



Developing sustainable wood value chains in Kenya

Opportunities, Challenges and Role of Apex Organizations

Wood products in the Bioeconomy

Rome

Dec 2019



FF-SPAK- Background

- **Farm Forestry Smallholder Producers Association of Kenya (FF-SPAK)**, is an umbrella organization based in Nairobi and working with Smallholder farmers to promote farm forestry and improve livelihood of members.
- Started operations in 2014 with 6 associations and currently has 15 registered affiliate associations and 3 cooperatives covering 19 Counties. Total membership of 26,100.



FF-SPAK- Objectives

- To **facilitate exchange of experiences and information** and encourage networking among farm forest producers associations.
- To provide for a **voice for Kenyan forest policies, laws and regulations** from a farm forestry perspective.
- **Capacity building for member associations** and awareness creation on farm forestry
- To **promote farm forestry** in order to **increase the number of trees at household level** and the conservation and sustainable utilization of forests in Kenya.
- To **promote commercialization of farm forestry** in order to increase income levels and improve rural livelihoods.
- To **promote and defend the rights and common Interests of farm forest owners**
- The Society has **non-political** objects



Role of Apex Organizations

- Mouthpiece- Represent interest of members and try to ensure the best financial, social, legal or policy positions for their members-
- Provide a platform for advisory services- Market information, trends, weather, silvicultural etc
- Linkages to service providers; e.g. input suppliers, financial institutions, research institutions, information providers
- Organizational and technical development of grassroots organizations-Capacity building
- Provide a platform for networking, information sharing and coordinated efforts



Challenges

- Increasing membership- Increasing need for services/resources – Growth from 8 to 15 affiliate members- *Resource mobilization and transformation of Associations for business*
- Climate change affecting planting patterns and enterprises like tree nurseries- Nurseries drying up/Existing seedlings not being bought due to weather uncertainties- *Training and promotion of adaptation techniques*
- Challenge of taking stock- Inventory to know what members have and their value- Help in planning the market- A lot more work needed here-
- Ban on logging- Created a boon for producers but has led to harvesting of young immature trees on farms hence slow down the achievement of 10% forest cover by 2022- *Creating awareness on best value for trees*
- Gender inclusion
- Inadequate extension support



Challenges





Opportunities for Farm Forestry

- Kenya is a wood deficit Country – More than 12m Cubic - Markets for FF Products
- Devolution-Farm forestry is a devolved Function- Lobby to improve policy and legal Environment at grassroots level.
- Recent occurrences- Prolonged drought, floods, Moratorium- have led to recognition/Magnification of role of FF-support of farm forestry in Kenya by govt and other players
- Global interest in Farm forestry- Partnerships and support
- Immense potential for forests on farm- state forests are limited
- Potential for dryland forestry



What we are already doing





What we are already doing





What needs to be done

- **Policy and legal reforms-** Recognize and support contributions of the private sector
- Improving forest sector **Governance and Transparency**
- **Reducing investment risks-** tailor made insurance products, research to address issues like pests and diseases, etc.
- **Improving access to financing** e.g. long term credit , seed money, etc.
- **Organizing smallholders** to help them enjoy economies of scale, become more eligible for accessing finance, and gain negotiating power through capacity development

