



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

**Remarks by FAO Representative in Uganda- during the workshop on
“Enhancing opportunities for sustainable exploitation and use of Non-
Wood Forest Products”,
19 February 2020 | Kampala, Uganda**

- The Commissioner of Forestry, Ministry of Water and Environment
- The Country Representative of the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)
- Representatives of ministries and agencies of the Government of Uganda
- Representatives of development partners
- Representatives from civil society
- Members of the academia
- Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and on my own behalf, I welcome you all to this workshop on ***Enhancing opportunities for sustainable exploitation and use of Non-Wood Forest Products.***

Several million households worldwide depend heavily on wild and semi-wild resources from forests and other wooded land for subsistence and/or income. About 80 percent of the population in developing countries use Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) for health and nutritional needs because they provide an important source of micro and macronutrients.

It is estimated that **1 billion** people globally depend on wild foods. NWFPs also provide raw materials for large-scale industrial processing. NWFPs are also significant in global trade, and were estimated to have generated **US\$88** billion in 2011 (FAO).

Ladies and gentlemen,

Uganda has a wealth of NWFPs. The State of Uganda's Forestry Report from 2016 suggests that in some parts of Uganda, the value of NWFPs is higher than wood products, yet they continue to be considered secondary aspects of forest management and land use planning.

This project, jointly implemented, by FAO and ICRAF in northwestern Uganda, aimed to identify key forest and wild foods with the greatest potential to contribute to nutritious and healthy diets, and act as basis of sustainable livelihoods and counter the degradation of forested and wooded landscapes.

The partnership with ICRAF is important to the work FAO is doing to build resilience of refugees and host communities to shocks such as food insecurity, in Arua, Yumbe and Moyo in the West Nile region.

FAO believes that by training rural communities to add value to NWFPs, and exposing them to market opportunities for these products, refugees and host communities can increase their income security. More research and policy guidance are required to improve the value chain for NWFPs, especially those with high market potential.

Through this work, FAO seeks to raise awareness among different sectors (forestry, health, education) about the important contribution NWFPs can make to building resilience directly by adding vital nutrients and diversity to diets, and indirectly as the basis of sustainable livelihoods.

With adequate training and integration of NWFPs in forest management, land-use planning, nutrition and livelihood interventions, NWFPs have the potential to make a greater contribution to nutrition and food security, particularly dietary diversity, as well as increased household income and the conservation of biodiversity.

As such, FAO is committed to improving the sustainable utilization of NWFP and address key bottlenecks to wise management of the world's forests, their biodiversity, and improve income generation and food security.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to reiterate FAO's commitment to work with the Government of Uganda, ICRAF, other relevant partners to raise awareness among local collectors and civil society on the value of NWFPs.

I wish you successful deliberations and I declare open the **workshop on "Enhancing opportunities for sustainable exploitation and use of Non-Wood Forest Products"**,

Antonio Querido
FAO Country Representative
Uganda