

Making landscape finance more inclusive

A new online platform aims to share articles, interviews and information regarding more inclusive, responsible finance that promotes sustainable landscape restoration and management.



Photo by Nanang Sujana/CIFOR

Our forests and farmland, land use and landscapes are the basis of much of the global economy. And they are even more important to those who live in them and live off them. But ever-increasing levels of external investment are making huge impacts – positive and negative. So to shift the balance in favour of beneficial outcomes, growing attention is now focusing on sustainable business models that include more responsible finance, and that is inclusive of men, women and youth in local communities and indigenous peoples.

Why we need to listen and learn

This complex topic needs to be addressed urgently, and strategically. Different actors and sectors hold pieces of the puzzle, but many are not automatically connected to each other or to wider networks. Whether public or private – governments, corporates, banks, smallholders, communities, NGOs – all see the need for common understanding and collaboration, and there are many valuable and innovative experiences and insights that others would do well to learn from. The past few years have seen a number of high-level discussion forums, and we are learning from international to grassroots levels as we move toward shared strategies and sustainable solution at the scales needed, which this initiative aims to build on. The online platform will provide a mechanism to present and discuss key issues related to inclusive finance to complement existing forums such as the Global Landscapes Forum Investment Case – held in [Washington, DC in 2018](#), and previously in London in [2016](#) and [2015](#) – and finance-related events hosted by Innovation Forum, Ethical Corporation and the Global Impact Investing Network, among others.

Opening out the debate

This new online initiative on [foreststreesagroforestry.org](#) and [tropenbos.org](#) will contribute to sharing innovative thinking and joint learning, facilitating and strengthening networks and bridge-building between actors beyond the usual sectoral boundaries. It will begin with a series of interviews/articles from thought-leaders in different sectors. These and the resulting online debate, as well as parallel reviews and studies, will guide the development of a global online consultation on inclusive landscape finance in early 2019.

The overriding question is “How can investing in sustainable land use and land management be made more inclusive of smallholder and community needs while remaining attractive to investors?”

Key individuals will be invited to contribute to the series of interviews/articles, but the platform is also open to receiving contributions from those involved in inclusive finance, in one of the four main sectors.

- Public – governmental and inter-governmental institutes.
- Finance – international banks, development banks, pension funds, etc.
- Corporate – multinationals involved in commodity production, processing or trade.
- Community – smallholder associations and supporting civil society and non-governmental organizations.

All interviews/articles will offer answers to the following questions.

- How do you define ‘inclusive finance’ and why is it important?
- What are the underlying reasons for the underfinancing of small scale agricultural and forest business?
- What are we not doing right, or not doing well enough, or not doing at all?
- How is your organization addressing inclusive finance, and what are your experiences and key lessons?
- What examples do you have of successful or promising ‘model’ approaches or innovations?
- What is your vision on how best to increase finance and investment in sustainable forestry and farming?

For more information, contact:

- Inclusive finance scientists D. Andrew Wardell (a.wardell@cgiar.org) and Bas Louman (bas.louman@tropenbos.org)
- Interviewer/editor Nick Pasiecznik (npasiecznik@wanadoo.fr) and communications coordinator Hannah Maddison (h.maddison@cgiar.org)



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON Forests, Trees and Agroforestry

This is an initiative of Tropenbos International (TBI) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and forms part of the CGIAR Research Program on Forestry, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA), which is supported by the CGIAR Trust Fund: [cgiar.org/funders](#)