

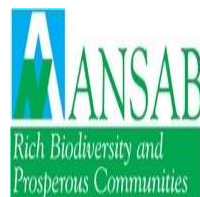


SAARC* Resolution on Agroforestry, 2016

Released by
Mr Uday C. Thakur
Secretary
Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC)
Government of Nepal

Inception Meeting to Develop a
SAARC Regional Coordinated Programme on Agroforestry
1-3 June 2016
Kathmandu, Nepal

SAARC Agriculture Centre
Ministry of Agricultural Development, Nepal
Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bioresources, Nepal
World Agroforestry Centre



*South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation

An Inception Meeting to develop a **SAARC Regional Coordinated Programme on Agroforestry (SARCOPA)** was jointly organized by the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD), Nepal; the Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB), Nepal; and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), at Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu, from June 1 to 3, 2016. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr Uttam K. Bhattarai, Secretary, MoAD. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka nominated agroforestry specialist to represent the country in the meeting. The representative from Pakistan, however, could not make it. SAARC Agriculture Centre was represented by the Senior Programme Specialist (NRM) at SAC. Among others, scientists and senior policy makers from the Ministries of Agricultural Development, Forests and Soil Conservation, and Livestock Development; Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC); CIMOD; and ANSAB were in attendance. In addition, agroforestry experts from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and the Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI), India; and the Senior Advisor and the Regional Director of ICRAF for South Asia, attended the meeting. The meeting was jointly funded by SAC and ICRAF.

Representatives from the SAARC countries agreed to take forward the recommendations made at the following previous events;

- SAARC Regional Expert Consultation Meeting on Agroforestry held in 2015 at CAFRI, Jhansi, India; and
- SAARC Regional Training on Smart Practices for Climate Resilient Agriculture held in 2015 at New Delhi, India

The meeting then deliberated on fostering collaboration and partnership among SAARC Member States through developing a **SAARC Regional Coordinated Programme on Agroforestry (SARCOPA)** with facilitation and technical support from ICRAF and SAC. The programme will employ a two-phase timeframe, with a first six years phase to establish the mechanism and delivery systems for agroforestry benefits to reach the target communities, and a second six years phase to up- and out scale the benefits to a much wider community of beneficiaries. The first phase will focus on the following four pillars encompassing country-specific involvement and activities:

1. Creating awareness and developing guidelines, codes of conduct, and/or policy, and databases of available information on agroforestry and agroforesters,
2. Building capacity both at institutional and individual levels targeting various players and stakeholders,
3. Identifying and re-designing (where necessary) of location-specific agroforestry systems,
4. Demonstration/dissemination of the identified successful agroforestry systems

ICRAF, in close collaboration with SAC, SAARC countries, ANSAB, and other partners will lead the process of developing **SARCOPA**, and will provide overall coordination to mobilize resources and finalize and implement the programme.

Participants agreed for this document be known as “**SAARC Resolution on Agroforestry, 2016**” released by Mr. Uday C. Thakur, Secretary, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, Nepal on 3 June 2016 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

The meeting also identified the Country Focal Point institutions and persons for **SARCOPA**.

Sl. No.	Country	Focal Person	Focal Institution (For information)
1	Afghanistan	Mohammad Rafi Qazizada	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL)
2	Bangladesh	Dr. Mohammad Akkas Ali	Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI)
3	Bhutan	Karma Jigme Temphele	Department of Forests and Park Services (DoFS),
4	India	Dr. O.P. Chaturvedi	Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
5	Maldives	Gasith Mohamed	Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture (MoFA)
6	Nepal	Keshab Adhikari	Ministry of Agricultural Development (MoAD)
7	Pakistan	Raja Mohammad Omar	Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC)
8	Sri Lanka	W. A. K. Karunathilaka	Department of Agriculture (DoA)

SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Dhaka, Bangladesh:

The SAARC Agriculture Centre (www.sac.org.bd) is the first regional center of the SAARC established in 1988. The Centre aims to accelerate the process of economic and social development among member countries through promotion of agricultural research development, technology dissemination initiatives and capacity building for sustainable agricultural development and poverty reduction in the South Asia region.

Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD), Nepal:

The Ministry of Agriculture Development of Nepal (www.moad.gov.np) is the central apex body of Government of Nepal to look after the agriculture and allied fields. The vision of the Ministry is to "improve the standard of living of the people through sustainable agricultural growth by transforming the subsistence farming system to a competitive and commercialized one. Ministry has a unit which directs all agroforestry related activities in Nepal, and also coordinates Ministry's cooperation with other national and international players in the field of agroforestry.

Asia Network for Sustainable Agriculture and Bio-resources (ANSAB), Nepal

ANSAB (www.ansab.org) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization promoting incentive oriented community-based solutions for biodiversity conservation and economic development in Nepal and other countries of South Asia for more than twenty years. It has been consistently evolving, consolidating, institutionalizing and advancing forest and farm based natural resource management approach that benefits smallholder farmers and communities to improve household income, increase livelihood, food and nutrition security, and secure resilience towards unwanted environmental and socioeconomic changes. ANSAB has carried out over 100 development and research projects, including one health, ecosystem based commercial agriculture (ECA), in different geographical settings that have identified and promoted high impact crops, technologies and practices, developed responsible agribusinesses, increased production and productivity in a sustainable way, and improved health, nutrition and food security.

World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF):

The World Agroforestry Centre, also called as ICRAF (www.worldagroforestry.org) is part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) - <http://www.cgiar.org/>, which works to reduce rural poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and health, and sustainably manage natural resources. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, ICRAF was legally established in 1978 as an autonomous non-profit international organization, operating under the authority of a legally constituted international Board of Trustees. ICRAF's mission is to generate science based knowledge about the diverse roles that trees play in agricultural landscapes and use its research to advance policies and practices benefitting the poor and the environment. The Research for Development - R4D - is organized around six science domains which, when implemented together, respond to the complexity and interconnectedness of key development challenges related to agroforestry. The science domains include: Agroforestry Systems; Tree Products and Markets; Tree Diversity, Domestication and Delivery; Land Health; Environmental Services; Climate Change. The Centre is guided by broad development challenges pursued by the CGIAR. These include poverty alleviation involving enhanced food security and health, improved productivity with lower environmental and social costs, and resilience to climate change and external shocks. ICRAF works in six regions across sub-Saharan Africa (East and Southern Africa; West and Central Africa), Asia (South Asia, Southeast Asia and East and Central Asia) and Latin America.