



***Tropenbos International, the AgriCultures Network and the Forest and Farm Facility
together at the Global Landscapes Forum
Lima, Peru
6-7 December 2014***

Forest and farming families speaking out – Speaking out for forest and farming families

Tropenbos International, the AgriCultures Network and the Forest and Farm Facility, created a space so voices from the fields and forests could be heard at the Global Landscapes Forum, Lima, Peru, on 6-7th December 2014. And they spoke.

Booths from the three organizations surrounded a lively area that made up one of the pavilions, called *the Forest and Farming Families Living Landscape Lounge*. A busy weekend programme of presentations, debates and various discussions meant that there was a continual flow of people, also taking publications away with them, and leaving their views on the graffiti wall and in the voting box.

We started with a ‘conversatorio’ on Saturday morning, organized by Agriculture Network partner ETC-Andes. It began with a ‘campesino’, Mario Salsavilca, an agroecological family farmer from the high Andes, telling his story. He was supported by Andres Alencastres and Alipio Canahua, who explained the vital importance of traditional, indigenous knowledge in supporting community livelihoods, and also supporting the resilience that such practices add to local farming systems. But national and international strategies still continue to favour big farmers, big business, big projects.



The landscape speaking

In the afternoon, Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) partner, the Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques (AMBP), spoke out about the needs of those who live in and live off the landscape, attracting a significant crowd. Their session was entitled ‘Territorio, gobernanza y cambio climático: Perspectiva de los pueblos indígenas y comunidades forestales de mesoamérica para un nuevo acuerdo global del clima’ [Territories, governance and climate change: Perspectives of Mesoamerican indigenous peoples and forest communities for a new global climate agreement].

Speakers included Gustavo Sánchez from México, president of the Red Mexicana de Organizaciones Campesinas Forestales (Red MOCAF); Sara Omi from Panamá, legal assessor for the Congreso General Emberá-Wounaan (CGEW); Norvin Goff Salinas from Honduras, president of Mosquitia Asla Takanka (MASTA); Anne

Larson, principle researcher for CIFOR; and was concluded by Victor López Illescas from Guatemala, executive director of UTZ CHE.



Joy Mlambo opening the evening share fair

In the evening sharefair - the 'circus of knowledge' - the voices of forest and farming families in Bolivia, Peru and Guatemala, and well as those of forest and families worldwide, were again thrown into to the wider debate. It was opened by Joy Mlambo from Zimbabwe, one of the youth facilitators selected by CIFOR to share and learn at the Forum. The suite of landscape-related publications was then officially launched by Nick Pasiecznik, Herman Savenije and Teresa Gianella. These included special landscape editions of Farming Matters, LEISA Revista, LEISA India and Agriculturas, and a 2015 calendar to celebrate the International Year of Family Farming, all produced by AgriCultures Network partners. The FFF

publications 'A roadmap for strengthening forest and farm producer organizations' and 'Multi-sectoral platforms for planning and implementation' were also launched, followed by EFRN News 56, 'Towards productive landscapes', and finally, the joint policy brief 'Lessons from the landscape – approaches that work'.

Cora van Oosten (CDI – WUR, the Netherlands) facilitated a lively debate, with panel members Peter Besseau (International Model Forest Network), Teobaldo Pinzas (ETC-Andes), Nataly Azcarrunz (Instituto Boliviano de Investigaciones Forestales), and Victor López Illescas (UTZ CHE – AMBP). The discussion focused on how to 'organise' listening in the landscape. The participants came up with lessons that emphasised words like 'time', 'trust', 'tolerance', 'create common rules', 'respect' and 'openness'. As one participant said afterwards, "I have listened through several formal presentations today, but this evening was the most refreshing – to hear real stories from real people. This is the landscape speaking."

The second day began with another ETC-Andes organised 'conversatorio', when we heard from Ruperto and José Andres Orellano Rodríguez, family farmers in the arid north of Peru. *The dry forests there are being cut at an alarming rate, with 20,000 hectares lost each year. Something had to be done, so they formed an association, prepared and implemented a community forest management plan, producing and marketing products together from the forests they are conserving.* Another family farmer, Gicella Igreda, spoke about her organic farm and the importance of also cultivating the tradition in younger generations. Her nephew Manuel also took to the floor, talking about his project of conserving native wild food plants. A remarkable achievement considering he is only 10 years old – certainly the youngest participant, let only speaker, amongst the 1500 participants. Fabiola Parra told us about scaling up initiatives to help preserve dry forest landscapes, Luis Gomero about the role of agroecology, and Julio Alegre on how agroforestry is being used to reverse soil degradation. A fascinating morning.

In the afternoon, Eduardo Rojas Briales, Assistant Director General of FAO Forestry, and Forestry Officer Thomas Hofer, joined Herman Savenije to discuss 'The Road to Durban', and how adequate forest and farm producer organizations representation can be ensured at the XIV World Forest Congress in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015. Views from other organizations including FSC and IBIF were also made. At the end of a hectic two days, the few remaining publications were packed away and the pavilion cleared, as everyone went to listen to the closing plenary, and say their farewells in the exhibition area afterwards.

The definition of a landscape in the European Landscape Convention is “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of nature and/or human factors”. Equally, everyone at the Global Landscape Forum will take away their own different perception of the event, and which will of course change as we look back. As Charles Lindbergh, the great aviator, author, inventor, explorer and social activist once said, “Life is like a landscape. You can live in the midst of it but can only describe it from the vantage point of distance.”

Reported by Nick Pasiiecznik, ILEIA

For more information, contact: herman.savenije@tropenbos.org, n.pasiiecznik@ileia.org and sophie.grouwels@fao.org

Tropenbos International, including offices and active country programmes in Colombia, Suriname, Ghana, DR Congo, Indonesia and Vietnam (www.tropenbos.org).

The AgriCultures Network includes ILEIA (the Netherlands, Secretariat), ETC-Andes (Peru), AS-PTA (Brazil), IED Afrique (Senegal), AME Foundation (India), CBIK (China) (www.agriculturesnetwork.org)

The Forest and farm Facility is a partnership between FAO, IUCN and IIED, hosted at FAO headquarters in Rome (www.fao.org/partnerships/forest-farm-facility/en)