Agroforestry for sustainable landscapes and livelihoods

Elaine Springgay, Agroforestry Officer, FAO HQ
Illias Animon, Forestry Officer, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
A diverse and complex solution for a diverse and complex challenge/objective
Solution to our Global Challenges

- Combat Climate Change
- Halt Deforestation
- Conserve Biodiversity
- Promote Restoration
- Reverse Land Degradation
- Increase Food Security
- Reduce Poverty
40% of countries propose agroforestry in their NDCs (Rosenstock et al., 2019)
1.5/2.2 billion ha for restoration are best suited for mosaic restoration (Minnemeyer et al. 2011; FAO, 2017)
1 billion ha of agricultural land would benefit from the strategic establishment of trees (FAO, 2017)
Benefits of Agroforestry

Illustration from Schultz, M. et al. 2016, adapted from Foley et al. 2005, and original illustration by C. Cliffstock
Benefits of Agroforestry

Adapted from Hassani, 2020
The Great Challenge

Establishing an enabling environment for Agroforestry

- Limited incentives
- Insecure land tenure
- Unclear institutional responsibility
- Insecure resource access
- Small operational scales
- Insecure resource access
- Low mechanization potential
- Lack of extension services
- High labour costs
- Lack of business models
- Limited market access and value adding
- Limited technical knowledge
OPPORTUNITIES

• 17 Sustainable Development Goals
  
  o Common threads across sectors (e.g. biodiversity, climate change, resilience of landscapes and livelihoods)
  o Opportunities to work together beyond boundaries

OPPORTUNITIES

• Six Global Forest Goals

OPPORTUNITIES

• Post-2020 global biodiversity framework
  o Ensure that biodiversity is used sustainably to meet people’s needs
  o Agroforestry as a strategy to conserve ecosystems and their biodiversity, including soil health
  o Promotes sustainable livelihoods in transitional areas and buffer zones to protected areas

Source: https://www.cbd.int/article/zero-draft-update-august-2020
OPPORTUNITIES

• United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty
  o Support smallholder farmers
  o Promote employment opportunities; agroforestry has potential

OPPORTUNITIES

• United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
  o Restoring through agroforestry: pushing boundaries during green recovery and building back better

OPPORTUNITIES

• United Nations Decade of Family Farming:
  o Income generation and diversification
  o Towards more sustainable agri-food systems: agroforestry holds potential

Source: https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/259
OPPORTUNITIES

• United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021
  o Part of the *Decade of Action* to achieve the SDGs
  o Bold new actions to achieve all SDGs, relying on healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems
  o Transform the way we produce, consume and think about food: agroforestry gains relevance

OPPORTUNITIES

• Convergence
  o FAO’s expertise in agriculture, forestry, livestock and fisheries

  https://healthtalks.foodsystemsforhealth.org/
OPPORTUNITIES

• FAO Strategic Framework - Four betters
  o Towards 4Bs: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life
  o Not in isolation: Food, agriculture, livelihoods and wellbeing and natural resources conservation (FAO, 2021)
  o Agroforestry: gaining increasing attention as a key NRM practice
  o Reduce competition and enhance complementarities; wood and food security together
OPPORTUNITIES

- More biodiversity-friendly agricultural production
  - The Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity called for mainstreaming of biodiversity across agricultural sectors
  - Moving towards more biodiversity-friendly agricultural policies and practices
  - FAO developed a Strategy and Action Plan for mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors
  - Promoting trees on farms for mainstreaming biodiversity; tree planting pledges

Source: FAO (undated)
OPPORTUNITIES

• Seizing the opportunities
  o Accelerate innovations and technologies to produce more with less; promote science-based good practices & put knowledge into action (research-policy-practice)
  o Enhance data availability/use to build the business case
  o Transform governance, policies and institutions; fit for the purpose
  o Build capacities, direct investments and evolve incentive mechanisms towards more sustainable and inclusive agroforestry value chains
OPPORTUNITIES

• Seizing the opportunities
  o Enhance access of small-scale farmers/SMEs to knowledge, innovations and technologies, services, markets etc.
  o Mould agropreneurs: promoting digital agroforestry, especially for the youth; access to e-commerce, technology for better certification etc.
  o Communicate success stories and technological, organizational and social innovations; inspire further actions
OPPORTUNITIES

• Seizing the opportunities
  o Accelerate innovative financing; with public and private investments to meet several commitments and improve the capacities of agroforestry stakeholders to leverage further investments
  o Strengthen collaboration with diverse resource partners (knowledge and financial) for gaining synergies and advancing nature-based solutions
  o Evolve multipronged strategies and targeted programmes/projects for inclusive transformation of landscapes and livelihoods
THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: EXAMPLES OF INITIATIVES
ASIA-PACIFIC REGION: REGIONAL STRATEGY

• Agroforestry: an integral part of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for restoration in Asia-Pacific

REGIONAL PROJECT ON SCALING UP RESTORATION

• Agroforestry: part of the Regional project *Support scaling up forest and landscape restoration alongside FAO's Hand in Hand Initiative*
  
  o Put the Regional Strategy and Action Plan to work on the ground
  
  o Seven countries: Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, PNG and Timor-Leste
REGIONAL PROJECT ON SCALING UP RESTORATION

Aims

- Innovative and targeted capacity building
- Popularize more scientific and holistic restoration approaches
- Promote the opportunities for match making and blended finance
- Strengthen connection and gain synergies with other initiatives and thus catalyze a regional movement for restoration
IMPLEMENTING THE ASEAN GUIDELINES FOR AGROFORESTRY

- Regional project *Scaling-up agroforestry in the ASEAN region for food security and environmental benefits*
  - Support the implementation of the ASEAN Guidelines for Agroforestry Development (approved at the 40th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry)
  - Target countries: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar
IMPLEMENTING THE ASEAN GUIDELINES FOR AGROFORESTRY

- Develop institutional infrastructure to promote the ASEAN guideline and practices across relevant sectors for agroforestry development
- Develop roadmaps for advancing agroforestry in member countries
- Strengthen the capacity for agroforestry development
- Develop a regional knowledge hub on agroforestry
SUPPORT IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL POLICY IN INDIA

• National Project: Support implementation of the National Agroforestry Policy by enhancing tree cover and wood production
  o Strengthen coordination across Departments and programmes
  o Help build and strengthen grassroots level extension mechanisms
  o Mould the rural youth for playing a pivotal role to upscale the agroforestry practices across India
SUPPORT IMPLEMENTING THE NATIONAL POLICY IN INDIA

- National Project: Support implementation of the National Agroforestry Policy by enhancing tree cover and wood production
  - Develop standards on the characteristics and quality of agroforestry products for trading with optimal prices in e-markets
  - Develop and test a method for the inventory of agroforestry systems (using satellite images and machine learning techniques)
Thank you

Elaine Springgay, Agroforestry Officer (HQ)
elaine.springgay@fao.org

Illias Animon, Forestry Officer (Asia-Pacific)
ilias.animon@fao.org