

DISCUSSION: COMMUNITY FORESTRY AND FOOD SECURITY

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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Duration:	17.03 – 17.04.2008
Facilitator:	Denis Mahonghol
Number of participants:	7
Number of Contributions:	8

II. INTRODUCTION OF THE TOPIC

(Introduction message in **English**, below you will find the original **French** version).

Dear FSN Forum members,
My name is Denis Mahonghol and I am a Forestry engineer. I'm doing a Masters in Participatory Forestry Resources Management at the Regional Study Center specialized in Agriculture-Forestry (CRESA Forêt-Bois) in Cameroon. I have 7 years of experience in rural planning and community management of natural resources. Since 2005, I have been working as FAO

Associate Professional Officer in Community Forestry for the project FNPP/GLO/003/NET (FAO-Netherlands Partnership in DR Congo: 2005-2008). I am based in Kinshasa.

As you may know, DRC is a post-conflict country. In addition to the strategically important mining sector, two other sectors are considered a **priority** by the Government to develop the country's economy from the bottom up: **the forestry sector and the agricultural sector**.

The new Congolese Forestry Law (August 2002) makes an opening for local communities to request and obtain free of charge the right to manage forests which are traditionally owned by them (Article 22). This should lead to improving their living standard.

The "**Government and community management of natural resources**" component of our project in DRC is conducting a **community forestry pilot** in the South-East of the country, in Katanga province (Lubumbashi), in Kaponda Chiefdom, land of Kikonke.

The rapid appraisal in that project area has shown clearly that the **population is essentially agricultural** despite the high variety of problems they are facing (soil poverty, lack of agricultural inputs, increased deforestation, drying up of water sources etc.). It is therefore necessary **to conciliate the process for community management of forestry resources with that of agricultural development**. In this perspective, the programme has initiated **actions integrating the "farmer field school" approach** in order to put local communities in confidence and create direct synergies between agriculture and community management of forest resources.

Therefore, in order to **better make the connexion between the agricultural and forestry sectors and evaluate the impact of our actions on food security of the communities that we support**, I would like to ask Forum's members:

1. Could you share **documents or studies on different food security indicators**?
2. Are there **studies that evaluated the contribution of community forestry to food security**? If yes, could you share or indicate organizations or resource people whom we should contact to obtain those?
3. What would be the **best mechanisms to anchor agricultural activities in a community forestry process**, which generally consists in management of natural/forest resources by and for local populations?

I hope to learn important insights from the Forum that could help us develop new views appropriate to the scale of a vast country such as DRC, where in this post-conflict period the prime battle concerns access to sufficient and good quality food.

My best regards to all,

D. Mahonghol
APO, Community Forestry
FAO DR Congo.

PS: Some more background information:

FAO interventions aim at helping the Congolese Government to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for food security and poverty reduction. They also aim at sustainable management of natural resources (especially in the forestry sector). FAO's programme contains three main types of interventions:

1. Support to policy-making (agricultural, humanitarian policies etc.);
2. Support to the Forestry sector; and
3. Support to grassroots communities.

Introduction message in **French**

Chers membres du Forum FSN,

Je suis M. Denis MAHONGHOL, Ingénieur Forestier, Msc. en cours en Aménagement et gestion participative des ressources forestières au Centre Régional d'Enseignement Spécialisé en Agriculture- Forêt Bois (CRESA Forêt-Bois) du Cameroun. J'ai une expérience de près de 7 ans dans le domaine de la planification rurale et gestion communautaires des ressources par les populations locales. A la FAO depuis novembre 2005, j'occupe le poste d'expert Associé en Foresterie communautaire dans le projet FNPP/GLO/003/NET (Partenariat FAO-Pays Bas en RDCongo : 2005-2008), avec pour ville d'affectation Kinshasa.

Comme vous le savez certainement tous, la RDC est un pays post-conflit où outre certains secteurs stratégiques (mines), deux autres sont considérés par le Gouvernement comme prioritaires et pouvant contribuer efficacement à relever le niveau économique du pays, et partant des populations à la base notamment : **(i) le secteur forestier et; (ii) le secteur agricole.**

Le code forestier congolais dans sa nouvelle version (Août 2002) ouvre une brèche pour les populations locales en leur permettant de demander et d'obtenir à titre gratuit les forêts régulièrement possédées en vertu de la coutume (Art. 22), pour une gestion communautaire devant aboutir à l'amélioration du niveau de vie de ces derniers.

Notre projet en RDC dans son volet 4 : « **Gouvernance et gestion communautaire des ressources naturelles** », mène une **expérience pilote de foresterie communautaire** dans le Sud-Est du Pays, Province du Katanga (Lubumbashi), dans la Chefferie Kaponda, terroir de Kikonke.

Le diagnostic rapide effectué dans ce site ressort clairement que **les populations sont essentiellement agricoles** malgré les multiples problèmes auxquels ils font face (pauvreté des sols, manque d'intrants agricole, déforestation accrue, tarissement des sources d'eau etc.) et qu'il faille dans la mise en route du processus de foresterie communautaire, **concilier les actions de gestion des ressources forestières avec celles de l'agriculture.** C'est dans cette optique que le projet a initiée des **actions d'intégration de l'approche « champs écoles paysannes »**, pour mettre en confiance les communautés locales et créer des synergies directes entre l'agriculture et la gestion des ressources forestières prônée par la foresterie communautaire.

C'est pourquoi, je voudrais m'adresser aux membres du Forum, pour nous permettre de bien faire la connexion entre les secteurs d'agriculture et des forêts et d'évaluer l'impact de notre action sur la sécurité alimentaire des communautés que nous encadrons :

1. S'ils peuvent partager les **documents ou études menées sur les différents indicateurs de la sécurité alimentaire ?**
2. S'il existe des **études ayant évalué l'apport de la foresterie communautaire à la sécurité alimentaire?** si oui pourrions nous entrer en possession de celles-ci ? Entrer en contact avec les ONGs ou personnes ressources ?
3. Quelles seraient les **meilleures mécanismes d'ancrage des activités agricoles dans un processus de foresterie communautaire** qui représente en général la gestion des ressources naturelles/forestières par les populations locales et pour elles mêmes ?

Espérant obtenir du forum d'éléments importants pouvant nous permettre d'avoir une vision nouvelle à la dimension du vaste pays qu'est la RD Congo, qui je rappelle sort d'une guerre et où le premier combat concerne l'accès à une alimentation de qualité en quantité suffisante ; j'envoie à tous mes meilleures salutations.

D. Mahonghol
APO, Community Forestry
FAO DR Congo.

PS : quelque information supplémentaire:

Les actions de la FAO visent à aider le Gouvernement congolais à atteindre les objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement, en termes de sécurité alimentaire et réduction de la pauvreté, de même qu'une gestion durable des ressources naturelles (en particulier le secteur forestier) suivant un programme divisé en 3 grandes catégories :

1. Appui à la définition des politiques (Agricoles, humanitaires, etc.) ;
2. Appui au secteur forestier ;
3. Appui aux communautés de base.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution by Ysohiko Ogawa, FAO Representation in Cambodia

Dear Denis,

as part of FAO's country evaluation, we had impact studies, one of which was about community forestry. We tried to understand the change in food security status between 2002 and 2007 as well, though I am not sure if this is relevant to your situation. The impact study reports are at the end of the final report. The link is:

<http://www.fao.org/pbe/pbee/common/ecg/370/en/CambodiaEvaluationReport.pdf>

Best regards, Ysohiko Ogawa

Contribution by Ilaria Proietti, MA Student: Human Development and Food Security, Roma 3 University

Dear Denis,

I want to point out some relevant papers that you may find useful:

On **food security indicators**: there are 3 documents quite comprehensive:

- Food Security Indicators and Framework for Use in the Monitoring and Evaluation of Food Aid Programs <http://www.fantaproject.org/downloads/pdfs/fsindctr.PDF> by FANTA project.

- Choosing outcome indicators of household food security by IFPRI
<http://www.ifpri.org/themes/mp18/techguid/tg07.pdf>

- and "Household Food Security: Concepts, Indicators, and Measurements. A Technical Review", available on IFAD site

<http://www.ifad.org/gender/tools/hfs/hfspub/> This document reviews core concepts in household food security (HFS), provides an overview of indicators and data collection methods, and includes an annotated bibliography on concepts and definitions, illustrating the inter-relationship among HFS, nutrition, livelihood security and long-term sustainability.

About your other questions, I think the paper "**Is Community Forestry Making a Difference to Rural Communities? A Comparative Study of Three Community Forests in Mongar Dzongkhag**" can be of interest

<http://www.moa.gov.bt/moa/downloads/downloads/Is%20Community%20Forestry%20Making%20a%20difference.pdf>

It evaluates the social, economic and environmental impact of community forestry in Nepal, as well as provides lessons learnt on improving community forestry practices. If you have problems downloading it I can send you by email.

Kind regards,

Ilaria Proietti.

Contribution by Denis Mahonghol, facilitator

Message in English. Below you will find the French version.

Dear all,

In addition to my first message, I have prepared a note (below) with information on what we have done concerning the Farmer Field School Approach. This is an activity aiming at creating direct linkages between community forestry and agricultural activities in our site of Katanga.

I'd like to say that I have already found part of the answer to my questions raised, especially to those concerning food security indicators and the Farmer Field School approach. Many thanks to Forum's members for this!

However the question about studies on other **existing mechanisms to conciliate agricultural and forestry sectors** still persists. In our project, we have introduced Farmer Field Schools to create this linkage. We are also thinking about introducing the **Market Analysis and Development approach** (MA & D) in the near future for farming and domestication of non-timbre forest products. Our objective is to promote income-generating activities.

These approaches are more or less well-known. We have received theoretical training. However from theory to practice there is a gap to cross. This is why I'd like to ask Forum members to **share insights and studies/ references on what has been done elsewhere with these approaches**, which make the link between agriculture and forestry. This will help us greatly to better adapt those to the DRC context.

Best regards,
Denis Mahonghol

J'ai préparé une note d'une page pour donner un aperçu de ce qui est fait dans le cadre de l'approche Champs Ecoles Paysannes (activité initiée pour créer un lien direct entre la foresterie communautaire et les activités agricoles du terroir) dans notre site du katanga. Je compte bien exploiter le lien que vous m'avez donné pour plus d'informations au sujet de cette approche.

Je note que mes préoccupations sont entrain de trouver d'éléments de réponses, notamment en ce qui concerne les indicateurs de sécurité alimentaire et l'approche champs écoles paysannes, j'en remercie les membres du forum.

Seulement l'interrogation sur les **études d'autres mécanismes existants pour concilier les secteurs de l'agriculture et des forêts** persiste. Dans notre projet, nous avons pensé introduire les CEP pour faire naître ce lien, comme nous pensons aussi dans un proche avenir pour ce qui est de l'exploitation et la domestication des Produits Forestiers Non Ligneux, introduire l'Approche Analyse et Développement des Marchés (ADM). Avec pour objectif la promotion d'AGR (Activités Génératrices de Revenus).

Ces approches sont plus ou moins connues, et nous avons reçu des formations théoriques y relatives. Mais seulement de la théorie à la pratique il y a un gap qu'il faut savoir jauger, c'est pourquoi nous demandons au forum de **mettre à notre disposition, des études références qui ont été faites ailleurs avec ces approches qui font le lien agriculture/forêt**, afin de nous permettre de mieux adapter au niveau de la RDC.

Meilleures salutations
D.Mahonghol

"Le plus grand plaisir dans la vie est de réaliser ce que les autres vous pensent incapables de réaliser" **Walter Bagehot**

ETAT DE MISE EN PLACE DES ACTIONS DE CHAMPS ECOLES PAYSANNES (CEP) DANS LE SITE DU KATANGA DES PROJETS FNPP/GLO/003/NET et GCP/DRC/033/BEL

Suivant les Termes de références élaborés pour la mise en œuvre des travaux CEP, les activités ci-après ont été faites :

1. Formation des formateurs sur les généralités de l'approche CEP (Consultant)
2. Mise en place des groupes de travail
3. Identification des parcelles CEP
4. Mise en oeuvre de l'approche (en cours).

Mise en place des CEP

Prototype choisi : **Jachères améliorantes de courtes durées.**

Espèces légumineuses choisies : **Mucuna sp., Pueraria sp.**

Culture cible : **Zéa mays (maïs)**

Trois grands types de parcelles :

- P1 : Parcelle paysanne de maïs sans engrais (considérée comme témoin)
- P2 : Association maïs/*mucuna* avec deux variantes : P2.1 = Enfouissement du *mucuna* 45j après la levée du maïs, P2.2 = Pas d'enfouissement du *mucuna*.
- P3 : Espèces légumineuses seules : P3.1 = Parcelle de *mucuna* seul, P3.2 = Parcelle de *pueraria* seul (Objectif : fertilisation du sol dans le temps avant mise en place de la culture de maïs)

Approche de mise en œuvre

Approche participative, les parcelles CEP font l'objet de travaux communautaires. Les leçons apprises (positives et négatives) devant être capitalisées pour une meilleure réplique dans les champs individuels des populations cibles.

Avec comme avantage de l'approche d'apprendre par l'exemple : « learning-by-doing »

Reste à faire

Deux formations sur :

La collecte des données dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'approche CEP ;

Le suivi des activités CEP.

N.B. Les actions actuellement amorcées suivant cette approche ne se sont concentrées que sur un seul prototype (jachères améliorantes de courtes durées), mais le projet pense aussi à l'avenir à l'agroforesterie (association *Acacia auriculiformis*/manioc).

Contribution by Grouwels Sophie, Forestry Officer, Community-based Enterprise Development (CBED)

Answering on the question of Denis Mahonghol regarding **concrete examples of the Market Analysis and Development approach**, I have shared with the Forum a case study where this approach was used in a Community-Forestry context in Gambia:

http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn_viewresdet.html?no_cache=1&r=387&nocache=1

The **link between agriculture and forestry for the farmers is very obvious since both are part of their livelihoods**. Therefore one of the farmers told me when I visited the place that this MA&D approach he learned of (to help producers to think more "entrepreneurial" and enhance

their marketing and organizational skills) was not only useful for the community-forest that they are managing but that he could now also apply this on this agricultural products.

Regards,

Sophie Grouwels

Contribution by Takayuki Hagiwara, FAO (TCIP)

I think it would be nice for Mr Denis Mahonghol to see Mr Ogawa's download site, which contains some of useful manuals. He is still working on them, they are still draft stage.

<http://homepage.mac.com/shinji33/FileSharing3.html>

Any more questions can be addressed to Mr Ogawa at shinji33@mac.com

Best regards,

Taka

Contribution by Ilaria Proietti, MA Student: Human Development and Food Security, Roma 3 University

Dear Forum members.

Please see below some examples of Farmers Forest Management Schools (FFMSs):

1. Farmer Field School in Community Forest Management in Nepal, an approach to group learning and experimentation by Forest User Groups

<http://www.infobridge.org/asp/documents/3485.pdf> and

<http://www.eseap.cipotato.org/UPWARD/Events/FFS-Workshop-Yogya2002/07-Singh.pdf>.

2. Simpler Forest Management Plans for Participatory Forestry:

<http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/j4817e/j4817e00.htm#TopOfPage>

And two examples of the Market Analysis and Development approach applied to Community Forestry:

1. The business side of sustainable forest management: Small and medium forest enterprise development for poverty reduction

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/webview/media?mediaId=12250&langId=1>

Small and medium forest enterprise development for poverty reduction: a paper that assesses the important role of small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) in poverty reduction and forest conservation. It documents the evolution of approaches to forest sector development, from the earlier focus on large-scale timber industries, to the people-centred approach, that highlights local forest management and SMFEs as a viable and more sustainable alternative.

2. Community-based forest enterprise development for improved livelihoods and biodiversity conservation: a case study from Bwindi World Heritage site, Uganda:

<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/ARTICLE/WFC/XII/0910-C1.HTM>

This paper presents the experience of the Mgahinga Bwindi Forest Conservation Trust (MBIFCT), a local non-governmental organisation in Southwest Uganda, in supporting the conservation of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park through the development of community-based enterprises. It describes how communities used FAO's Market Analysis and Development approach (Lecup and Nicholson, 2000) to identify and select viable enterprises that improve their livelihoods and

contribute to the conservation of forest biodiversity at Bwindi World Heritage Site. It illustrates innovative ways to link enterprises to conservation in a situation where opportunities for commercial use of forest resources by communities are limited, but also stresses the need for supportive policies to enhance the engagement of local people in marketing of forest products and services. The paper also presents MBIFCT's strategy that ensures long-term service provision to the enterprises by using a combination of community-based enterprise motivators, as well as public and private services providers.

I hope the above resources are useful.

Regards,

Ilaria

Contribution by Mélie Monnerat and Michelle Gauthier, Forestry Office, FAO

Dear FSN forum members

Following the very interesting topic raised by Denis Mahonghol, we would like to share with the Forum members on **the need to integrate tree aspects in the National Programmes for Food Security (NPFS)**.

FAO Forestry Department is currently exploring the ways in promoting a systematic consideration of tree concerns into NPFS. As you may know, **NPFS are country-driven programmes to eradicate hunger within the local population and through which all aspects related to food security are taken in account (agriculture, health, finance, market, land, etc.)**. FAO role is mainly in supporting the formulation process, identifying ways to remove barriers to food access, mobilizing donors and assisting the programme implementation (<http://www.fao.org/spfs/spfs-home.html>). The approach is village-based where the most vulnerable population should see their access to nutritional, diverse and healthy food improved.

NPFS are large national programmes involving a range of expertise. A specific concern is to develop trees and agroforestry considerations from the earliest stages of these programmes in order to ensure appropriate support to rural, urban and peri-urban populations practicing agroforestry activities. **Integrating agroforestry and tree aspects in NPFS promotes the importance of trees and sub-products in food security both as providers of food and micro enterprise income and as providers of biodiversity and more resilient farming systems.**

In its past experience, the Special Programme for Food Security did not include agroforestry and community forestry sub-component (only marginal cases of some activities). Currently, NPFS at various stages of management (identification and assessment needs, formulation, and implementation) are exploring the ways to integrate the tree dimension. For instance, **in Nigeria** where the first phase initiated **some agroforestry plantations** (2000-2006), the second phase formulation performed a **survey of agroforestry needs** (cultivation, processing and marketing practices, institutional capacity) and developed a baseline database (2006), and the current Phase II (2007-2012) includes a **sub-component on agroforestry (including modules, community forestry, development funds)**. **Special emphasis is given to the extension and training approach of the Farmers' Field School**. So far, 3 out of 15 modules of the training of trainers' formation are under development on agroforestry. Nigeria seems to be the only case with a NPFS under implementation including a highly developed agroforestry sub-component.

Many other countries have indicated their needs for taking forestry and agroforestry concerns into their NPFS and Regional Programme for Food Security (RPFS) (e.g. Colombia, Congo, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Pacific Islands Forum). These countries could share experiences and expertise and design their own options. In order to support this **development based on 3 key points** – NPFS, community forestry and agroforestry, and FFS – the **Forest Conservation Service**, who is collaborating with TCOS in this matter, **would appreciate your**

contribution on the following:

1. Share **information on programmes, modules and training material relevant for the agroforestry practices in FFS.**
2. Build **a network of trainers of trainers that can support the development of agroforestry practices in FFS.**
3. Identify **supportive initiatives and projects that can contribute to the integration of agroforestry into NPFS of specific countries.**

Comments, ideas, suggestions from the Forum are most welcome, especially from those concerned by tree, forestry and agroforestry aspects of NPFS and their direct relation to Food Security and Nutrition!

Best regards to all,

Michelle Gauthier and Mélie Monnerat

Contribution by Fatima Mohammed Ali, Agriculture Economic Research Policy Center

I am going to contribute [replying to Ms Gauthier and Ms Monnerat] in option three, “Identify **supportive initiatives and projects that can contribute to the integration of agroforestry into NPFS of specific countries**”.

I think the initiative **project** is to **support community-based enterprises that contribute to improved livelihoods and conservation of the forest. For instance in Sudan a large park** such as Dinder park, live about 50 villages. They are very poor, they depend on forest produce to meet their needs.

The project support **enterprises based on alternative resources and/or services provided by the park** such as **community-based tourism**, to protection park's resources, in addition raising awareness about park conservation. For instance, pilot sites were selected in areas already supported by community development projects and the project was introduced by a local theatre group to attract the attention of the communities while giving educational messages on links between development activities and the conservation of the park.

Fatima Ali

Contribution by R. A. Ram, Scientist at Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture, India

Dear all

I am enclosing a success story and package of practice of organic farming at farmers' fields. It may help the farmers who want to start organic farming with low cost.

This resource can be found at

http://km.fao.org/fsn/resources/fsn_viewresdet.html?no_cache=1&r=408&nocache=1

With regards

Dr. R. A. Ram