

Concept Note on Forestry
June 2017

From: coordination and facilitation of the Working Group on Forests, Food Security and Nutrition.

To: Organizations and movements interested to give inputs to the policy process on forests, food security and nutrition.

Why is it important to participate in the policy roundtable on Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition?

Forests are a space on which millions of people around the world depend. Forests include livelihoods, food sovereignty, energy, culture, spirituality and other collective rights of many communities and peoples including Indigenous, peasants, fisher folks and pastoralists. Forests are an intrinsic part of these communities that have different degrees of dependence on them and who have also safeguarded and defended them for hundreds of years. It is therefore essential to protect both the forest and the rights of these communities.

Currently forests and peoples' rights to them are under grave threats from several fronts – industrial agriculture, commodities, but also several different financial or market mechanisms that take away rights and replace them with corporate control. Some of these are being promoted in other intergovernmental spaces.

Why is important to participate?

There are several reasons why you need to participate. Here are some of them:

- To make sure that it is recognized in the CFS that forests are not just carbon stores but also essential for food security and nutrition and recommendations to ensure this is taken into account at all levels of Governance.
- To get recommendations to stop false solutions to forest protection such as financialisation of nature and market mechanisms which are being aggressively promoted in other intergovernmental and corporate spaces.
- To ensure recognition of community management efforts and argue for collective rights as the real solution to protection of forests, livelihoods and food security
- Through the relationship between forests and food sovereignty, we can initiate and deepen a long discussion about what we mean by forest. The current definition of forest that is used by the United Nations admits as such tree plantations that are no more than monoculture and carry strong negative impacts on biodiversity, water and all cultural and spiritual aspects;
- There is a movement of peoples supporting community forest management and it is important to strengthening their links to food sovereignty and movements of small scale food producers to fight against the threats to both and for the common goals.

