







## Promoting Better Financing

The lack of financial incentives for sustainable forest management (SFM) is an important driver of deforestation and forest degradation. The need to make multi-functional forest management attractive to a wide range of investors is broadly recognized. It requires measures at the local, national and international levels that address forest management and forest managers, all stakeholders and all financing (investment and payment) mechanisms. These measures must be

embedded in a policy and institutional framework that supports multi-functional forest management.

In the next pages some highlights of the work TBI has developed to understand and improve locally and culturally relevant financing mechanisms for forest communities, small and medium forest enterprises and forest and farm producer organisations, is presented.





## Alternative Tenure and Business Models

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Collaborating with small-scale farmers is a feasible option for investors, according to the recent study, “Alternative tenure and business models for locally controlled sustainable land use and forest management.” The study demonstrates that land issues must be dealt in the context of existing land-use arrangements within communities and between local stakeholders and communities.

The study also shows that an in-depth understanding of the local situation is critical when developing funds and projects. Financing institutions could benefit from the vast knowledge and expertise that has been built up over the past decades in developing countries in the context of development cooperation.

The working group for the study was composed of Tropenbos International, the Dutch Development Bank (FMO), the Dutch development organization (HIVOS), and the Dutch Royal Tropical Institute (KIT). They carried out a scoping study of a number of projects and funds that are financing alternative and innovative land-related activities with smallholder farmers and local communities. They also carried out scoping interviews with FMO and with two private companies: Komaza in Kenya and Biocarburant SA in Mali.

Tropenbos International, FMO, HIVOS and KIT established the working group within the framework of the Dutch Land Governance Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (LG MSD). They based their work on the fact that the financing sector tends to focus on supporting large companies rather than small-scale producers, and that investors assume that ownership and use rights exist and have been legally obtained. There is a need to increase

information about and interest in financing for small-scale initiatives, and to provide practical guidance for financing institutions to promote and scale up effective, alternative agri-business/forestry and tenure models. Models based on co-investment and partnership can strengthen sustainable and locally controlled management and governance of land and forests.

The LG MSD was established in 2014 as a joint initiative of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, companies, financial institutions, civil society organizations and academic institutions. It aims to contribute to the improvement of land governance through specific actions, and it focuses on the development and application of new policies and guidelines.



## Landscapes and livelihoods: forest and farm producer organizations sharing their stories

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Side Event at the World Forestry Congress

Date: 8 September 2015

Place: Durban, South Africa

By: Tropenbos International (TBI) and the European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN), with the Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Forest and Farm Facility (FFF), the International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Producer organizations make up the world's largest private sector. They already have a major impact on many issues, but could do much more by strengthening their capacity. Providing appropriate support to these organizations was the subject of a side event organized by Tropenbos International during the 14th World Forestry Congress.

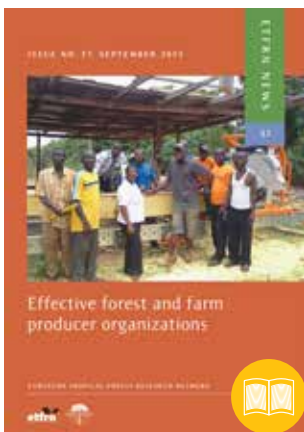
The event, which brought together more than 50 people, provided a place for forest and farm producers to share their experiences and knowledge. The latest edition of *ETFRN News*, "Effective forest and farm producer organizations," (see page 40) was officially launched at the event. Its key findings fed into the discussions. The event was part of the Building Momentum Initiative.

The side-event preceeded a meeting of the Building Momentum initiative in which TBI participated with a six-member delegation, from Ghana, DR Congo and the Netherlands. The meeting gathered more than a hundred representatives and supporters of forest and farm producers,

indigenous peoples and smallholder family farmers. Two days of lively debate capped more than a year of constructive dialogue, and resulted in a 9-point declaration urging governments and other major actors to recognize and listen to indigenous people, local communities and family smallholders.

The Building Momentum initiative has included a meeting in China in 2013 and a series of six regional conferences in Africa, Asia and the Americas, supported by the Forest and Farm Facility of FAO. These events have gathered the views of thousands of people, who represent the voices of hundreds of millions of people who depend on forests. TBI is one of the partners in the Building Momentum initiative.





## ETFRN News 57: Effective forest and farm producer organizations

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There is a growing consensus of global opinion that farm and forest producer organizations are critically important to the sustainable use of natural resources, now

and in the future. These organizations are key to overcoming many issues, from poverty and lack of human rights to environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Producer organizations represent the collective voices of farmers and forest-dependent peoples, indigenous groups and rural communities. The building blocks of local democracy, they provide essential services to their members. And when they are truly inclusive and have the right support, management choices are sustainable and benefits are equitable.

This latest edition of *ETFRN News* contains more than 200 pages of stories from local producer organizations, associations and federations, and from those who speak for them at the national and international level. Inclusiveness is reflected by the authors; most of the 80 contributing authors come from the Global South, representing NGOs, UN organizations, government bodies and private companies as well as producer organizations. One-third of the authors are women. The result is a compilation of experience that adds significantly to a growing body of knowledge. Forest and farm producer organizations tell of their achievements and successes as well

as their challenges, some overcome, some not. They share how they organized themselves, what support they received, and whether the resulting situation was better or worse. Some benefits were expected, others were unexpected. Some problems remain, and some were made worse, even with the well-meaning intentions of “outsiders.”


As well as outlining the experiences of individual producer organizations, this issue of *ETFRN News* emphasizes the pivotal work that umbrella organizations — national or regional federations and associations — do in scaling up benefits. It is essential that these organizations have meaningful influence at the policy and corporate level. If their members are well organized they can help in making the changes needed in order to achieve and sustain positive impacts on their land, livelihoods and well-being.

Many of the articles emphasize that the basic goals are to ensure people’s rights to land, natural, social and financial resources, and to achieve justice and the rule of law in assuring and enforcing these basic human rights. Much still remains to be done. But there is a lot to learn from within these pages, and we hope that readers will take encouragement from the stories that are shared.

Pasiecznik, N.M. and H. Savenije (eds.) 2015. *Effective forest and farm producer organizations. ETFRN News 57*. Wageningen, the Netherlands: Tropenbos International.

## Publications

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López de Mesa, S. (eds.) *Solidaridad y autogestión, una alternativa económica para las comunidades de los páramos*. Bogotá, Colombia: Tropenbos Internacional Colombia y UICN Sur. 

Pasiecznik N., A. Maindo, S.K. Nketiah, E. Sampene Mensah, H. Savenije and B. Twumasi-Ankra. 2015. *Reflections from the XIV World Forestry Congress*. Infosheet. Wageningen, the Netherlands: Tropenbos International. 

TBI–FMO–HIVOS–KIT Working Group. 2015. *Alternative tenure and business models for locally controlled sustainable land use and forest management*. Infosheet. Wageningen, the Netherlands: Tropenbos International. 