



# **Launch of the HLPE Report**

## **Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition**

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**Patrick Caron**  
HLPE Chairperson

*Opening statement*

Dear Excellency Ambassador Gornass,  
Dear Deputy Director General, Maria Helena Semedo,  
Dear Ambassador Pythoud,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Dear FAO, WFP and IFAD representatives,  
Dear Terry,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you, Excellency, for giving me the floor. I'm very pleased to introduce the presentation of this 11<sup>th</sup> HLPE report on behalf of the Steering Committee.

As you highlighted in your speeches, HLPE reports serve as an evidence-based starting point for policy debates in CFS. The HLPE bases its reports on existing knowledge and strives to clarify contradictory information and knowledge, elicit the backgrounds and rationales of controversies.

Forests and trees were rarely featured in discussions on food security and nutrition. They used to be considered only as a reserve for further agricultural expansion or at risk of deforestation because of this expansion.

Yet, when looking at the various contributions of forests and trees to food security and nutrition, there is no precise point at which trees stop providing these contributions, and that's why the HLPE adopted a broad scope for this report, covering not only forests, but also trees outside forests, including other wooded lands, forest patches in mosaic landscapes, agricultural tree plantations, and agroforestry systems, as illustrated by the cover of the report that is on the screen.

There is, among the academic community, and among the political decision-makers at different levels, a growing awareness of the multiple roles and functions of forests and trees. As you pointed out and said, they contribute to food security and nutrition through very different channels: through direct contribution to food energy supply, of course, we know. But much more: forests and trees provide income to many people; they are an essential source of bioenergy, and provide local and global ecosystem services, essential to food security and nutrition, but also to human health and well-being. An estimated 1 to 1.7 billion people are regarded to be directly forest-dependent in some way or another, as Terry will explain, which means 20% of the global population.

In this report, as in previous ones, the HLPE considers ongoing trends and their drivers in order to better understand short- and long-term future evolutions, as well as interactions between the local and global scales.

Increasing demands on lands, forests and trees create new challenges and opportunities. There is globally an important potential for forests and trees to enhance their contributions to food security and nutrition through sustainable forest management, forest and landscape restoration and development of agroforestry systems. This potential creates additional reasons to first protect, second invest in forests, and generates new jobs and opportunities.

The challenge is to achieve multiple, and often competing objectives, within a limited space and with limited natural resources, in a sustainable way – that is a big challenge – and paying specific attention to the rights and needs of vulnerable groups. The report actually highlights trade-offs, which sometimes turn into conflicts, between stakeholders with diverging needs and interests. It demonstrates the need to address both local and global challenges with effective positive impacts on food security and nutrition.

With its 11 reports published since its creation, the HLPE is progressively building a global narrative, a comprehensive analysis of food security and nutrition, and its underlying causes.

This report on sustainable forestry, coming after the reports on fisheries and aquaculture in 2014 and on sustainable agriculture in 2016, completes the analysis of the HLPE of food security and nutrition from a sectoral perspective. These three reports, these three sectors share some commonalities: they directly provide food – I'm repeating again, but I think it's

important –; they generate income and employment beyond that and for many people; they compete for, they manage and impact natural resources; they produce social benefits and are tightly linked to human cultures and belief systems. They call for an integrated approach, as you highlighted and pointed out, in particular at the landscape level, to improve the way human activities contribute to the realization of the right to adequate food and, as the High Level Political Forum will discuss next month in July, and to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda.

On behalf of the Steering Committee, I would like to acknowledge the engagement of all the experts who worked for the elaboration of this report, and especially the Project Team Leader, Terry Sunderland, and all the Project Team Members. This report also benefited greatly from the suggestions of the external peer reviewers and from the comments provided by the electronic consultations both on the scope and on the first draft of the report. I would like to thank the HLPE Secretariat for its precious support to the work of the HLPE.

Last but not least, I would like to warmly thank you, Ambassador Gornass, for your commitment and engagement in making these reports an essential contribution to CFS achievements, and thank with you the resource partners who support the work of the HLPE in a totally independent way since its creation.

Finally I hope – this report was printed recently – that you will enjoy reading it. The HLPE stands ready to present and further discuss the findings of this report in different instances as appropriate and to support CFS members in outreach and dissemination. And I of course wish that it will contribute to policy convergence in CFS.

Many thanks you for your attention.