



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Forest and Farm Facility



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Who we are

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a partnership established in 2012 between four international organizations with complementary skills and capacities – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and AgriCord. The FFF's second phase began in 2018 and will continue to the end of 2026.

What we do

The FFF is a pioneering mechanism for the direct delivery of finance and technical support to strengthen forest and farm producer organizations (FFPOs), whose membership includes smallholder farmers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities. These organizations mobilize just rural transitions towards climate-resilient and nature-positive landscapes and improved livelihoods.

Working closely with governments, the FFF strengthens interlinked networks of FFPOs that have been set up by their members to achieve impacts on the ground. The work empowers these FFPOs to shape enabling policies, incubate sustainable enterprises, upscale climate and nature action, and deliver social and cultural protection. It pays special attention to gender equality, youth engagement and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

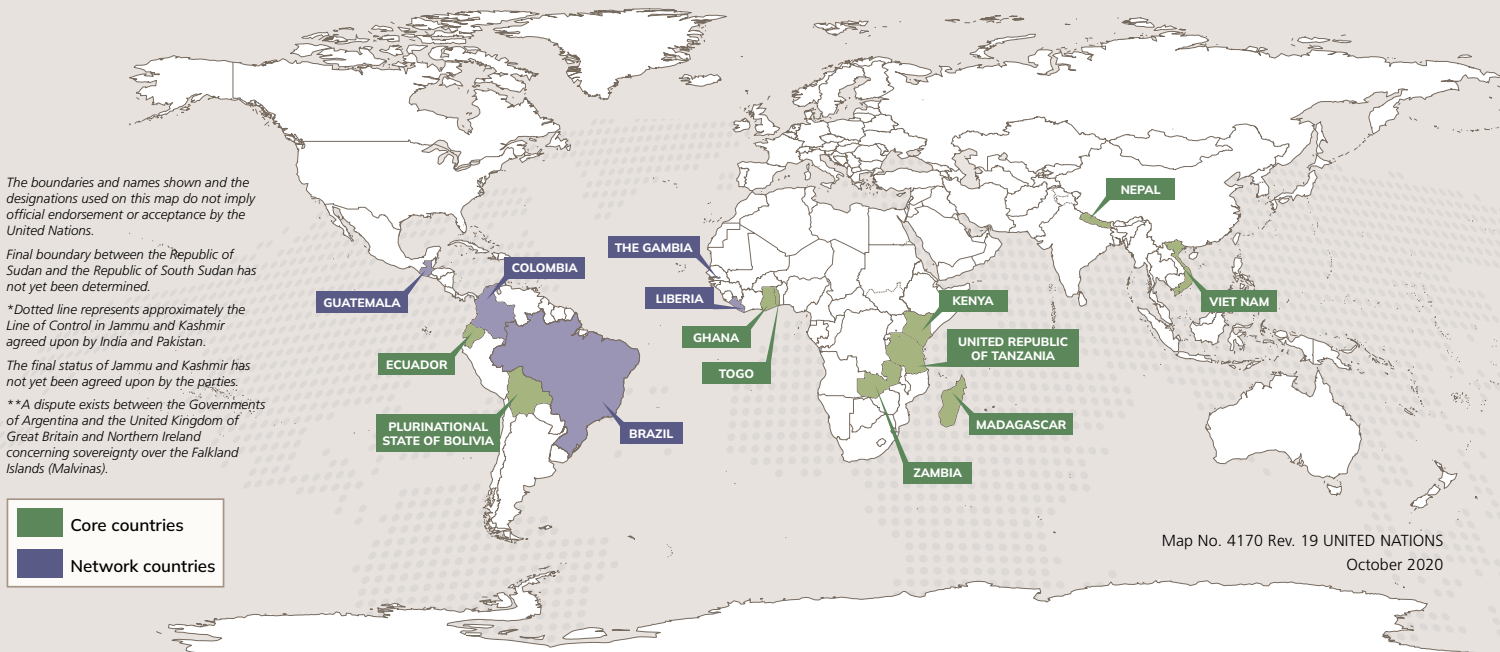
Why it matters

About 1.5 billion forest and farm smallholders, local communities and Indigenous Peoples own or manage at least 4.35 billion ha of forests and farmlands worldwide and supply one-third or more of the world's food. Their organizations are the frontline of climate and nature action. Embedded in forest and farm landscapes, smallholders invest an estimated USD 368 billion per year in necessary and proactive climate adaptation in response to more unpredictable wet and dry seasons and increased heatwaves, droughts, storms and flooding. They are best-placed to protect the land and manage it sustainably for themselves and for the global public good.

The FFF empowers the organizations of these forest and farm producers to become game-changing investors in progressive governance reform, green entrepreneurship, job creation, value added, nutrition and food security, biodiverse landscape restoration, climate action, and sustainable livelihoods. The FFF aligns with and supports their integrated visions of a better world.

Where we work

The FFF supports FFPOs representing about 133 million rural people in 15 countries. It works to build capacity and strengthen useful linkages between organizations at all levels. Thus, local grassroot groups connect into regional aggregation associations, which link into powerful national political federations and even international FFPO alliances that engage with and help shape global climate, nature and development agendas.



Our impact

The FFF supports FFPOs to achieve impact in four main areas (“outcomes”): enabling policies (outcome 1); finance and entrepreneurship (outcome 2); climate action (outcome 3); and social and cultural protection (outcome 4). It works by facilitating direct finance, technical support, knowledge co-production, peer learning, policy engagement opportunities, and market and finance innovations and linkages. Through such support, the FFF helps FFPOs:

- Strengthen and mature their internal governance and financial accountability and broaden their membership and links with other FFPOs.
- Shape enabling global, regional, national and subnational policies, such as on climate and nature financial flows, land tenure, seed and resource rights, tax, trade, and food safety, in favour of smallholders.
- Incubate sustainable businesses by, for example, facilitating market analysis and development to screen, prioritize and advance enterprise development plans.
- Improve their financial accounting, mobilize their own internal savings and investment funds, and attract external finance.
- Upscale forest and farm landscape restoration through agroecological farming, tree planting and natural forest management that diversifies income streams, increases tree cover and carbon storage, improves biodiversity conservation, and reduces chemical usage.
- Improve social and cultural protection services for FFPO members by broadening access to government services or their own offered services.

The success of the FFF model has catalysed the inclusion of FFPO-led approaches in programmes such as the Global Environment Facility-funded Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program and the Germany-funded African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) support programme, both of which the FFF helped design and is supporting in implementation.

Our approach works – join us

The FFF has positioned itself as a trusted FFPO finance mechanism. Overseen by representatives of FFPOs themselves in its steering committee, the FFF gets money where it matters – to the local level. Almost two-thirds of the FFF budget goes straight to FFPOs. With a proven methodology, trusted partnerships and a track record of effective delivery, the FFF is showing that directing relatively small funds to rural producers to strengthen their FFPOs has surprisingly large-scale and lasting positive impacts.

Now, the FFF is seeking to strengthen the engagement of regional and global FFPOs in its management processes; broaden its coverage to FFPOs in other countries; deepen the connections and critical mass of its FFPO partners; and spread successful models for a just rural transition that will deliver the world’s Sustainable Development Goals and climate and nature ambitions.

Let’s work together to enable FFPOs to lead the change the world needs. The more forest and farm smallholders that are mobilized for action, the better – because there is strength in numbers.

The impacts of FFF support since 2018 – some numbers



336 national or subnational changes in policy have been made



230 FFPOs have unlocked market opportunities; 32 percent secured finance and 26 percent achieved certification



688 693 hectares of land have been restored, protected and sustainably managed



355 072 people have benefited from improved land management



282 000 people have benefited from improved social or cultural services, supported by 174 FFPOs



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With the financial support of



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More information: <https://www.fao.org/forest-farm-facility/en>



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