

CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA)

16th Meeting of the Independent Steering Committee

7-8 December 2020 (virtual on zoom)

Item 4

FTA highlights publication

Cover note

Provisional agenda for the item (30 minutes)

- Introduction by ISC Chair (2')
- Presentation by FTA Director (3')
- Discussion (23')
- Conclusion by the ISC Chair (3')

The ISC is invited

- To provide feedback and strategic guidance and recommendations for this publication
- To decide on its role in the process

Background documents

- No other document than this cover note.

Context and proposal

[Below is the version of 25 November, as submitted to the management team ahead of its meeting of 01 December, any modifications and/or decisions by the MT will be added in track change mode]

The purpose of the “highlights” publication is to show the range of key achievements of FTA since 2011. It will aim to demonstrate the relevance of the topics of forests, agroforestry and trees within the sustainable development agenda and related issues and solutions, the capacity of FTA partners to deliver and that money invested in the program was a good investment. The main audience is decision makers in research and development, policy makers at national and international level, and those that influence their decisions. It also aims to be useful to a broad range of stakeholders, and some of them are often the best advocates of the interest and effectiveness of working with us.

The publication will be prepared by the MT, with the support of the MSU, under the oversight of the ISC.

The biggest challenge is to gather, organize and prioritize the information to be included in the publication. One way to do so it would be to have preliminary write ups on specific topics of interest, prepared by the FPs and cross cutting themes leaders and teams. These write ups will then be finalized into specific documents in their own right, as part of a serie that could be titled “10 years of research in FTA” and feed into the overall publication.

These write ups could be structured around overall 5 to 10 items (e.g. restoration, climate, biodiversity, food security, gender, genetic resources, landscapes, sustainable business models, capacity development, agroecology), outcome oriented. An item or “write-up” would be a “chapter” of the publication and would, aggregating a few main contributing results, activities, products since 2011, show what FTA has done, contributed as a pathways towards outcome. The six streams of the FTA Science Conference and the five “challenges” for the MELIA integrative studies can provide ideas of such big items. The cluster of activities and the operational priorities can also support their structuration.

An example of such write ups is the paper on restoration led by Manuel Guariguata with the support of the researchers involved on the topic. The first draft is very encouraging, interesting and pleasant to read. It will be submitted to peer review.

A first step could be to identify these items on which a write up could be envisaged, the lead author and the contributing team. One criteria would be that such a paper has an interest in its own right given the amount of work and results of FTA in the last 10 years. There should be a firm engagement to write the paper so that review draft is available for end April 2021.

The final document will be comprised of (i) an introductory chapter situating FTA research in the history of these 10 years (external time line), (ii) of the write ups and (iii) of a concluding chapter that will draw lessons and open perspectives for the future of this area of research. The various chapters will be understandable by a broad, non-specialized audience, and deploy how FTA research has evolved, contributed and influenced (key milestones) the development agenda on these themes. As any review publication, the write-ups will contain a list of references, with some commented in the list referred to as major publications. The publication will help as much as possible position what FTA has achieved with the expectations expressed by the global development, including as expressed in the on-going reflections inside the CGIAR.

Timeline and responsibilities

Before the 15th of December, Identify the list of write ups and for each of them a lead author, responsible of its finalization and contributing authors.

The MSU will propose to the MT guidelines on the write ups before the 15th of December.

By end of April at the latest produce a first draft, to be reviewed by two peer reviewers. They will then be edited, laid out and published. The objective is to have them ready for the World Forestry Congress.

The final publication will be reviewed by the ISC and released later in the year.