Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations



ASIA-PACIFIC ROADMAP

for sustainable agricultural value chains decoupled from deforestation

Elements for a regional vision

Global Gateway

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Team Europe Initiative on Deforestation-free Value Chains

From the People of Japan

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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More than 120 participants from ten Asia-Pacific countries representing ministries of agriculture, commodities, and environment and forestry; industry associations; civil society and smallholder organizations; international organizations, and development partners gathered during 23–26 June 2026 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, for a regional dialogue on solutions for decoupling agricultural value chains from deforestation.

At the meeting, the participants expressed a common vision to work together in strengthening the linkages between the agriculture and forestry sectors, transforming agricultural growth pathways to align with sustainable forest management practices and strategies to prevent and reduce forest loss, strengthening rural livelihoods, enhancing climate resilience, and securing a sustainable future for present and future generations.

To achieve this vision, participants collaboratively identified cross-commodity solutions and action areas that address the following challenges and barriers:

- Insufficient law enforcement and policy coherence: Insecure land tenure and land-use rights, different context-dependent definitions of forests and deforestation, and fragmented governance and monitoring systems undermine effective implementation of halting deforestation actions.
- Limited smallholder support systems: Insufficient access to finance, technical assistance, secure land rights, traceability, data systems, and institutional support limits smallholders' ability to adopt sustainable production practices.
- Misaligned market incentives: Low financial returns for forest conservation, unequal distribution of compliance costs, competing objectives between countries and value chain actors, high costs of transitioning to sustainable practices and structural market disadvantages reduce incentives for sustainable production.

I. IDENTIFIED PRIORITY SOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS

Workshop participants identified the following priority action areas to address these challenges and barriers.

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Disclaimer:
These action areas were identified during a four-day workshop through stakeholder consultations with a specific focus on coffee, natural rubber and palm oil.

Views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the perspectives of participants' organizations.

FAO endeavours to provide neutral technical assistance to support countries in implementing the identified actions, provided they fall within FAO's mandate and subject to available resources.

Strengthening land governance

1. Strengthen land governance systems for smallholders, Indigenous Peoples, ethnic groups and local communities by improving land and farm registration, securing legal documentation and digital records, and recognizing and protecting community land and forest resource rights.
2. Harmonize land governance frameworks and definitions, including by aligning national, regional and international forest definitions and land-use classifications, while promoting shared understanding among government agencies.
3. Strengthen regional exchange and collaboration on land governance topics (e.g. forest definitions, legal land use) between participating countries in Asia and the Pacific and with international standards.
4. Develop integrated, transparent and nationally centralized land information and monitoring systems aligning with policies in each country that combine land registration, boundary demarcations, satellite-based monitoring, ground truthing and other verified monitoring methods, transparency and traceability tools.
5. Pilot and scale participatory land-use planning in priority landscapes and build technical capacity for integrated land-use management.
6. Improve cross-sectoral coordination through functional multistakeholder national and subnational platforms using coordination catalysts such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+) and others.
7. Integrate forest and climate considerations into agricultural support schemes and land allocation decisions.

Scaling sustainable agricultural production models

1. Strengthen capacity building, training and knowledge transfer among farmers on sustainable production and good agricultural practices, including through regional knowledge exchanges, e-learning and community-based learning platforms that disseminate knowledge and best practices to farmers.
2. Scale up agroforestry, regenerative agriculture approaches, intercropping and rehabilitation of degraded lands for resilient rural livelihoods and government-supported replanting programmes, through enhanced extension and advisory services.
3. Invest in research and development and expand access to modern agricultural technology and sustainable inputs for smallholders.
4. Build knowledge at the village level on the importance of forest conservation and benefits of forests for agricultural productivity.
5. Explore the development and expansion of mandatory licensing, certification, or both.
6. Promote consolidation of smallholders to access finance and incentive mechanisms across agricultural production chains.
7. Improve production data collection, farm-level record-keeping and dissemination of research results (e.g. updated crop calendars, weather and climate information).

Increasing consumption and trade of responsibly produced commodities

1. Raise awareness of responsible production and consumption and their linkages with forests, through promotional campaigns and development and promotion of labelling, marketing and branding mechanisms.
2. Develop public procurement mechanisms for responsibly produced commodities.
3. Strengthen public-private partnerships across commodity value chains to enhance market access; responsible sourcing; mutually recognized environmental, social and governance practices; traceability innovation; and collaboration with researchers and technology providers.
4. Develop economic mechanisms to incentivize production and consumption of responsibly produced commodities.
5. Develop preparedness plans for market-based requirements such as the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation or other potential future regulations at the national level, including guidelines and supporting databases, taking into account national database systems.

Creating incentives to maintain forest integrity

1. Develop and scale benefit-sharing mechanisms linking forest conservation to income for smallholders and communities.
2. Promote incentives for forest-positive practices which include payment for ecosystem services; high-integrity carbon markets; REDD+ results-based finance and other innovative financing solutions, including the Tropical Forest Forever Facility, green bonds and blended finance mechanisms to support smallholders; forest conservation and restoration.
3. Promote public incentives such as subsidies for forest conservation, including by ensuring cross-sectoral coordination to break siloes and through public expenditure analyses.
4. Support smallholder access to certification incentives, including through group certification, and develop income generation schemes for farmers transitioning away from deforestation-linked practices.
5. Strengthen the capacities of national and subnational institutions and smallholders to access climate and biodiversity finance, including through developing communication strategies, awareness-raising campaigns and training-of-trainers programmes that enable stakeholders to understand, navigate and benefit from forest protection incentive mechanisms.
6. Strengthen and prioritize government policies to increase forest conservation and protection within the overall policy mix.

Enhancing data for decision-making

1. Demonstrate legal and sustainable commodity production decoupled from deforestation through multistakeholder processes with clear governance mandates and built-in incentive mechanisms for smallholders.
2. Develop, harmonize, regulate and deploy simple, low-cost, multilingual and scalable data collection tools for smallholder plots, and strengthen smallholder and other supply chain actors' capacities on geospatial and legal data collection, including by allocating dedicated public funding with private contributions and through collective outreach, participative mapping, gamification and youth-engagement techniques.

3. Develop data management and ownership protocols that ensure that data collected by companies and smallholders are owned and accessible to them, with appropriate privacy protection, consent and encryption and aligned with international requirements.
4. Strengthen interoperability of public and private traceability systems, as well as between public systems at regional and international levels, by working towards secure data sharing mechanisms and standards, leveraging open-source platforms and AI or remote sensing tools, while upholding data sovereignty.

Improving livelihoods and promoting equity and inclusion

1. Strengthen farmer and producer organizations as platforms for collective action, market access and scaling sustainable practices.
2. Ensure equitable access to financial incentives for smallholders and upstream small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including through fair benefit-sharing, timely payments, price premiums, living incomes, and financial support that covers the costs of compliance, traceability, certification and forest conservation.
3. Strengthen capacity-building activities for smallholders and upstream SMEs that increase productivity through improved technologies, business skills development, peer learning and diversified incomes through forest-positive livelihoods.
4. Promote equity and inclusion among value chains actors, by ensuring equal opportunities for women, youth and other vulnerable groups through inclusive government policies; targeted capacity support; smallholder inclusion requirements in sourcing and certification schemes; and compliance with labour codes.
5. Create enabling market conditions for sustainable production, including by improving financial viability of smallholders and cooperatives through public derisking, investor engagement, and market mechanisms that reward sustainable production.
6. Support forest-positive production systems (e.g. forest coffee, non-timber forest products, mushrooms as supplementary income) and develop branding and marketing strategies to strengthen smallholder market access and income.
7. Strengthen the role of local traders and intermediaries by professionalizing their role, integrating them into governance and due diligence systems.

II. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

While these actions do not give rise to binding obligations, participants agree on their intent to jointly work towards implementation of these priority actions by 2030 at regional and national levels, through the following measures.

At the regional level

Partners are commited to:

- using the Roadmap as a reference point for stronger regional cooperation and exploring options to develop regional guidelines or principles for sustainable commodity production;
- establishing a regional multistakeholder platform on sustainable commodities, including under the Southeast Asia and the Pacific Forests Integrated Program, to strengthen regional collaboration and knowledge exchanges and peer learning on sustainable commodities decoupled from deforestation, building on FAO's ongoing support to countries on REDD+, sustainable forest management and forest-positive value chains, including through regular working groups, webinars and regional exchanges on priority topics, and encouraging participants to join the effort;
- exploring possibilities to anchor the Roadmap in existing intergovernmental bodies, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, FAO Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission and Committee on Forestry and commodity-specific bodies such as the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries and Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries;
- conducting a survey to identify capacity development interests and, based on demand, share good practices, progress, lessons learned and new initiatives among governments, industry actors and producer groups through webinars, workshops and other regional exchanges;
- exploring public and private resource mobilization opportunities for implementing the Roadmap; and
- reviewing progress on the implementation of this Roadmap annually.

At the national level

Requesting national governments and partners to explore options for the implementation and endorsement of the Roadmap, with support and coordination from FAO and partners, including through:

- developing or strengthening national action plans aligned with the priorities of this Roadmap;
- engaging relevant stakeholders in the implementation of national action plans;
- establishing or strengthening cross-sectoral coordination platforms to promote coherent implementation across relevant sectors;
- establishing cross-commodity or commodity-specific national focal points for the Roadmap implementation; and
- organizing knowledge sharing and capacity development opportunities with smallholders and other value chain actors.

These action areas were identified during a four-day workshop through stakeholder consultations with a specific focus on coffee, natural rubber and palm oil.

The Asia Pacific Roadmap is not a negotiated commitment, but a shared and practical pathway that identifies key barriers and priority actions to guide future policy dialogue, investment and collective efforts across Asia Pacific. It is aimed at strengthening and harmonizing the linkages between agriculture and forestry sectors, to ensure that economic development and forest conservation advance together, for a sustainable future for all.

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UN-REDD PROGRAMME

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

UNDP

UN environment programme

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