environmentally sustainable resource use, have been supported by FFF to provide benefits and	18 (Within AFIN, ANPROCA, AOPEB) APMIL, APROVE, ARCASY, CIMPA, CIOEC, FEDPRACAO CBBA, FEDPRACAO LP, SAUCE TIPNIS, EL	15 (Within Acai, Kallari, Runashitu, Sacha Laran, Sumak Pacha, Tsatsayaku, UNORCAC (2), Wiñak, CHAKRA COPORATION, PACAT,	13 (CADER, KAMALA, TUWODEP, KANBAOC U, ZOVFA, PFAG & Tele-bere, ABOFA, KKFU, KKFA, ASP CREMA, NTGA)	37 (5 in 2023) (Within LOCCOG, WETPA, NTGMC, Toret Moi WG & Kimaanjo WG).	172 small and medium-sized business in individual or producers organization at the grassroots level (36 new for 2023)	26 FFPO enterprises selling Turmeric, Bay, Organic Vegetables, Indian Tree Butter, Sal Leaves, Sichuan Pepper, biofertilizer, Gooseberry	26 FFPO enterprises (honey, avocado, nurseries, timber value added) (9 business in 2023 alone of nurseries and beekeeping)	377 FFPO enterprises (115 in 2023 alone)	39 FFPOs	30 FFPOs selling Honey, baskets, cotton, soyabeans, bamboo, beans, maize, Charcoal, timber, various herbal products		753 FFPO sustainable enterprises supported to improve returns to members (up from 566 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/Global	Total
returns to their members since 2018?	CEIBO, CELCCAR, AAGROPAMA, RIO BLANCO, ADAPICRUZ	FORTALEZA DEL VALLE, TOISAN, UO CASI, Pepa de Oro)	In 2023, 4 FFPOs (ZOVFA, Tere-bele, OFFC & PADO) supported with additional enterprises .			, Harro and Barro Bamboo, cardamom, Fodder Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Woven baskets and Soap						
Outcome indicator 4 (OI4): How many FFPO enterprises supported by FFF have developed new or enhanced value addition activities since 2018?	16 FFPOs (AMPROCA, AOPEB, APMIL, ARCASY, CIOEC and FEDPRACAO CBBA, RIO BLANCO. EL CEIBO, AND OTHERS)	15 FFPO enterprises	2 FFPOs (PADO & Tele-Bere) incl. green charcoal, fish production and traditional vegetables	37 (3 IN 2023) (inc. new business in honey, poultry, dairy, kitchen gardens, timber, avocado, fruit, ecotourism, tree nurseries)	36 FFPO enterprises	19 FFPO CFUGs and other enterprise groups	16 FFPO enterprises (5 new in 2023)	79 FFPO enterprises (with 5 in 2023 alone)	26 FFPOs	15 actual businesses within those FFPOs have added value		261 FFPO enterprise have developed or enhanced added value (up from 211 in 2022)
Outcome indicator 5 (OI5): How many of the FFPO enterprises supported by FFF are led by women?	5 (AFIN, APMIL CIMAP and SAUCE TINPIS, AMEB RIO BLANCO-LAS PIONERAS)	10 FFPO enterprises	7 FFPOs (CADER, ISRD, KANBAOC U, Tele-bere, ZOVFA, Maaltaalba and SWFA)	13 FFPOs (2 in 2023- Kimaanjo and Teret Moi WGs.)	40%	14 (Adhar Ekta, Binayi, Piple, Shivamandir, Sundari, Rastriya CFUGs, NFGF, Sundari, Rastriya, Pashupti, Buddha, Banganga, Jagaran, Neuren, Bungdal, AFFON)	3 FFPO enterprise covering honey products and fresh juice.	117 FFPO enterprise (19 added in 2023)	17 FFPOs	20 (inc. Tubeleke, Masopo, CDNTA)		222 FFPO enterprise led by women (up from 169 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/Global	Total
Output 2.1: FFPOs have capacity to deliver targeted business incubation services to their members												
Indicator 6 (I6): How many FFPOs have systems for business skills needs assessment (for their members) in place?	8 (ADAPICRUZ, AFIN ANPROCA, APROVE, AOPEB-ROPAF, CIOEC, EL CEIBO, CELCCAR)	12	5 FFPOs (TELEBERE, OFFC, PADO, SWFA, ZOVFA), NTGA)	19 have systems for business assessment	13 FFPOs	4 FFPOs or prog.. (FECOFUN, NFGF, Mount Everest Botanical and Green Foundation)	7 FFPOs cumulatively (Api-Support, TTGAU, MJUMITA, MVIWATA, MVIWAARUS HA, MVIWAMA and MAYAWA)	10 FFPOs (CTOP, RECAP, RENAFAT, CPC, MAPTO, APCR, REJEPPAT, FUPROCAT, FNAET and UROPC)	9 (VNFU central plus 8 commune groups)	10 FFPOs		97 FFPOs are assessing business needs of members (Up from 88 in 2022)
Indicator 7 (I7): How many entrepreneurship trainings have been run since 2018 through FFPOs supported by FFF for their members?	57 (20 this year)	12 FFPOs trained	27 total and In 2023, 7 different capacity building trainings on general or value chain specific issues. Since 2018, 27 trainings.	24 (5 in 2023)	258 (of which 219 in 2023)	86 to 5880 people (2037 men and 3843 women)	55 (5 in 2023) to 1890 people (892 women)	111 trainings sessions (14 this year) alone	34 FFPOs have provided training in business incubation, MA&D, certification, co-op management etc	60 (including five in MA&D – plus coaching by LadyAgri for CAZ and ZNFCA)		724 entrepreneur trainings run (up from 406 in 2022)
Indicator 8 (I8): How many staff with business incubation expertise are there per FFPO in those supported by FFF since 2018?	446	At least 1 in each of the 12 FFPOs	51 since 2018 and In 2023, 12 staff from 5 FFPOs (Tere-bele-2; OFCC-4; PADO-2 & SWFA-2)..	15 FFPO staff (5 in 2023)	32	31 FFPO staff FECOFUN 6, AFFON 2, NFGF 3, CDCAN 13, Adhar Ekta 1, Mount Everest 3, Green Foundation 2 CDA 1	19 FFPO staff	62 FFPO staff	50 minimum (1-2 per FFPO)	15 FFPO staff		733 FFPO staff trained and deployed with business incubation skills (up from 605 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
Indicator 9 (I9): What percentage of trained business incubation staff are (i) women or (ii) youth?	51% women 19% youth	50% women 20% youth	4 (33%) are women, 8 (67%) are men and 8% youth age between 15-25.	20% women and 10% youth	25 % women	29% women 6% youth	32% women, 80% youth	36% women 60% youth	39% women 11% youth	50% women and 30% youths (last year)		20-51% of FFPO incubator staff are women and 8-80% youth
Output 2.2: FFPOs (and their members) have improved access to business, marketing, and financial services.												
Indicator 10 (I10): How many FFPOs that FFF supports since 2018 have a business plan that incorporates credible business, market and financial information (disaggregated by whether the FFPO is primarily for men, women, youth, or indigenous peoples)	15	5 FFPOs	3 (Tele-Bere, PADO and KANBOAC U,) with 6 under review (ABOFA, CADER, KKFA, OFFC, Asetenapa Cooperative, and Wassa East Cooperative.)	10 (2 in 2023) (7 mixed, 1 woman and 1 youth, 1 indigenous)	13 FFPOs	23 FFPO	12 FFPOs	55 FFPOs	27 FFPOs	15 business plans for Honey, baskets, beans, herbal medicines, brooms, bamboo, tamarind, cotton, briquettes, baobab, sustainable charcoal, maize meal, vegetables, thatched grass and wild vegetables		178 FFPO enterprise with credible business, market and financial information (up from 109 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
Indicator 11 (I11): How many members have benefitted from those FFPOs that have business plans (disaggregated by men, women, youth and Indigenous Peoples)	2,149	women: 42% youth: 3% Indigenous Peoples: 23%	19,463 members PADO, Tele-Bere & OFFC (Women-689, youth-168 & men-426) from 2022 data	53,000 (1,988 are women, 993 are youth and 496 indigenous people) from 2022 data	64% of members (30% women)	954 (97% women)	206 (63% women) – from 2022 data not recorded in 2023	4,155 (68% women) (no new data provided in 2023)	697 households (42% women, 11% youth, 61% IPs)	5000		85,624 members benefitting from enterprise plans developed (up from 79,062 in 2022)
Indicator 12 (I12): How many FFPOs through FFF support since 2018 have received a minimum of 1 business or marketing or financial service from third party providers (disaggregated by men, women, youth, and indigenous peoples)?	9 (Within AFIN, ANPROCA, CIOEC, CIMAP, SAUCE TIPNIS)	8 FFPOs TSATSAYAK U, WIÑAK, UNORCAC, and UNORCAC's women's committee, ACAI, KALLARI, TOISAN and UOCASI	4 FFPOs (TERE-BERE, PADO, SWFA, & OFFC)	24 FFPOs (3 in 2023) (NASFPA, LLMC, and LOCCOG all received finance from third parties)	13 FFPOs	13 FFPOs including three this year through municipal gov. DECOS and Sammuniti Project	6 FFPOs Kiwamiu TGA, Tumaini Youth Group and Mkombozi group, Umoja carpentry, Mapambano and Chinyemi groups	262 FFPOs (reported 134 this year without clarifying if these are in addition to the 262 of previous years)	31 FFPOs	26 enterprises from 2 main third party providers (minimum of 30% women) from last year		396 FFPO enterprise receiving support from external business or financial service provider (up from 360 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
Outcome 3: Improved delivery of landscape scale mitigation, adaptation, and climate resilience for climate change through direct engagement of FFPOs and integration with inclusive livelihood approaches												
Outcome indicator 6 (OI6): How many hectares (ha) of forest and farm land managed by FFPOs that are supported by FFF have contributed to either landscape protection, restoration or sustainable forest and farm management to improve climate change mitigation or adaptation?	73,487 hectares	138,588 hectares (Mixed conservation, reforestation, and Agroforestry)	23,894 hectares by 13 FFPOs	89,323 hectares across 4 different sites (Chepalungu, Lariak, Cheptais and lake Olbolosat catchment)	2,710 hectares (1,487 ha in 2023)	15,186 borad CF areas affected and 339 hectares impacted directly	5,282 hectares	1,019 hectares (note that no numbers for DBGs provided)	44,619 hectares	1563 hectares		395,671 hectares of FFPO land restored protected or sustainable forest and farm management (up from 161,688 in 2022)
Outcome indicator 7 (OI7): How many people have benefitted from that protection, restoration of sustainable forest and farm management (including on-farm agroforestry systems) through FFF	9,348	12,095	101,629 people (including 28,959 women).	9,936 people across five main FFPOs	3,915 members: 1,852 women, 1,204 youth	6,708	35,045 (52% women in 2023))	10,895 people including 7,473 women and 5,984 youth	15,000 FFPO members	5000 members of the FFPOs		209,571 people benefitting from FFPO land restored, protected or sustainably managed (Up from 164,170 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
activity (disaggregated by men, women, and youth?)												
Outcome indicator 8 (OI8): How many people have been directly supported to cope with the impacts of climate change (disaggregated by men, women and youth)?	2,549 (743 women and 325 youth)	2,595 40% women, 8% youth, 52% Indigenous Peoples	101,629 people (including 8,176 women) supported to adopt to climate change (from 2022 data)	3,974 people across the 5 FFF counties	17,238 ; (40% women and youth)	5446 (41% women)	2,706	570	2600 (42% women, 13% youth)	1000 have diversified products		140,307 people supported to cope with impact of climate change (up from 123,787 in 2022)
Output 3.1: FFPOs contribution in climate and landscape level programs has increased the outreach of these programs												
Indicator 13 (I13): How many partnerships with climate or landscape restoration programs have been developed by FFF that may involve a blend of national or	52 with institutions to promote the 3 rd Bolivian congress for climate change	2 national with Proamazoni a benefitting Kallari, Tsatsayaku and Wiñak, and CONFENIAE has a partnership with other NGOs	84 total, 14 at national level, 5 regional with chiefs and 65 grassroots partnerships (from 2022 data)	3 including 2 sub-national partnership for Lariak and Chepalungu forests plus a school greening programme, LOGGOG	7	5 (FAO-Churia, Gandaki River Basin, USAID Jal Jangal, Finnish Tulispur and Chitwan)	4 cumulative at national/ subnational level (GCF, Nyombe District, NADO, BEVAC)	7 sub-national/ national level partnerships (REDD + strategy, PNIASAN, development of NWFP sector in Togo, F4F, WACA project, R4C TOGO, FSRP TOGO)	15 including FD of MARD, VAFS, VFU, VNFU, COA, IKEA, Mountain bee Development, EcomViet, National barcodes, Dep. Of tourism.	10 sub-national/ national partnerships AFR100, BCP, COMACO, GCF, GEF7, PPCR SCRALA, SCRiKA, SIFAZ, ZFLIP,		189 new partnerships with climate or landscape restoration programs from local to national level (up from 134 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
international finance?		1 sub-national/national partnership 'Socio-bosque' benefitting Runashitu)		has recently got TerrqFund grant				(no new data added for 2023)				
Output 3.2: FFPOs have mainstreamed climate change into their operations												
Indicator 14 (I14): How many FFPOs have developed climate resilience plans and / or responsive practices on the ground?	11 FFPOs with climate resilience plans	11 FFPOs with climate resilient plans/ responsive practices	8 FFPOs	5 FFPOs (NASFPA, LCFA, CCFA, CHEACOF A, and LLMC)	10 FFPOs	27 CFUGs	6 FFPOs	31 FFPOs	37 FFPOs	20 FFPO with climate responsive actions		166 FFPOs have developed climate resilience plans or responsive practices (up from 115 in 2022)
Indicator 15 (I15): How many FFPOs staff have received training in climate change adaptation or mitigation or resilient practices	750 (313 women)	17 FFPOs with a total of 12,095 members (45% female members, 20% youth, 79% indigenous people)	28 (18 men and 10 women)	30 FFPOs including 6 women and 4 youth	101 FFPO staff (including this year 32 staff)	397 FFPO staff including this year 63 people 30 women and 33 men)	60 FFPO staff (32% women)	1,287 FFPO staff and members	584 (357 men 227 women) from last year	562 staff trained including 60 FFPO staff this year)		14,735 FFPO staff trained in climate change mitigation, adaptation or resilience practices (up from 6244 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
(disaggregated by men, women, youth and people with disability)?												
Outcome 4: Improved and equitable access to social and cultural services												
Outcome indicator 9 (O19): How many forest and farm producers have received improved social or cultural services (disaggregated men, women, youth, and Indigenous peoples)?	3 FFPOs (reported from last year)	16,690 from 2 FFPOs women: 37% youth: 36% Indigenous Peoples: 82%	14, 254 members from across 5 FFPOs (TERE BERE, OFCC, PADO, ZOVFA & SWFA). (55% Women, 29% youth & 15 % men).	6 FFPOs (in 2023, 5 FFPOs and forest dependent communities)	1,276 forest and farm producers (45% women)	2 main FFPOs and 33,960 people (32,551 COVID support, 753 subsidized agricultural inputs, 656 cold relief and flood affected producer in 2023)	9 FFPOs with 261 members	1,412 people (of which at least 40% women)	6452 people - 3579 men and 2873 women, 593 youth 2798 ethnic minority people – in 32 FFPOs	535 people (including 35 from CAZ and Kampamule received cash transfers, and the rest from government social protection)		At least 70 FFPOs with 74,840 people receiving improved social or cultural services (up from 57,004 in 2022 – but note data gaps)
Output 4.1: FFPOs have systems in place to provide social and cultural services (targeting the most vulnerable members)												
Indicator 16 (I16): How many FFPOs have conducted a needs assessment related to	6 FFPOs (AFIN, CIMAP, MINGA, CIPTA, FEDPRACAO CBBA and ANPROCA) – unchanged	5 FFPOs	8 FFPOs	3 FFPOs (CFAs and CPAs in Baringo and Turkana facilitated)	0	3 FFPOs (AFFON, NFGF, Mount Everest)	3 FFPOs (MVIWAARU SHA, MVIWAMA and MJUMITA)	34 FFPOs (no new data provided in 2023)	15	15		92 FFPOs have conducted needs assessment for social or cultural services (up from 90 in 2022)

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
social and cultural services needed by their members?												
Indicator 17 (I17): How many new or improved social and cultural services have been offered by the FFPOs that FFF support?	4 new or improved services have been offered – unchanged	5 cultural services (including a national fair Muyu Raymi organised by UNORCAC)	8 FFPOs have improved access to at least 1 social service	110 members of Turkana CPA befitted from cash transfer	2 (VSLA and Covid19 equipment)	7 social services (COVID food relief, COVID equipment, CFUG database, Proposal writing, gender based violence campaign, online portal, access to subsidized agricultural inputs)	3 social services(social fund of Community Groups; Microfinance Groups; FFPOs joining National Social Security Fund; and the engagement with TFS in publication and protection of social sites)	4 new services (ComDev, farm insurance, resilience funds, health and school insurance)	25 social and cultural services (9 in 2023)	12 new social 2 cultural (Water, FISP, school food, disabilities, bicycles, info. centres, ZANACO mobile bank, COVID, victim support, cash transfers, protection of shrine, Chungu Lwindi, community radio, national pension, savings and loans)		180 new or improved social and cultural services delivered by FFPO action (up from 68 in 2022)
Output 4.2: FFPOs link their social and cultural development agenda to national SDG process and other governmental development processes												
Indicator 18 (I18): How many FFPOs	5 FFPO representatives from AFIN, MINGA,	3 FFPO (Wiñak participate in SDG	5 FFPOs participated in CSOs Platforms and	1 FFPO (LOCCOG) involved in Nyandarua	2 FFPO representatives (TTM, SOA) (none in 2023)	4 FFPOs active on gender task teams, enterprise	3 FFPO staff (National Livestock Development Policy	3 FFPO (CTOP) represented in SDG processes, PAN/DNAUF, -	14 representatives (4 in Yen Bai, 4 in Bac Kan, 3 in Hoa Binh, 3	1 FFPO CAZ		41 FFPO representatives in national level social development

Indicators	Bolivia	Ecuador	Ghana	Kenya	Madagascar	Nepal	Tanzania	Togo	Vietnam	Zambia	Regional/ Global	Total
representatives have participated in national level social development processes that include developing social and cultural rights (e.g. SDG working groups, planning, monitoring and evaluation meetings)?	CIMAP, ANPROCA)	working groups, Amazonian Chakra Corporation on REDD+ table, Muyu Raymi fair organised by UNORCAC's women committee)	Ministry of Gender children and social protection.	a County SDG process		promotion team, social welfare council, SFM guidelines, committee on agroforestry , food security committee, rapid pesticide analysis)	review, Society Act review)	CNO DD (National Council of Civil Society Organizations for Sustainable Development)	in Son La) from last year			processes (up from 34 in 2022)

Annex 12: Workplan

Description of the work plans	2023				Comments
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Programme Management					
1. Preparation of annual reports and work plans	X			X	Extended management team
2. Steering Committee meetings	X				Extended management team
3. Global knowledge generation activities	X	X	X	X	IIED, AgriCord, country coaches and facilitators
4. Global communications and media work	X	X	X	X	Communications Officer
5. Resource mobilization	X	X	X	X	Manager, management team
6. Ensure cross-cutting gender, youth, and Indigenous Peoples focus	X	X	X	X	Country Coaches, facilitators
7. Implement MEL activities including safeguards procedures on ongoing LOAs and DBGs	X	X	X	X	MEL consultant, country coaches, facilitators
8. Implement QA procedures for new LOAs and DBGs to be signed	X	X	X	X	QA consultant, country coaches, facilitators
9. FFF Retreat		X			Full FFF extended team
Country-level Programme Implementation					

10. Implement outcome-based country work plans in Bolivia, Ecuador, Togo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Togo, Zambia, Nepal, Tanzania, Vietnam, The Gambia and Liberia (Detailed country work plans in appendix)	X	X	X	X	FFPO, partners, Facilitators and Country Coaches
Description of the work plans	2023				Comments
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
11. Launch calls for Proposals for new LOAs and DBGs at country level Bolivia, Ecuador, Togo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Togo, Zambia, Nepal, Tanzania, Vietnam, The Gambia and Liberia	X		X		Facilitators and Country Coaches
Country-level Programme Implementation					
12. Prepare new LoAs and DBGs with FFPO partners and grant recipients in Bolivia, Ecuador, Togo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Togo, Zambia, Nepal, Tanzania, Vietnam, The Gambia and Liberia	X	X			Facilitators and Country Coaches
13. Monitor progress of ongoing LoAs, and DBGs with primary FFPO partners and small grants recipients.	X	X	X	X	Facilitators and Country Coaches, FAO admin staff country level
14. National advisory committee meetings	X			X	Facilitators, Government partners,
15. Organize and host regional and global exchange and learning conferences		X	X	X	Extended management team, FFPO, Government partners

16. Training workshops	X	X	X	X	Facilitators, country coaches, FFPOs
17. Country-level M & L support and annual Meeting				X	Facilitators, country coaches
18. Country Annual Reports on impacts by Outcomes				X	Facilitators, Coaches
Regional and Global Programme Implementation					
19. Technical assistance to regional partner LoA implementation	X	X	X	x	IUCN, management team
20. Strategic communication capacity building	X	X	X	X	IUCN
21. Call for new regional and global proposals	X				IUCN, management team
22. Global exchanges and conferences		X	X	X	Extended management team
23. Improve visibility and engagement of FFPOs in major events	X	X	X	X	Extended management team

Annex 13: The FFF Team

FFF country facilitators

- Bolivia: Boris Igor Fernández Arancibia
- Ecuador: Virginia Beatriz Vallejo Rojas and Kelvin Cueva Rojas
- Ghana: Elvis Kuudaar
- Kenya: Philip Koskei Kisoyan
- Madagascar: Andry Rakoto Harivony and Herizo Rakoto Niaina
- Nepal: Racchya Shah
- Tanzania: Geoffrey Bakanga and Nickson Mahanga
- Togo: Aboudoumisamilou Issifou and Ruth Atchoglo
- Viet Nam: Pham Tai Thang and Vu Le Y Voan
- Zambia: Vincent Ziba and Kampamba Makwaya

FFF team based at FAO headquarters

- Luis Miguel Aparicio, Manager, Forest and Farm Facility, Forestry Division
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- Jhony Zapata, Forestry Officer, Forestry Division
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- Forestry Division Valentina Carlino, Consultant, Forestry Division
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- Marco Perri, Knowledge Management, FAO Forestry Division
- Mario Acunzo and team, Communications for Development, FAO Project Support Unit
- Marco Boscolo, FAO Forestry Division
- Jose Diaz Diaz, Producers' Organizations, FAO Forestry Division

FFF team based at IIED (Knowledge Generation and Monitoring and Learning)

- Duncan Macqueen, Principal Researcher and Leader of Forests and Prosperity Team, Natural Resources Group
- Kata Wagner, Researcher, Forests and Prosperity, Natural Resources Group
- Isabela Nunez del Prado Nieto, Forest Finance Researcher
- James Mayers, Director, Natural Resources Group

FFF team based at IUCN (Regional and Global Support)

- Elena Mendoza, Program Officer, Agriculture Team
- Zoe Williamson, Program Officer, Agriculture Team

FFF team based at AgriCord

- Katja Vuori, Program Director, AgriCord Secretariat FFF Focal Point

Forest and Farm Facility

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and Development



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Government of the Netherlands



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