



RESEARCH  
PROGRAM ON  
Forests, Trees and  
Agroforestry

**Press Release**  
**Fostering collaboration**  
**between IRSG and FTA**  
**for sustainable natural rubber**

The International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) and the Forests, Trees and Agroforestry research program of the CGIAR (FTA) led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) have decided to collaborate on issues related to the sustainability of natural rubber production in order to support sustainable development of the natural rubber economy.

The two organizations signed a Letter of Intent establishing a collaboration to mobilize the work conducted in both organizations to work jointly on all dimensions of sustainability in relation to the rubber economy. These activities could lead to joint proposals for resource mobilization to support countries and actors.

"This is a very important collaboration for IRSG –said Salvatore Pinizzotto, IRSG Secretary General -as it will give us the opportunity to further develop activities that could be of support for the IRSG sustainability agenda that has been unveiled by the organisation in March 2019".

The International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) was established in 1944 and is the only intergovernmental organisation that brings the world's rubber producing and consuming stakeholders together. The IRSG is the forum for the discussion of matters affecting the supply and demand for natural as well as synthetic rubber . IRSG is at the forefront in conducting activities and research on the sustainability of the natural rubber economy.

The FTA program is the world's largest research for development programme focusing on the role of forests, trees and agroforestry about sustainable development, food security and the fight against climate change. The implementation of the FTA program is based on the premise that knowledge about forests, trees and agroforestry techniques will improve production systems to ensure better food security and income for people around the world, especially the poorest, while providing concrete responses to the fight against climate change.

The Forests, Trees and Agroforestry research program of the CGIAR (FTA) has identified plantations, their development and sustainability as a research priority. "As the latest World Rubber Summit organized by IRSG last March has shown, the rubber sector is at a turning point, and is now quite conscious of the need to embrace a more sustainable future. A program like FTA can support the sector and its stakeholders with evidence-based solutions towards sustainability. We're glad to cooperate with IRSG for this", said Vincent Gitz, CIFOR and FTA Director.