

# Regional Consultation on “Agroforestry: The Way Forward”

NASC Complex, DPS Marg, New Delhi, India

October 8-10, 2015

## *New Delhi Action Plan on Agroforestry, 2015*



Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS)

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)

Indian Society of Agroforestry (ISAF)

Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI)

## New Delhi Action Plan

In order to ensure speedy implementation of the recommendations of World Congress on Agroforestry held in 2014, during which India's National Agroforestry Policy was adopted, and to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted recently by the UN (October, 2015) as well as to build partnership through regional network while;

Reaffirming that agroforestry has a major role to play in addressing problems of food, nutrition, energy and environment;

Noting that effective land use systems, among which agroforestry makes up significant part, would play a meaningful role towards meeting SDGs;

Recognizing that as the landholdings are shrinking, optimum land use under agroforestry practices would enable smallholder farmers to cater to their subsistence needs of food, fuel, fodder, fibre, medicine and timber; to create employment opportunities, and additional income;

Further recognizing that agroforestry practices by farmers would also contribute to enhancing the national tree cover and 'ecosystem services' in countries of the region;

Realizing that integrating tree farming into conventional agriculture would contribute to optimizing the total factor productivity;

Recognizing in the climate change context that agroforestry modulated micro-climatic modification and carbon sequestration would be helpful in contributing to resilient and sustainable agriculture by mitigating its adverse effects and inducing greater on farm adaptation;

Aware of the problem of massive land degradation from unsustainable land use and poor stewardship and the restorative potential of agroforestry practices especially those with multiple benefits;

Understanding that agroforestry offers substantial opportunities to address gender bias and inequality in resource control, use and allocation, and accrual of benefits;

The participants of the Regional Consultation on 'Agroforestry: The Way Forward', organized by the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) jointly with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), the Indian Society of Agroforestry (ISAF) and the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), including the participation from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, from October 8-10, 2015 in New Delhi, have agreed on the following plan of action for promoting agroforestry in both Indian and regional contexts:

## Indian Context

1. The Agroforestry Policy adopted by Government of India in 2014, is indeed most innovative step globally. In this context, a National Agroforestry Mission on the lines similar to National Horticulture Mission be established to ensure an aggressive approach for promoting agroforestry.
2. As envisaged in the policy document, an Agroforestry Board must be established immediately on the pattern similar to Rubber Board, Coffee Board, Tea Board etc., to facilitate the process of pricing, processing, value addition, procurement, credit, insurance, marketing, and to provide incentives to agroforestry farmers and other stakeholders for environmental services.
3. Agroforestry practices can potentially contribute towards increasing the present 24 per cent tree cover of the country to meet the national target of 33 per cent. To achieve this, sufficient investments must be made to cover about 12-14 million hectares i.e. 8-10 per cent of the total cultivated area under agroforestry practices. Also, for faster accomplishment of the set national targets, other niche for agroforestry practices such as the degraded lands and arid areas should also be covered.
4. The most important agroforestry tree species for each agro-eco region in the country need to be “identified” on priority and action be initiated to “denotify” them immediately.
5. In order to accelerate efforts on agroforestry at national level, it is strongly recommended that one position of subject matter specialist in each KVK, out of increased strength during 12<sup>th</sup> Plan be exclusively earmarked for this discipline.
6. A Working Group of Experts be established soon to suggest agro-ecological region wise scientific land use planning to promote the most remunerative tree species identified based on research results available.
7. Special efforts are needed now to produce high quality seed and planting stocks of elite material so identified by the research institutions, associated with much needed certification and accreditation systems.
8. National sustainable development strategies should integrate agroforestry more fully into key areas such as poverty alleviation, rural livelihoods security, skill development, natural resources management, agricultural productivity enhancement, and restoration of degraded landscapes in order to more effectively contribute towards India’s Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
9. With India’s INDCs pointing towards climate justice, agroforestry becomes a potent instrument of resilience-building for vulnerable and resource-poor communities, its potential for adaptation to climate change needs to be mainstreamed and highlighted in all measures related to farmers’ welfare.
10. Investments in agroforestry projects and programmes by public and private sectors (including the Corporate, and Small Cooperatives) for research, extension, enterprise, and education be encouraged and incentivized. Innovative financial mechanisms, including climate finance, for agroforestry be developed to benefit small agri-business enterprises and smallholders from people participatory partnerships.

## Regional Context

1. The Nodal Ministry/Agency/Focal Point for dealing matters relating to agroforestry needs to be clearly defined at the national and sub-national levels.
2. Development of country-specific national policies on agroforestry and enabling mechanisms for their implementation need to be given high priority. Indian experience, ICRAF's expertise, APAARI's facilitating role, and assistance from international agencies could be useful to further this initiative.
3. A Regional Consortium-cum-Network on Agroforestry with facilitation role of ICRAF, in partnership with APAARI, needs to be initiated quickly to hasten appropriate policy advocacy, public awareness, research collaborations, sharing of knowledge and germplasm, capacity development, and other collective actions.
4. The proposed regional network should accord a high priority to the development of sound regional agroforestry database, information system, and eco-region based Decision Support System. Sharing of success stories of countries in the region also needs to be encouraged through open access to relevant information.
5. An independent scientific study be facilitated for identification and assessment of suitable determinants to scale up innovations for agroforestry including market mechanism, import and export policies, support prices, etc.
6. Investments being critical to promote agroforestry research, education, training and extension be at least doubled at national, regional and international levels.
7. Medium- to long-term collaborative studies to quantify contribution of agroforestry to ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, climate change mitigation and adaptation to, etc., need to be institutionalized by the international agricultural research centres (IARCs) and the regional institutions.
8. Development of agroforestry value chains would be critical for scaling up promising innovations, and to create win-win situations in the agroforestry sub-sector. Business planning and development involving all stakeholders in the value chain (farmer-to-consumer) needs to be institutionalized in a Mission Mode approach.
9. Awareness for public-private partnership through creation of enabling environment such as process patenting, branding, incentives to both producers and industry, etc., need to be created to further promote agroforestry in the region.

*Agreed and affirmed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2015 in New Delhi by all the participants and co-organizers.*

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