

Forest smallholders/family forest owners play an essential role when national Governments strive for more sustainable forest management

The 13th Session of the UN Forum on Forests was held at the UN headquarters in New York May 7-11. IFFA's representatives made statements on how small forest landowners' sustainable forest management achieves multiple SDG's, and how small holders and forest owners demonstrate compatibility between conservation and timber production. IFFA also contributed to development of Major Groups' contribution to implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests. Priority areas that should be pursued to achieve sustainable forest management globally, nationally and locally include:

- The role of women and girls in sustainable forest management
- The contribution of forests to livelihoods, with a focus on environmentally sound, innovative technology
- Value-added forest production and processing for indigenous peoples, small holder farmers, and communities
- Land tenure

Several government delegations expressed strong support for smallholders, and the Omnibus resolution at the conclusion of the Session strongly endorsed the view that effective implementation of sustainable forest management depends on the contributions of all stakeholders, including forest owners.