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POTENTIAL OF FORESTS IN POVERTY ERADICATION

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Panel discussion on ‘forests and poverty eradication’

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AFRICAN FOREST FORUM **Context for poverty eradication discussion**
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Key pointers to poverty in a developing country perspective:

Inadequate, or low levels of or complete lack of facilities for:

- Education
- Health
- Clean water supplies
- Food supply
- Shelter

Also included:

- Lack of or insufficient employment/income opportunities
- Weak or absence of mechanisms for inclusiveness of society
- Lack of security or susceptibility to violence

In eradicating poverty, forestry has to demonstrate its contributions to these areas , and collectively with other sectors.



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Context for poverty eradication discussion

Global context

Poverty eradication within the context of SDGs:

- Education (SDG4)
- Health (SDG3)
- Clean water supplies (SDG3)
- Food supply (SDGs1&2)
- Shelter (SDG11)
- Employment (SDG8)
- Energy (SDG7)

Poverty eradication is a collective effort from many angles/sides.

National context

Economies are market oriented and private sector-led



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Forestry in poverty mitigation

Experiences with how forests and tree resources mitigate poverty:

- » Many location specific studies, case studies
- » Relate forests with their immediate surroundings/vicinity
- » Highlight contributions of forests to employment, incomes, household energy, food, medicines, etc.
- » They demonstrate the relief forest products and services provide to poor societies around the forest areas
- » Rarely demonstrate how such relief can lift them out of poverty permanently---some make links to education and health

These experiences only demonstrate how these resources lessen the severity or seriousness or painfulness of poverty-

safety note




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Accounting for forestry contributions

The Context: Forests and forward linkages-an expanded framework

Examining at the contributions, not from a single location but in the wider economy

Primary forest production	Secondary forest production	Tertiary forest production
Natural forests	Sawmills	Woodworks-joinery & furniture
Plantations	Wood based panel mills	Prefabricated housing
Woodlands	Pulp and paper	Truss rafters
Woodlots	Charcoal making	
	Transmission poles	
	Wood carving	
	NTFP processing facilities	



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Accounting for forestry contributions

The Context: Key institutions in production and employment

Primary forest production	Secondary forest production	Tertiary forest production
Central govt.		
Local govt.		
Private sector	Private sector	Private sector
Professional training	Professional training	
Technical training	Technical training	Technical training
Research	Research	Research
NGOs	NGOs	NGOs



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Accounting for forestry contributions


1. Effect on employees' incomes on local communities:

These institutions provide employment (SDG8) to people who mainly reside close to the forests and processing facilities

They interact with local markets in their vicinity for their needs

Local communities in these areas receive incomes from sales made to employees

Local communities receive additional incomes from sale of freely collected NTFPs and firewood, in addition to charcoal they make.



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Accounting for forestry contributions

2. Forest products and services and local communities

Construction of schools, teaching staff houses, making of school desks

Construction of health facilities and staff houses

Own houses

Cheap biomass energy

Water for own use


Water for irrigated agriculture

3. Fees and taxes on forest products

Central government: corporate taxes and value added tax (VAT)

Pooled for government expenditure in all sectors

Local governments: -produce cess, fees for business licences, royalty/stumpage fees, etc.



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Accounting for forestry contributions

Summing up:

- Incomes to local communities from employees in forestry
- Support to local community facilities from forest products
- Taxes and fees

All these combine to facilitate access to education (SDG4), health services (SDG3), quality housing (SDG11), food and nutrition security (SDGs 1&2)-evidence from mitigation studies

It is possible to estimate the proportion (%) forest products and services make to each of these areas in a locality where people have been lifted out of poverty.

Poverty eradication is a combined effort of all economic sectors, forestry alone cannot accomplish this.



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Policy and institutional arrangements

- Develop appropriate formats for data collection and mechanisms for collecting and sharing such data across national economic sectors.
- In order to attract the attention of national decision makers, investors and financial institutions to the forestry sector, there is need to raise the profile of forestry and provide evidence of its tangible contribution to national economic development and SDGs
- Improve tenure and access rights to land and forest resources, particularly for women, indigenous people and marginalized groups, the private sector and other investors.
- Strengthen governance and relevant institutional structures, at all levels, which manage and add value to forest resources



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Policy and institutional arrangements

- Strengthen forestry and agriculture producer and community based associations, in order to raise the productivity and efficiency of the entire forestry and agricultural sectors, while simultaneously promoting cross-sectoral planning.
- Strengthen relevant policies on the nexus between land-based activities and poverty eradication.
- Enhance enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.
- Build and strengthen capacity in forestry related activities and institutions at all levels.



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THANK YOU