



## Better gender equality is a part of SFM

**IFFA recognizes that inequal distribution of forestry benefits in family forestry require immediate action.** Discriminating socio-cultural norms and traditions combined with institutional barriers hinder women's full participation in family forestry. A fast majority of landholdings in the world are owned by men. Sustainability, efficiency and impact of family forestry depend largely on status of women in the producer organizations and in forest value chains.

## Forest tenure security is a precondition

**IFFA calls for greater tenure security for family forest producers.** IFFA recognizes, through the plurality of its members, the existence of different models and systems of governance of forest resources under national contexts. Tenure security, whether being legally recognized or under customary and community tenure arrangements, forms a precondition for long term sustainability of forests and improved livelihoods.



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# Forests owned by people

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## International Family Forestry Alliance, IFFA

*We are the alliance and voice of global family forest producers. IFFA members present independent forest holders and producers that manage all types of forests, including trees outside forests, in plural family forest settings varying from commercial smallholder forestry to management of community and Indigenous forests.*

Family forest producers form a diverse group that has strength in numbers. Globally around 1.5 billion smallholders depend on forest landscapes.

IFFA is the only global umbrella for organized and independent forest producers and it currently consists members from 20 countries. These family forest producers are prime guardians of sustainability, provide multiple forest products and benefits locally and globally.

All IFFA members are profoundly committed to the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), feasible forest livelihoods and well-being of future generations.

IFFA strongly believes that bringing family forest producers together offers a huge potential for the improvement of forest conditions, resilience strategies and poverty eradication.

### We are producers of Multiple Values of Forests

Forests provide timber, food, fuel and fiber as well as multitude of ecosystem services. Family forest producers living of forests, depending on forests and managing forests understand well multiple values of forests in diverse cultural, ecological and socio-economic contexts. Family forestry has foundations in local knowledge and expertise in balancing different forest-based needs and interests. IFFA recognizes that economic value of forests is in crucial position in maintaining condition of forests, sustaining provision of multiple ecosystem services and contributing to decent income and poverty reduction. Without economic safety derived from forest livelihoods, the ecological and cultural values of forest are threatened, and forest conditions often degraded.

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Food, fuel,  
fibre and  
feelings

### We need access to markets

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Producers of multiple values of forests

**Without getting products from forests onto the market products have no value.** In many countries small forest producers are not recognized equal partners in the value chain. We have the experience that market value gives the motivation to the sustainable forest management. Forest producers must also have the right to group themselves and work together for finding better market position.

### We are practitioners of Sustainable Forest Management – Contract of generations

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The actors for contract of generations

**Family forest producers are practitioners of Sustainable forest Management (SFM).** We hand over the forest land in improved condition for the next generation. IFFA will emphasize SFM both as an approach and a practical model. IFFA and our members will continue promoting SFM as the best available pathway for combining decent forest income, long-term economic security and ecological functioning. IFFA endorses smallholder relevant forest certification as a mechanism for demonstrating a commitment to sustainability and securing legitimacy in markets.

### Our forests for resilience

**Family forestry is confronted with resilience threats posed by climate and non-climate hazards, while providing means for addressing these challenges.** Forests are a source of diverse products and regular income for family forest producers and act as a saving account in the time of crisis. Family forestry is in crucial role in combatting climate change and biodiversity degradation by creating land use based sinks and boosting diversity in forest ecosystems. IFFA members are highly committed to enhance forest carbon stocks and greening of forest value-chains.