



Forest and Farm Facility
[Asian Farmers Association for Sustainable Rural Development]

TERMINAL REPORT



[Submitted February 8, 2016]

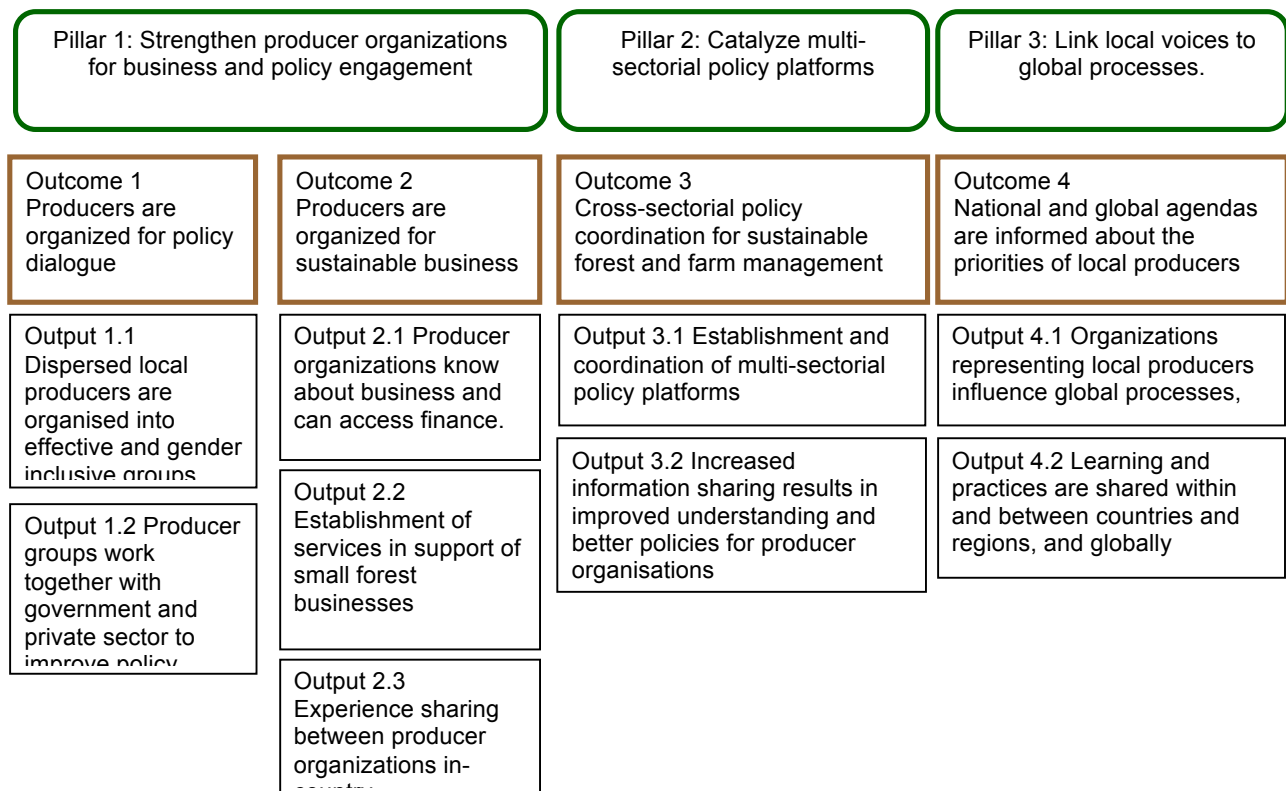
Background to the vision, desired impact and outcomes of the FFF

The Forest and Farm Facility (FFF) is a multi-donor program, housed within the Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division (FOE) within the Forestry Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and managed as a partnership between the FAO, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The FFF **vision** is that “Smallholders, communities and indigenous peoples organizations have improved their livelihoods and the decision-making over forest and farm landscapes”.

The **impact** that FFF would like to achieve is that “Smallholder, women, community and Indigenous Peoples groups have improved income and food security from sustainable forest and farm management”.

FFF **activities** are organized under **three pillars, four outcomes, and nine outputs** as follows:



The intention of this **synthesis report** is to use the agreed set of indicators and reflective questions spelled out in the Letters of Agreement between FAO-FFF and AFA to summarize the progress under each output.

Introduction FFF and AFA

[Please insert a brief description – ½ page A4 maximum - of (i) your organization's mission and objective and (ii) how and where it represents the voice of forest and farm producers and forest rights holders.]

AFA is a regional alliance of 17 national federations in 13 countries in Asia (2 in South Asia, 1 in Central Asia, 4 in Northeast Asia and 6 in Southeast Asia). Its membership of around 12 million is composed of small scale family farmers – men and women engaged in agriculture and fisheries in lowland and upland – hills and mountains – areas of the covered countries. AFA's programs to support its members include: (1) policy advocacy; 2) knowledge management and sharing; 3) enterprise development and marketing through technical and managerial support to members and linking to markets; and, 4) governance – maintenance and upgrading of transparent, democratic, effective, efficient and sustainable organizational systems and processes for decision making and management.

AFA members engage with their national governments and agri-related agencies in various issues that affect their members. At the regional level, AFA engages inter-regional governments such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Southeast Asia as well as the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in South Asia. AFA also started engaging with the Grow Asia Partnership Strategy between the World Economic Forum (WEF) and ASEAN. At the international level, AFA actively engages UN agri agencies FAO and IFAD as well as CFS. During various international consultations, AFA brings the voices of its members and distributes knowledge products such as issue papers, case studies, posters, and videos.

[Please insert a **brief** description – 1 page A4 maximum - of the process of implementing FFF activities: (i) date of launch mission and event; (ii) meetings among FFF grantees; (iii) meetings with organization members/constituency; (iv) key policy events attended; (v) main knowledge and communication products. For events and meetings please use the templates found at the end of the document.]

The main activities implemented under this project cooperation with FFF were:

1. **The Project launch.** The Project was introduced during the Executive Committee of AFA dovetailed to the General Assembly, last May 2014, in Bali Indonesia. Right after the signing of the Letter of Agreement between AFA and FFF, implementation became full blast: orientation with AFA members in project-covered countries, executing partnership agreements with each participating AFA member, designing templates for the conduct of national consultations and report writing.
2. **Meeting the grantees.** Mr. Jhonny Zapata was able to facilitate a meeting between FFF grantee MERN Myanmar and AFA member AFFM (Agriculture and Farmer Federation Myanmar). He was able to facilitate also a meeting between FFF partner FECOFUN and NLRF (National Land Rights Forum) in Nepal. AFA Secretary General and AFA Chairperson also met the FFF team in Rome twice in 2015. AFA Sec Gen, AFA Enterprise Development Officer and focal point for FFF project and representatives from AFA member in Myanmar met other FFF grantees (i.e. RECOFTC, MERN, GACF) during a networking dinner done on the sides of the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) meeting in Myanmar held June 2015. Lastly, AFA SecGen and AFA member VNFU attended the pre-WFC meeting with the theme " Building the Momentum" held in Durban

last September 2015, where other FFF grantees participated.

3. **Meetings with the organization members/constituency.** AFA conducted six district/township consultations in three countries – organized by its members in Vietnam (VNFU), Nepal (NLRF) and Myanmar (AFFM). NLRF even conducted six village level consultations prior to the district consultations.¹ These consultations participated by different stakeholders including the government. *See Annex 1 Township/district level consultation*

National consultations were conducted from May –July 2015 in seven countries - by AFFM in Myanmar, VNFU in Vietnam, NLRF in Nepal, FNN in Cambodia, API in Indonesia, PAKISAMA in Philippines and NAMAC in Mongolia). These consultations became avenues also to engage government officials working on forestry, as they were invited also to these consultations. A Statement was issued after the national consultations in the Philippines, Nepal and Mongolia. *See Annex 2a-g for Reports of National Consultations and Annex 3a-c for National Policy Declarations*

A regional-level knowledge sharing and learning workshop was organized by AFA, last August 2-3 at Yangon, Myanmar with the theme, “Building together with the partners working with and in support of the farmers in forested landscape”. , AFA invited resource persons from RECOFTC, NTFP-EP, GACF, Action Aid Myanmar, Food Security Group-Myanmar, ANGOC and Agricord/AsiaDHRRA. An AFA policy agenda was crafted during the meeting. *See Annex 4 Proceedings of Regional Workshop Consultation*

4. **Key policy events attended.** Dialogues were conducted at national level during the national consultations, which were attended by, among others, government representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Social Forestry Business Development (in Indonesia); the Deputy Director of Department of Forestry, Planning and Policy of the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery (in Cambodia); the Ministry of Environment and green development (in Mongolia), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Philippines, attended.
5. **Main knowledge and communication products.** AT the country level, AFFM (Myanmar) and NLRF (Nepal) produced brochures on FFF, and together with VNFU (Vietnam) produced proceedings of the townships and national consultations. At the regional level, AFA produced the Proceedings of the Regional Knowledge and learning Workshop, an issue paper translated in 10 languages, and a video documentation (a work in progress). *See Annexes 5-8 for the KM materials.*

Pillar 3: Linking local voices to global processes.

[Please provide brief answers to each of the questions in each section. If no activities happened this year under a particular heading please leave this blank]

Outcome4. National and global agendas are informed by the priorities of local producers and vice versa

¹ NLRF held consultations last June-July 2015 in (1) Itatari, Nawalparasi, (2) Arunkhola, Nawalparasi, (3) Gaidakut, Nawalparasi, (4) Gadimai, Bara, (5) Ramthali, Bara and (6) Dukuwash, Bara. AFFM held consultations in Hlegu and Daik OO townships last June 2015. VNFU held consultation in the districts of Dai Sao, Cho don in Bac Kan Province and Yen Du, Phu Luong in Thai Nguyen province last May, 2015.

[IF (and only if) there is *major* progress – insert here a headline sentence about how FFF activities have led to regional and global decision making processes being aware of producer organization priorities or having representation within regional and global initiatives]

Through the FFF, AFA was able to participate for the first time in the ASEAN Social Forestry Network meeting (June, 2015 in Myanmar) and in the World Forestry Congress (September 2015 in South Africa) where AFA exhibited its various knowledge materials and articulated the situation, initiatives and policy agenda of its members, as drawn from the various national and regional consultations.

Output 4.1 Organizations representing local producers influence global processes

[In this section, please provide a summary of any FFF activities to facilitate producer organization representation in regional or global platforms by answering the following questions. If none –leave this section blank]

Factual summary

How many strategies and /or mechanisms for representative planning and advocacy has FFF/AFA supported so that producer organizations can engage regionally or globally? (Indicator 4.1.1)

With the support from FFF, AFA was able to attend the CSO-ASFN forum held last May 29-31, 2015. AFA was represented by the Secretariat staff (Secretary-General and Enterprise Development Officer/focal point for FFF) and two from AFFM (1 FO leader and 1 staff/translator). This forum was a yearly event, attended by different CSO/FO representatives involved in the forestry sector as a preparation for the actual meeting of ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN). These AFA representatives also attended the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) conference held last June 1-3, 2015 at Inle Lake, Myanmar.

Since it was the first time for AFA to engage in the forestry sector, AFA was able to network with other CSOs and FOs. From these interactions, AFA learned new ideas that helped in the project implementation e.g. resource persons for the regional knowledge sharing and learning workshop in Myanmar, alliances at the national level in Cambodia, Myanmar, Indonesia and Philippines.

AFA Secretary-General and Ms. Le YVoan from VNFU participated in the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa last September 2015. Ms Le YVoan from Vietnam Farmers Union, Union presented the highlights of their work on farmers in forested landscapes. Esther Penunia, AFA Secretary General presented the main policy and program agenda that came out from AFA's regional consultation last August in Myanmar, as well as the case of the Task Force Anti -APECO in the Philippines as a successful case of influencing national policy. The AFA SecGen was also a panelist in two sessions during the WFC. AFA issue paper and other collaterals were distributed during the WFC as a strategy to share and gain support to policy and program agenda of forest farmer producers and producers' organizations.

- What processes have been successfully implemented for reporting back from regional and global levels to constituencies at national and local levels? (Indicator 4.1.2)

Representations done by AFA leaders and staff at the regional and international level are being reported back to the members and constituents by uploading news in the AFA website. Relevant documents such as reports, presentation materials are being shared through emails.

A document "Secretariat Updates" is presented every meeting of the Executive Committee (ExeCom) of AFA. In the August 2015 Execom, AFA secretariat reported about its engagement with ASFN. In the December 2015 Execom, AFA secretariat reported about its engagement with WFC.

Similarly, at the national level, leaders and staff prepare and submit reports to the board of directors as well as upload news updates in their website and Facebook accounts.

AFA regularly disseminate information such as news, trip reports, agenda of meetings and workshop proceedings through email, skype and the AFA website at www.asianfarmers.org.

- What examples can you point to where global policies and mechanisms vital to producer organizations have been shaped by producer organization engagement – or by feeding back information into country processes? (Indicator 4.1.3)

The ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) and the ASFN CSO forum, which precedes it, are mechanisms at the Southeast Asia region where producer organizations should engage with strongly. This is held yearly. The Asia Pacific Forestry Week, organized by FAORAP, with CSO involvement is another mechanism for engagement. This is held every 3 or 5 years, with one upcoming in February 2016.

At the global level, the declaration of the World Forestry Congress (WFC) in Durban was influenced by CSO/producer organizations. The WFC, held every 6 years, is also an important arena for engagement. The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is also a global mechanism worth engaging – especially because it will hold special meetings on forestry in 2017.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests has been shaped by the engagement of CSOs, including producer organizations. AFA, through the CSM, was active in the regional consultations when it was still in draft form.

But what matters most is how producer organizations engage at national levels. Armed with the regional and international policy instruments /pronouncements, with ideas on good practices learned from interacting with fellow producers /CSOs during regional and international meetings, and with adequate financial and technical resources, producer organizations at national levels will be able to influence the country's policies on forest and farms.

- Is there any other indicator that you wish to include to track progress being made? If so what is it and what change has resulted?

None.

Learning so far

- Are communication channels linking producer organizations to global processes easy to access and effective – how can these be facilitated? (Reflective question 4.1)

In Asia, we speak one country, one language. And in many cases, farmers can speak only their country's language but not English, which is one of the international languages used in Asia (including Chinese). So if we want to communicate to producer organizations, we have to work with their staff who can translate messages; we have to provide translation during meetings, we have to translate basic documents and provide some funds for the dissemination of translated documents. That is why we have asked members to translate in their languages the AFA issue paper on farmers in forested landscapes.

- How are international initiatives on forests reflecting the knowledge and needs of producer organization in this country? (Reflective question 4.2)

The international initiatives on forests reflect the knowledge and needs of producer organizations in some ways, but not strong enough, or the convictions to address their needs are not that strong. Thus, producer organizations should always exert extra efforts to articulate their perspectives, make their voices heard, present their initiatives, gather more evidence-based advocacy.

We can organize learning workshops and exchange visit where initiatives and best practices from different countries and regions are presented and discussed further, reflect on those new ideas and insights to further innovate and think out of the box, to see what changes are needed to enhance or improve existing initiatives or practices.

- How do we increase two-way communication so experiences are shared back to constituencies and producer organization members? (Reflective question 4.3)

There must be an increase in the combination of online and face-to-face communication and sharing of experiences, with provision for good translation. In communicating with non-English speaking farmers, we need to have short but concise info/messages, with pictures. We need people/staff in the producer organizations who can speak English; otherwise the producer organization should be able to establish close links with partner NGOs who can provide translation work to them. Social media reporting tools, esp Facebook can be strengthened. Websites should be regularly updated, and the websites of producer organizations should be linked together. But farmers learn best by seeing and doing, so there should be increased farmer –to-farmer learning exchanges / site visits esp if we want to promote various systems and practices on sustainable forest and farm management.

Currently, AFA members give feedback or updates to AFA through email to share experiences, learnings and updates at the country level. One example is from NAMAC in Mongolia:

"NAMAC Updates (Jan 12, 2016) - After organizing National consultation on social forestry under LoA between AFA and FFF, we have been working closely with our member forest communities as well as governmental and non-governmental organizations related to forest management. Result of it, our primary member communities were chosen as implementation project units of joint project on nursery between the Ministry of Environment, Green Development and Tourism and Embassy of Czech republic in Mongolia. This project will be implemented this spring.

Also, collaboration with Mongolian foresters and woodworking manufactures association, NAMAC submitted project proposal to the Government of Czech republic. If this proposal will be approved, 5 members from our primary forest communities will have study tour in Czech Republic and be prepared as the forest management trainers. Therefore, when they get back to Mongolia, we will be organizing technology training course for the members over the forest management."

Proposed changes

- Based on the learning so far, are there any changes you would propose for FFF-supported activities in the future?

There should be a support provided to continue advocacy (as policies do not happen overnight) and to apply lessons learned for improving their existing initiatives when they get back to their respective organizations/country from regional/ international workshop. Investment/seed support in order to apply lessons they learned from other initiatives/practices such as technology innovation, management systems improvement, etc. And there should be a second round of sharing where they can share results and changes from their innovations after applying those lessons learned from other initiatives. If there is available support, this can be replicated by other farmers or groups.

Output 4.2 Learning and practices are shared within and between countries and regions, and globally

[In this section, please provide a summary of any FFF support for learning materials (reports, manuals etc) or exchanges *between* countries by answering the following questions. If none – leave this section blank]

Factual summary

- How many FFF targeted communication materials and outreach activities from work elsewhere have been widely distributed? (Indicator 4.2.1)
 - *Two Brochures on land and forest related concerns produced by AFFM (Myanmar) and NLRF (Nepal), with 100 copies each country*
 - *Issue paper printed and uploaded in the AFA website in English version (500 copies), distributed during the World Forestry Congress at Durban, South Africa (September); CFS meeting in Rome, Italy (October); GAFSP country meetings in Nepal (November), Bhutan (December); High Level Policy Dialogue on Investments for Agriculture Research and Development organized by APAARI (December); WEF in Davos, Switzerland (Jan 2016)*
 - *Issue paper translated in 10 national languages (of Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Nepal, Bangladesh, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia) , with 200 copies each country, distributed to their leaders*
 - *Bookmark on key message of Asian forest and farm producers (200 copies) distributed during the World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa and in the CFS meeting in Rome, Italy.*
- What has been the number and frequency of information sharing events between producer organizations from different countries within FFF? (Indicator 4.2.2).

Four regional /global events. First, the ASFN meeting last June 2015. Second, the Regional Knowledge Sharing and Learning workshop was conducted in August participated by 16 members from 12 countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam plus regional and international partners of AFA that includes AsiaDHRRA, NTFP-EP, RECOFTC and local CSOs in Myanmar, research institution and academe. In this consultation, results from seven national consultations were presented and discussed. Other countries shared also their initiatives on social forestry

management and forest-based sustainable enterprises. In addition, CSO partners and networks shared also their initiatives and programs on forestry management related concerns. Third, the WFC in September 2015. Fourth, a strategic planning exercise conducted last December 2015 where AFA members shared their strengths, aspirations, and plans.

Two AFA Execom meetings – one in August, one in December. See Annex 9 for Secretariat Updates.

Several email exchanges, website news. AFA website news on farmers in forested landscapes can be seen with these links :

<http://asianfarmers.org/?p=4269>

<http://asianfarmers.org/?p=4187>

Learning so far

- Is there a regular and effective communication between producer groups and international institutions both within and beyond FFF? (Reflective question 4.4)

AFA regularly sends out email and e-bulletin alerts to members and partners; and sometimes does skype meetings. Sometimes it takes a long time to wait for response to an email message because the member is out in the field. So we have to get their mobile numbers, and also call the office to alert the member of an urgent message.

AFA secretariat serves as communication channel of information for its members. AFA secretariat is usually copied of mails between members. AFA secretariat can forward mails from another member or development partner (e.g. FFF). Both AFA secretariat and members have regular communication with partner international institutions.

Other relevant materials are posted at the AFA website: www.asianfarmers.org

- What kind of information sharing, and exchange between countries is most useful to producer organizations (Reflective question 4.5)

AFA regularly organizes a regional knowledge sharing and learning session where members share their experiences, challenges and opportunities as well as lessons and insights. This type of information sharing has helped them learn, innovate further and strengthen cooperation and solidarity among themselves. This is also an opportunity where they are able to establish and expand partners and contacts that can be of help in the future. AFA conducts learning exchange visits and field trips as a strategy for knowledge-experiential sharing where the host organization can share best practices while visiting organizations learn from their experiences where they can practice or further innovate/improve of existing initiatives.

In the last regional sharing workshop on forest farmers in forested landscapes, they learned a lot since this was the first time AFA has engaged in the forest sector. Members appreciated the discussions and learned from different presentations from resource persons and partners. See below some of their insights, learnings and areas of interests:

- *API, Indonesia: Up-scaling and capability building for forest community and push the government to implement the pro-people policies related to land and forestry*
 - *PAKISAMA, Philippines: Different types of rights of forest peoples (user rights, access rights, etc*
 - *SKP, Thailand: Learn what other members did to protect the forest*
 - *FNN/FWN, Cambodia: Learned about challenges of forestry communities in Asia and farmers who live their lives based on forest products*
 - *VNFU, Vietnam: Forestry management*
 - *NLRF/CTCF, Nepal: 1) Emphasis needs to include in the concept that forest does not only mean timber, but also means non-timber based products that can improve the life standards of people; 2) To implement laws, we forest farmers, do not only need to educate/train people living in the community forests, but trainings/education should also be provided to government*
 - *KKM, Bangladesh: Marketing initiatives taken by ASFN*
 - *UWUA, Kyrgyzstan: VGGT as a guide to Social Forestry Management*
 - *NAMAC, Mongolia: Important learning – non-timber forest products presentation. It is important for us the value-addition to NTFP*
 - *TDFA / TWADA, Taiwan: on forestry management "Keep sustainable forestry!!*
 - *Ainokai, Japan: There are so many cases of community forest learnings and keenly aware of the difficulty of communicating it to members*
- How can priorities be established and shared to help guide decision-making on where to invest time and resources? (Reflective question 4.6)

There must be workshops held for identifying policy issues, policy priorities and strategies for advocacy. A strategic plan, or an advocacy plan, should be formulated. For example, the regional consultation came up with the policy and program agenda in support of forest farmers in forested landscape. It discussed the situation of forest sector, issues and challenges of forest farm producers as well as recommendations at the national and regional level.

Proposed changes

- Based on the learning so far, are there any changes you would propose for FFF-supported activities in the future?

Based on the results of the consultations, issues and challenges were discussed as well as action plan identified. It would be good if there were support for the implementation of these plans. Specifically at the producers' organizations level, there were new ideas; lessons learned from the sharing, which they think, would help in innovating further their existing initiatives. Additional support also in pushing for lobbying and policy advocacy to present the agenda and recommendations will be very helpful.

Documentation

[Please provide a rolling list of any document, published or unpublished (including minutes of meetings),– using the format described below. Please include copies of these documents just for the year in question in annexes

- AFA. 2015. Proceedings of the Regional Sharing Workshop: Building Our Agenda for Farmers in Forested Landscapes, held last August 2-3 2015. Available at www.asianfarmers.org
- AFA. 2015. Issue Paper. Seeing the Forests and the Farms Together: Promoting the Rights and Livelihoods of Forest and Farm Producers in Asia. Available at www.asianfarmers.org
- AFA. 2015. Issue Paper translated in 10 local languages.
 - API. 2015. Issue Paper in Bahasa
 - FNN. 2015. Issue Paper in Khmer
 - PAKISAMA. 2015. Issue Paper in Tagalog
 - VNFU. 2015. Issue Paper in Vietnamese
 - SORKORPOR. 2015. Issue Paper in Thai
 - NAMAC. 2015. Issue Paper in Mongol
 - AFFM. 2015. Issue Paper in Burmese (still waiting e-copy from AFFM)
 - KKM. 2015. Issue Paper in Bangla
 - NLRF. 2015. Issue Paper in Nepalese
 - UWUA. 2015. Issue Paper in Kyrgyz

Insert case studies, briefings, newsletters and/or meeting reports as annexes

List of Annexes:

Annex 1	Township/District level consultation Reports
Annex 1a	Vietnam
Annex 1b	Nepal (including village level consultation)
Annex 1c	Myanmar
Annex 2	National Consultation Reports
Annex 2a	Indonesia – API
Annex 2b	Nepal – NLRF
Annex 2c	Mongolia - NAMAC
Annex 2d	Cambodia – FNN
Annex 2e	Vietnam – VNFU
Annex 2f	Philippines - PAKISAMA
Annex 2g	Myanmar – AFFM
Annex 3	Policy Declarations
Annex 3a	Philippines- PAKISAMA
Annex 3b	Nepal-NLRF
Annex 3c	Mongolia

Annex 4	Proceedings of Regional Consultation
Annex 5	AFA Issue Paper. Seeing the Forests and the Farms Together: Promoting the Rights and Livelihoods of Forest and Farm Producers in Asia. <u>English version</u>
Annex 6	Translation of Issue Paper in Ten Languages
Annex 6a	Issue Paper in Bahasa
Annex 6b	Issue Paper in Khmer
Annex 6c	Issue Paper in Tagalog
Annex 6d	Issue Paper in Vietnamese
Annex 6e	Issue Paper in Thai
Annex 6f	Issue Paper in Mongolia
Annex 6g	Issue Paper in Burmese (still waiting e-copy from AFFM)
Annex 6h	Issue Paper in Bangla
Annex 6i	Issue Paper in Nepalese
Annex 6j	Issue Paper in Kyrgyz
Annex 7	Book mark on Forestry
Annex 8	Country Brochures/Leaflets
Annex 8a	Myanmar –AFFM
Annex 8b	Myanmar-NLRF
Annex 9	Reports to AFA Execom
Annex 9a	Secretariat Updates to Execom August 2015-Summary
Annex 9b	Secretariat Updates to Execom August 2015-Details
Annex 9c	Secretariat Updates to Execom December 2015