

Agriculture, forests and trees: a close link for food security and nutrition

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A few facts as a start....

- ✓ Forests cover one third of the earth's surface
- ✓ 1.6 billion forest-dependent people
- ✓ Deforestation continues
- ✓ Main cause: conversion to agriculture

**Food security needs both forests
and agriculture**

Forests, trees and family farms *together* form productive agro-ecological systems



- Ensuring essential ecological functions and services
- Providing a range of products for subsistence and markets
- Increasing resilience and adaptation to climate change
- Increasing food security and improving nutrition



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Ecosystem services underpin food security



- Stabilizing agricultural production
- Mitigating climate change
- Gene pool for food crops
- Habitat for pollinators
- Protecting coastal fisheries

Forests provide food, fuel, fodder and income



Family farmers integrate forests and farms for food security, nutrition and livelihoods



Phung Thi Minh and Dao Ba Tiep in Yen Bai province, Vietnam grow over 40 forest and farm products

- Forest dependent peoples are **also** small scale family farmers (often the poorest)
- They are important producers of **both** food and forest products



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Challenging current approaches

- Sectoral approaches still dominate
→ fragmented support
- Contributions of complex landscape mosaics of forests and farms to FSN undervalued
- Access to credit, markets, insurance, extension for smallholders still difficult
- Indigenous peoples, forest dependent communities and family farmers not included in planning + policy making on forests and FSN



We need to combine forces and cross boundaries

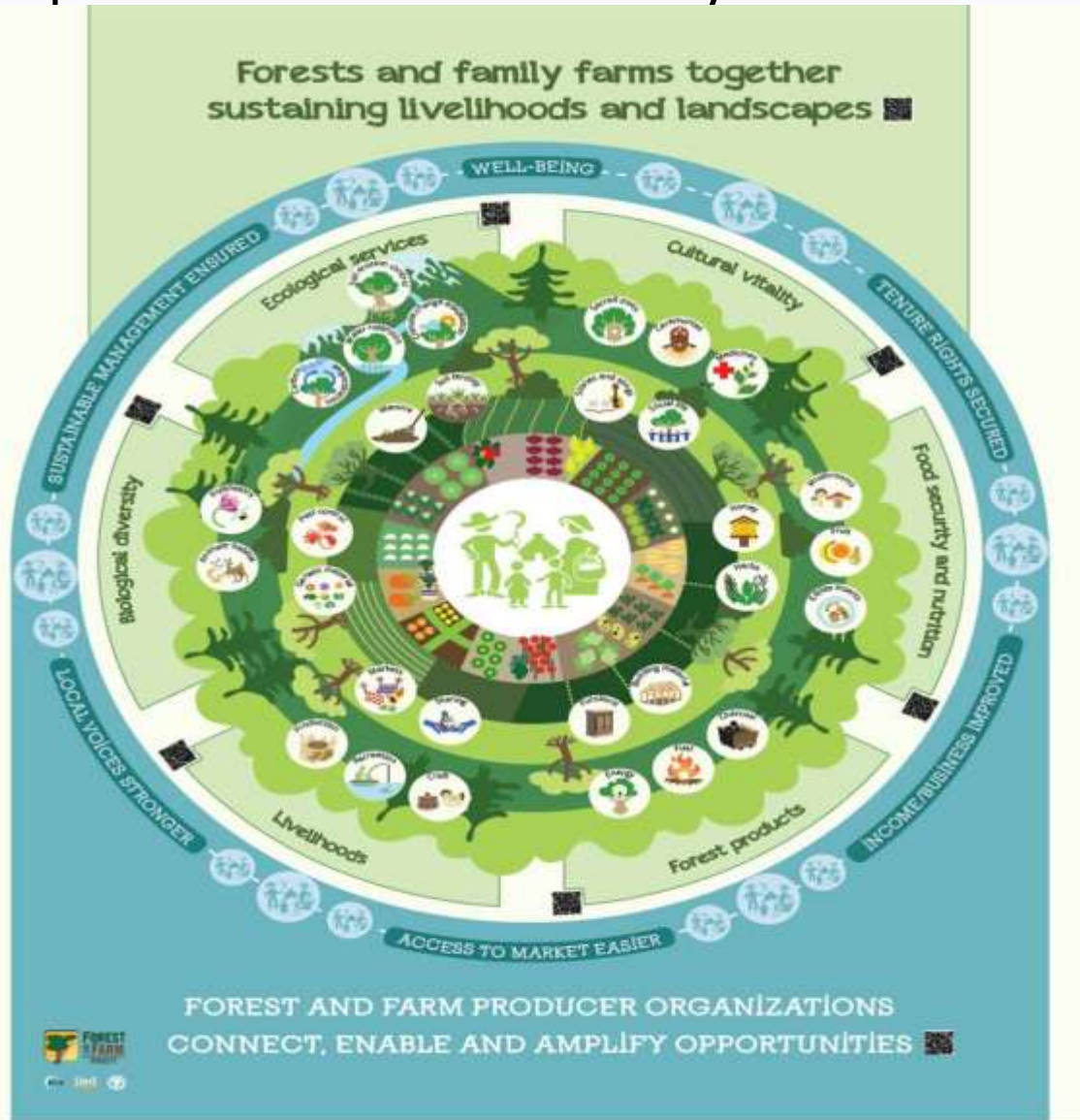
- Combining products, services of farms, agroforestry and forests – *increases food security, nutrition and sustainable management*
- Organizing into producer organizations *adds value to livelihoods and enhances policy engagement*



Meeting of Kantbala Village Development Committee, Myanmar



The Forest and Farm Facility – organizing forest and farm producers for food security and nutrition



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Key Messages

- Cross sectoral planning and investment linking forest and farms
- Strengthen and engage producer organizations (esp. women) for improved livelihoods and policy
- Improve understanding of food security and nutrition at a landscape level –value complexity
- Improve access to credit, markets, insurance, extension for smallholders



Thank you



www.fao.org/forestry/food-security