

NATIONAL WORKSHOP



AGROFORESTRY AND FARM FORESTRY FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

under Ecosystem Services Improvement Project

Dates: 5-6 January 2023, Venue: Dehradun

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education

(An Autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun – 248006, www.icfre.gov.in



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BACKGROUND

India's forest and tree cover which is about 24.62% of its total geographical area, play a vital role in ecological and economic development of the country. However, forests are degraded to meet the increasing demand of fuel, fodder, timber and non-timber forest products. Competing uses of land for agricultural, infrastructure developmental projects, human settlement and industries exerts tremendous pressure on the finite land resources of the country. Rising atmospheric CO₂ concentration and climate change will be additional stress on the forests making more vulnerable in the context of climate change. Despite pressures on the forests for development purposes, India is committed to achieve its National Forest Policy's Goal of having 33% of its geographical area under forest and tree cover. Besides, this there are Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets committed by the country under the Paris Agreement of UNFCCC, Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target of UNCCD, Biodiversity Targets of CBD and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved by 2030. NDC forestry target is to create additional carbon sink of 2.5 - 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

To reduce the pressure on the existing forests, to meet the increasing demand of forest produces and to achieve national targets and international commitments some alternative actions are required to be taken on forest and non-forest lands. Greening non-forest lands by creating additional tree cover through agroforestry, farm forestry, urban forestry, roadside plantations etc. needs to be developed.



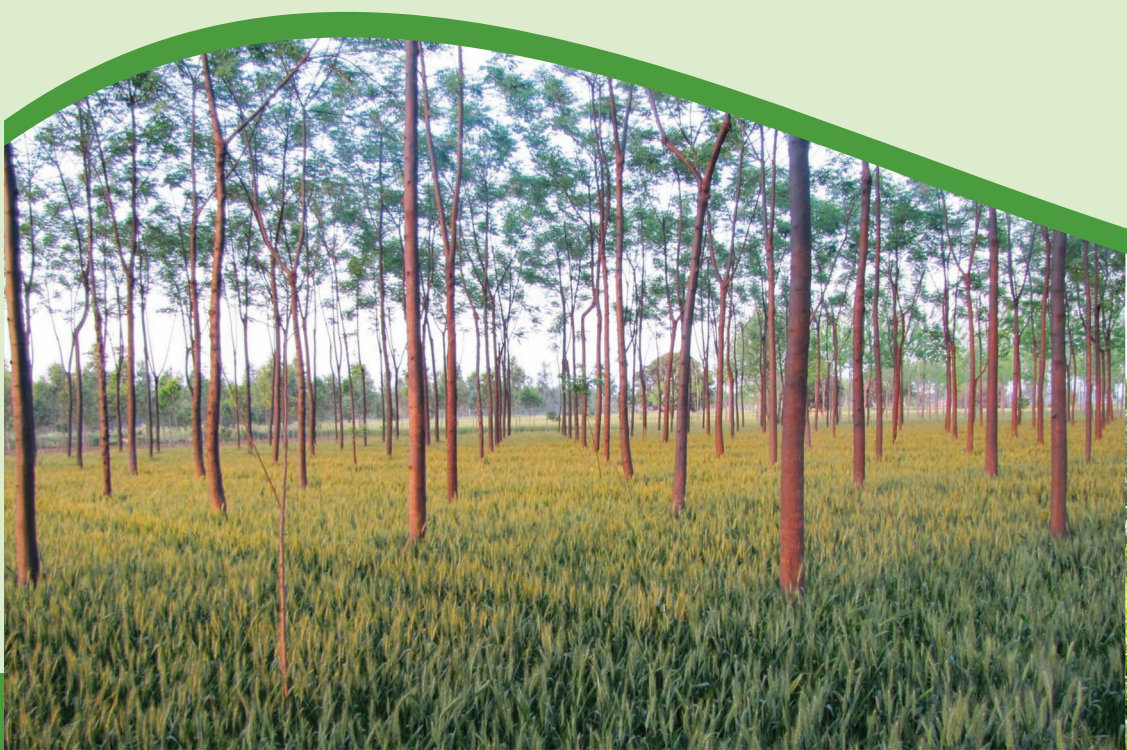
Agroforestry and farm forestry generate significant ecosystem services such as watershed protection, soil conservation, biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and avoided emissions, and also minimizes climatic and financial risks. Hence, agroforestry and farm forestry have potential for improving soil health, water conservation, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation and National Forest Policy Goal as well as having potential scope in achieving national

targets and international commitments related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and land degradation, and sustainable development goals. National Forest Policy, 1988 intends to reduce the pressure on natural forests for fuelwood, fodder and industrial raw material and lays emphasis on growing trees outside forests. National Agroforestry Policy (2014) also emphasized the environmental contribution of agroforestry through preventing deforestation, promoting carbon storage, conservation of biodiversity and reducing pressure on natural forests. International Union of Forest Research Organizations (2016) reported that India is the third largest importer of timber in the world. Between 2010 and 2018 India imported Rs. 388 billion worth of wood and wood products from around the world. Agroforestry and farm forestry also act as an important source for timber and fuel wood to meet the demands of fast-growing population of the country and can save huge amount of the foreign exchequer. There is a need to enhance productivity of agroforestry and farm forestry by adopting best practices.

The potential of agroforestry and farm forestry to contribute to sustainable development has been recognized in international forums such as United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change increasingly acknowledge agroforestry as a component of climate-smart agriculture. In addition, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification acknowledges agroforestry's potential to combating desertification and land degradation. It is also seen as an important practice in the ecosystem approach promoted by the CBD and contributes to its Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. Agroforestry and farm forestry can make a significant contribution in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) like SDG 2 (hunger), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water), SDG 7 (affordable clean energy), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 15 (sustainable forestry and restoration). However, because of the inter-connected nature of the SDGs, agroforestry and farm forestry make contributions in achieving an even wider range of goals than immediately apparent, including SDG 1 and SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing).

Agroforestry and farm forestry are considered as the real game changer in extension of green cover. Agroforestry and farm forestry provide ample opportunity for the bio-economy and for support of forest-based industries, hence, play an important role in achieving India's national targets and international commitments related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and land degradation and sustainable development goals; and shifting India towards an innovative, resource efficient and bio-based carbon neutral economy.

Despite a number of efforts by the Government to promote agroforestry and farm forestry in the country, there are still some issues and challenges for its development and expansion such as complicated procedures for obtaining felling permit and transit pass, non-availability of organized trade in wood, lack of well-developed markets for agroforestry and farm forestry products, predominant buyers' market, absence of locally available wood processing units, non-availability of quality planting material, inadequate network of forest nurseries, pests and diseases, lack of proper agro-economic model and their proper demonstration, no buy back guarantee from wood based industries, lack of entrepreneurship among farmers and their tendency of risk-avoidance, lack of investments, inadequate knowledge dissemination, lack of coordination among the line departments of the Governments etc. The development of agroforestry and farm forestry is often impeded by legal, policy and institutional arrangements. There is a need to remove policy and legal barriers for promoting agroforestry and farm forestry. Institutional frameworks and domestic market mechanism that facilitate the adoption of agroforestry and farm forestry need to be developed to recognize the contribution of agroforestry and farm forestry in the national development.



The World Bank is supporting Ecosystem Services Improvement Project (ESIP) with an overall objective to improve forest quality, sustainable land management and NTFP benefits for forest dependent communities in selected landscapes of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. ESIP supports the goals of Green India Mission by demonstrating models for adaptation based mitigation through sustainable land and ecosystem management and livelihood benefits.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) as one of the project implementing agencies of ESIP is organising a National Workshop on 'Agroforestry and Farm Forestry for Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management' from 5-6 January 2023 at Dehradun. The purpose for organization of a national workshop is to develop suitable strategies/ frameworks and to provide policy inputs to the Government for addressing issues and challenges for development of agroforestry and farm forestry and achieving India's national targets and international commitments related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity conservation, combating desertification and land degradation and sustainable development goals, and shifting India towards an innovative, resource efficient and bio-based carbon neutral economy.

THEMES OF THE WORKSHOP

- Agroforestry and farm forestry practices for sustainable land and ecosystem management.
- Quality planting materials for scaling up of agroforestry and farm forestry practices.
- Rationalization of policies and regulatory regimes for development of agroforestry and farm forestry.
- Certification framework and market mechanism for agroforestry and farm forestry
- Knowledge sharing and learning session for scaling up of agroforestry and farm forestry practices for sustainable land and ecosystem management.

Participants from key ministries, departments, science and technology institutions, academic institutions, international organisations, NGOs, farmers and tree growers are expected to participate in the workshop.



Tentative Agenda of the Workshop

Day 1 : 05 January 2023

Registration of the participants: 0900 - 0930 Hrs

Inaugural Session: 0930 - 1100 Hrs

- Welcome and introduction to the workshop: Director, FRI
- Address: Senior Environmental Specialist, the World Bank
- Address: DG, ICAR & Secretary, DARE
- Address: DG, ICFRE
- Address: DGF&SS, MoEFCC
- Address: Secretary, MoEFCC
- Vote of Thanks

TECHNICAL SESSION I:

Agroforestry and farm forestry practices for sustainable land and ecosystem management

Lead Talk:

- Agroforestry and farm forestry for achieving national targets and international commitments
- Perspective of agroforestry and farm forestry in India
- Nature-based solutions: Agroforestry for climate change mitigation

Session Talk:

- Agroforestry and farm forestry in Telangana - A case study
- Agroforestry and farm forestry in Haryana - A case study
- Agroforestry models/ practices developed by ICAR
- Agroforestry models/ practices developed by ICFRE

TECHNICAL SESSION II:

Quality planting materials for scaling up of agroforestry and farm Forestry practices

Lead Talk: Quality planting materials for productivity enhancement under agroforestry and farm forestry practices.

Session Talk:

- Quality planting material and high yielding varieties/ clones of agroforestry and farm forestry species developed by ICFRE
- Quality planting material and high yielding varieties/ clones of agroforestry and farm forestry species by developed by SFDs/ ICAR.
- Quality planting material and high yielding varieties/ clones of agroforestry and farm forestry species developed by private sector.

Day 2 : 06 January 2023

TECHNICAL SESSION III:

Rationalization of policies and regulatory regimes for development of agroforestry and farm forestry

Lead Talk:

1. Rationalization of policies and regulatory regimes for development of agroforestry and farm forestry w.r.t. environment and forest sector.
2. Rationalization of policies and regulatory regimes for development of agroforestry and farm forestry w.r.t. agriculture sector.
3. Planning and programs for development of agroforestry and farm forestry for sustainable land and ecosystem management.
4. Imperative of an industry led agroforestry planning in India.

TECHNICAL SESSION IV:

Certification framework and market mechanism for agroforestry and farm forestry

Lead Talk: Institutional framework for certification of quality planting material of agroforestry & farm forestry species and accreditation of nurseries.

Session Talk:

- Standards for certification of agroforestry & farm forestry produces
- Certification of wood products for development of agroforestry and farm forestry
- Market mechanism and financial investment for agroforestry and farm forestry

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Opportunities and barriers for promotion of agroforestry in India

CONCLUDING SESSION:

Synthesis and finalization of recommendations

PARALLEL SESSION (05 & 06 January 2023)

Knowledge sharing and learning session for scaling up of agroforestry and farm forestry practices for sustainable land and ecosystem management: Exhibition, poster presentation and documentaries

- Representatives of Wood-based industries
- Representatives of Farmers and Tree Growers
- Representatives of S&T organisations
- Representatives of academic institutions
- Representatives of State Forest Departments
- Representatives of NGOs
- Representatives of companies marketing planting stock

CALL FOR POSTERS

Researchers will have the opportunity to share their research findings related to workshop themes with the participants in the Parallel Session of the workshop

Call deadline: 10 December 2022, Contact Email: esipslem@gmail.com

ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE WORKSHOP

Sh. A.S. Rawat, Director General, ICFRE - Chairperson

Dr. Renu Singh, Director, FRI - Member

Ms. Kanchan Devi, Director (IC) & Project Director, ESIP, ICFRE – Member

Dr. Rajesh Sharma, ADG (BCC), ICFRE – Member

Dr. R.S. Rawat, Project Manager, ESIP – Member Secretary

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Workshop Secretariat

Dr. R. S. Rawat, Project Manager, ESIP and

Dr. Shilpa Gautam, Project Coordinator, ESIP

Ecosystem Services Improvement Project Implementation Unit Room No. 126

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