



COP30 FOREST PAVILION:

A Shared Commitment to Our Planet

2025 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP30)

10-21 November 2025, Belém, Brazil

Forests & Agriculture Synergies – integrated land use, agroforestry, family farming, gender equity and inclusion in land-use

Wednesday 19 Nov.

Leads: CIFOR-ICRAF, FAO

Co-leads: UNFF Women Major Group (REFACOF + Forest Women's Network)

Contributors: Australia (Indigenous peoples' leadership), WBCSD (sustainable wood)

Format: Hybrid

Concept Note

I. Background

Forests occupy one-third of the Earth's land area yet hold 80 percent of its terrestrial biodiversity. These resource-rich ecosystems bring diversity and nutrition to the diets of millions of people; income from forest products and services provides rural communities with access to medicine and additional food sources; and the majority of rural households use woodfuel for cooking, which improves food and water safety. In addition, forests' critical role in mitigating and adapting to climate change may be crucial in relieving climate-related food insecurity.

Natural forests are critical for the survival of forest-dwellers, including many Indigenous Peoples, and they help deliver clean water to agricultural lands by protecting catchments. Farmers increase food security by retaining trees on agricultural land, by encouraging natural regeneration and by planting trees and other forest plants. For most of the year, herders in arid and semi-arid lands depend on trees as a source of fodder for their livestock.

Integrated land use practices still lack mainstream gender on their projects and policies. Women play a very important role in the conservation, restoration and production and are usually one the groups most affected by climate change.

Forests provide a wealth of benefits for agriculture. Beyond their well-known role in storing carbon and conserving biodiversity, forests and trees also help improve crop productivity, strengthen climate resilience, and enhance rural well-being. Yet, these benefits remain underexplored in global policy and

development frameworks, which often treat forest conservation and agricultural production as opposing, mutually exclusive goals.

Across the Amazon and other tropical regions, integrated land-use strategies are increasingly recognized as essential to address the complex challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and rural inequality. Agroforestry, family farming, and inclusive governance models offer promising pathways to regenerate landscapes while supporting livelihoods and food systems. However, these approaches still face barriers to scale, including limited access to technical support, financing, and policy alignment. The COP30 Forests & Agriculture Synergies event will explore these opportunities and challenges, bringing together diverse stakeholders—from researchers and community leaders to government and private sector actors—to discuss how integrated land-use systems can contribute to climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and social inclusion.

II. Objectives

To catalyze concrete dialogue among policymakers and partners on integrating forest-agriculture synergies into global frameworks, identifying actionable pathways for advancement under UNFCCC and COP30 processes and related processes on biodiversity, desertification and gender equity.

III. Programme/Schedules of Events/Speakers

[Provide a list/schedule of events to be held during the daily/half-day session, including brief description of each event, modality (panel, launch, interviews etc.), and names of speakers]

1. 10:00 - 11:00 Climate and Biodiversity Benefits of Forests for Agriculture (FAO; report launch)

Format: Report launch (60 mins)

A forthcoming FAO report on “Climate and Biodiversity Benefits of Forests and Trees for Agriculture” explores how harnessing the full potential of forests and trees for agriculture is vital given the increasing need to adapt to climate change requiring integrated landscape approaches that work for both farmers and ecosystems.

This publication brings together over 40 authors from 25 institutions to provide quantitative evidence on the cooling and water regulation benefits that forests provide to enhance crop productivity and farm workers' health from research across a diversity of landscapes. The event will kickstart the conversation on pathways to enhance efforts that foster synergies between agriculture and forests in a rapidly changing world. It directly contributes to the COP30 Presidency's Agenda on "Stewarding Forests, Oceans and Biodiversity" and "Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems."

Lead: FAO Forestry Division (NFO)

Co-leads: Stockholm Environment Institute

Contributors/speakers: Woodwell Climate Research Center, United Kingdom, Zambia, Brazil, Amazon Environmental Research Institute, Indonesian International Islamic University

2. 11:15 - 12:15 **Towards a Productive Forests Global Initiative: Scaling Inclusive Action supported by Forest and Farm Facility (FAO)**

Format: Interactive dialogue/panel discussions (60 mins)

This event will introduce the Productive Forest Initiative, led by Brazil under its National Productive Forests Program (NPFP), as a scalable model to restore degraded lands, strengthen family farming, and promote sustainable forest-based value chains.

Aligned with Objective 9 of the COP30 Acceleration Plan, the session will invite partners and donors to join Brazil in shaping a Productive Forests Global Initiative, with the FFF as the proposed Support Mechanism for global implementation.

The session will also present key directions for the next phase of the FFF, focusing on how forest and farm producer organizations drive inclusive transformation.

Lead: FAO Forestry Division (NFO) / Forest and Farm Facility (FFF)

Co-leads: Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA, Brazil)

Contributors/ speakers: GATC, AMPB, AFA, ROPPA, IIED, IUCN, AgriCord

3. 12:30 - 13:00 **Forest Flow: Announcing innovative financial, commercial and digital solutions for forest territories in Mesoamerica**

Format: Short announcement/presentations

Co-Leads: Germany, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and UNDP

4. 13:15 - 14:15 **Gender equity and inclusion in land use: experiences on monitoring and best practices**

Format: Short presentations followed by interactive dialogue (60 min)

Aligned with Global Forest Goals, climate change and biodiversity conservation targets cases from Brazil and Africa will be presented as well as key outcomes from community engagement in the context of the forest sector.

This event will bring NGO, community leaders and the private sector to discuss data gathering needs and case studies to promote gender equity with focus on tree plantations, native forests and restoration around the globe connected with different land use models.

Lead: UNFF Women Major Group (REFACOF and Rede Mulher Florestal)

Co-lead: WBCSD

Contributor/speakers: Rede Mulher Florestal, REFACOF, WBCSD.

5. 15:30 - 16:30 **Agroforestry for inclusive value chains: shaping global commodities for climate and community (CIFOR-ICRAF)**

Format: Short presentation followed by interactive dialogue (60 min)

The session will explore how regenerative agriculture, particularly agroforestry, can drive more sustainable and equitable global commodity systems. By engaging smallholder farmer representatives, private sector actors, and local government stakeholders, the session highlighted the role of agroforestry in integrating trees with crops and livestock to regenerate landscapes and strengthen rural livelihoods. Speakers shared field experiences demonstrating how agroforestry systems contribute to climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and improved value chain inclusion for marginalized producers.

Among the contributors, CIFOR-ICRAF will present its experience in co-developing agroforestry systems in the Brazilian Amazon, where multifunctional land-use models have been implemented in collaboration with local communities. These systems integrate trees, crops, and livestock to restore degraded areas, improve soil and water conditions, and diversify income sources through sustainable forest products. Using participatory tools and scientific methodologies, CIFOR-ICRAF supports locally adapted solutions that reflect both ecological potential and community aspirations. The panel will begin with a presentation of this landscape-based approach, followed by contributions from other stakeholders who will share complementary perspectives and experiences on how agroforestry and integrated land-use strategies can be scaled to meet global climate and development goals.

The discussion will emphasize the importance of community-based approaches where demonstration sites and knowledge exchanges promote nature-based solutions tailored to local contexts. These initiatives combine scientific expertise with traditional knowledge to co-create effective, locally rooted strategies. By supporting inclusive participation and regenerative practices, agroforestry emerges not only as a tool for ecological restoration but also as a pathway to more just and climate-resilient food and commodity systems.

Lead: CIFOR-ICRAF

Co-lead:

Contributor/speakers:

IV. Expected main messages

- Forests and trees can be powerful allies for agriculture. They support crop productivity, by regulating climate and rainfall, protecting soils, conserving water resources, and improving the health, safety and livelihoods of rural communities in a variety of ways.
- Safeguarding the profound climate and biodiversity benefits of forests for agriculture at multiple scales requires deliberate and integrated policy shifts.
- Collectively, forest and farm producers have the transformative potential to achieve inclusive sustainable development and respond to climate change at landscape scales. Empowering FFPOs will be critical to strengthen family farming, promote sustainable forest-based value chains and deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for fighting climate change as part of the Paris Agreement.
- Gender disaggregated data is the first step to mainstream gender in projects and policies. All efforts to reverse the loss of forest cover (including sustainable forest management, protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation) should mainstream gender and promote gender

equity at all levels. Agriculture and forest sectors are interlinked and should join efforts to reverse forest loss and promote gender equity.

V. Focal Point/Contact

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