

Resolution of the Africa Farm/Family Forest Producers Organizations Conference

Nairobi 9-11 of June 2015

An initiative of the International Family Forestry Alliance (IFFA)

WHEREAS 70 % of Africa's population live in rural areas where wood and non-wood forest products for cooking, heating, building, food security, water availability and other uses are a daily necessity and one important element in our struggle for livelihood.

We the participants of Farm / Family Forest Producer organizations at our first Pan African meeting 9-11 of June 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya urge governments and other parties to:

- **RECOGNIZE the key role of farms forests, and forestry producers' organizations and** the legal and institutional recognition we need to plant, care, protect and market our trees and forest products as significantly contributing to the broader sustainable development agenda and directly to most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) currently under discussion.,
- **RECOGNIZE the necessity to include forest small holders, including youth and women, in national and global policy development** to improve our landscapes, and the tree cover in particular, as well as our livelihoods.
- **RECOGNIZE the members of the primary forest producer organizations as Small and Medium Enterprises and hence part of the growing private sector.**
- **RECOGNIZE the serious Climate Change threat to our lives** as well as the great and large scale climate change mitigation and adaptation function our forest producer groups can provide by recovering the forest/agricultural landscape, promoting eco-system services and



improving the livelihoods and sustainable land management through Locally Controlled Forestry.

- **PUT IN PLACE secure land tenure, freedom of association and legal and institutional recognition of farm/family forest producer organizations, supportive government policies and extension services, and access to markets and finances** as indispensable pillars for an enabling environment for the success of farm/family forest producer organizations.
- **LEVEL the playing field by empowering smallholder organisations** so that they can claim their rights and access to markets and at the same time fill the gap between well intentioned political reforms and reality on the ground.
- **PROMOTE production, processing, packaging, labelling and standardization**, and related R&D of African forest products for national, regional and international markets, not the least among African countries.
- **ENCOURAGE the establishment of partnerships between forest producer organizations and government forest services** to leverage budgets and staff capacity as a model to be encouraged.
- **CHANGE mind-sets** and focus on farm forests and forestry producers organizations to develop accompanying policies and provide resources to develop the sector.
- **CLEARLY OBSERVE the family forest producer perspective:** “The forest knows me and I know the forest. Let me benefit from the forest and the forest will benefit from me.”

