

REPORT BACK FROM WORLD FORESTRY WEEK EVENT:

**Unfinished agendas for forests and climate change:** *“Local communities and smallholders and their organizations as the enabling actors to address climate change”*

Forests and agriculture are central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to address climate change. Climate change responses cannot be achieved without sustainable livelihoods, and the engagement and leadership of local communities, Indigenous Peoples, smallholders, women, youth, and other vulnerable populations and their forest and farm producer organizations. When coordinated, small scale agriculture and sustainable utilization of forest resources have tremendous potential to meet these goals, strengthen the move to a new bio-economy and reduce the dependency on fossil fuels. Local communities, Indigenous Peoples, smallholders, women, youth, and other vulnerable populations and their forest and farm producer organizations, already seek to sustainably manage 1.5 billion ha of land for agriculture and a third of the world forests ensuring both environmental and livelihood benefits. They have the numbers; with proper recognition and support they can do much more. The reality is that they face many barriers, unsustainable production and consumption, are often neglected and subjected to discrimination and violence.

It is now time for implementation of the Paris Agreement at scale. Therefore we urge national governments, intergovernmental bodies, donors and international organizations to refocus and revise climate change mechanisms to directly and effectively engage local communities, Indigenous Peoples, smallholders, women, youth, and other vulnerable populations and their forest and farm producer organizations as the enabling actors to address climate change.

**We call for:**

*Governments to do much more by providing the enabling conditions required for Local communities, Indigenous Peoples, smallholders, women, youth, and other vulnerable populations and their forest and farm producer organizations to manage larger territories: secure and enforced tenure rights for forestland and trees, respecting traditional and new organizations, creating favourable business opportunities and offer access to capital, recognising traditional knowledge systems and offer extension services and opportunities for networking in collaboration between state agencies and producer organizations.*

*Governments and international agencies to ensure implementation of effective REDD+ safeguards, the application of free prior and informed consent (FPIC), and put in place measures to reduce violence against Local communities, Indigenous Peoples, smallholders, women, youth, and other vulnerable populations and their forest and farm producer organizations.*

*Global financing mechanisms, government programmes and private investors need to direct investment and support towards Local communities, Indigenous Peoples,*

*smallholders, women, youth, and other vulnerable populations and small enterprises for readiness, implementation, monitoring of results and processes to ensure transparency, and enhance sustainable livelihoods using an integrated landscape approach.*

*Climate change initiatives to modify result-based payment mechanisms, such as REDD+, towards recognition of concrete actions to improve the enabling environment and transparency for the engagement of local communities, Indigenous Peoples, smallholders, women and youth, and their organizations together with the qualitative assessment of forest cover and the trees they manage on their farms.*

*Governments to request the support of FAO and its partners to support them in providing the above.*