

National Dialogue on Sustainable Wood Energy and Forest Landscape Restoration in Ghana

# The potential of Forest and Farm Producer Organizations (FFPOs) in Forest Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Forest based value chains. Experiences of FFF in Ghana

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# Forest and Farm Facility Phase II 2018 -2022

## Forest and Farm Producer Organizations as agents for change for Climate Resilient Landscapes and Improved Livelihoods

A Partnership between FAO, IIED, IUCN and AgriCord

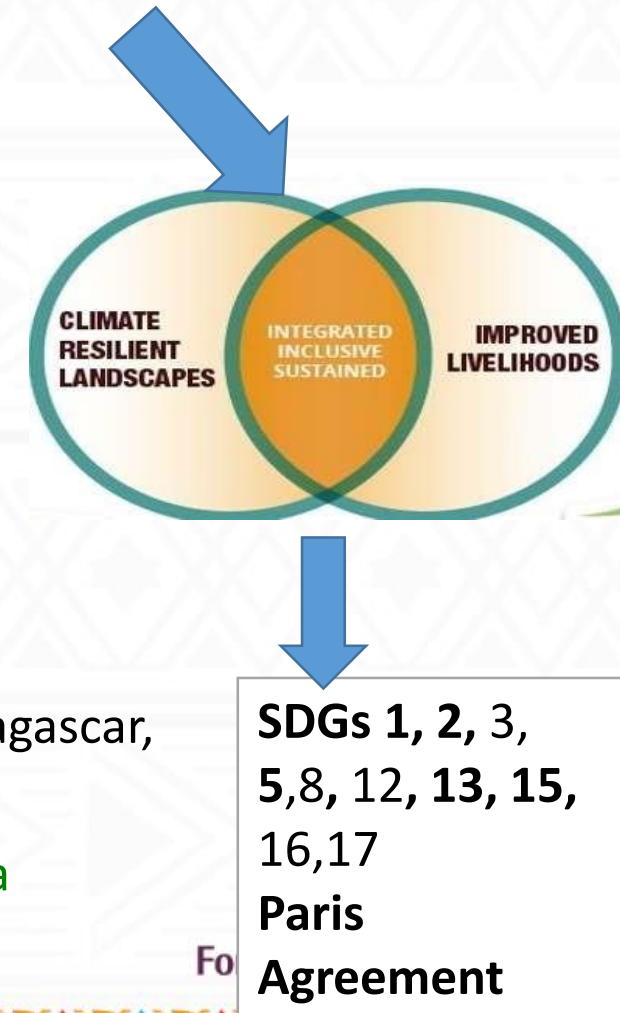
Funded by Sweden, Germany, Finland, Netherlands , EU-FAO-FLEGT and IKEA

FFF's approach focuses on integrated landscapes at significant scale which translates in

4 FFPO centered Outcomes:

1. **Ensure enabling policies & strong institutions**
2. **Inclusive value chains, business incubation, >investment & finance**
3. **Climate resilience**
4. **Social and cultural services**

- **Core countries:** Vietnam, Nepal, Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Togo, Madagascar, Tanzania
- **Network countries:** Indonesia, Myanmar, Liberia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Nicaragua





# Forests, trees and family farms *together* form multifunction productive landscapes –Forest and Farm Producer Organizations are key actors to ensure the Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

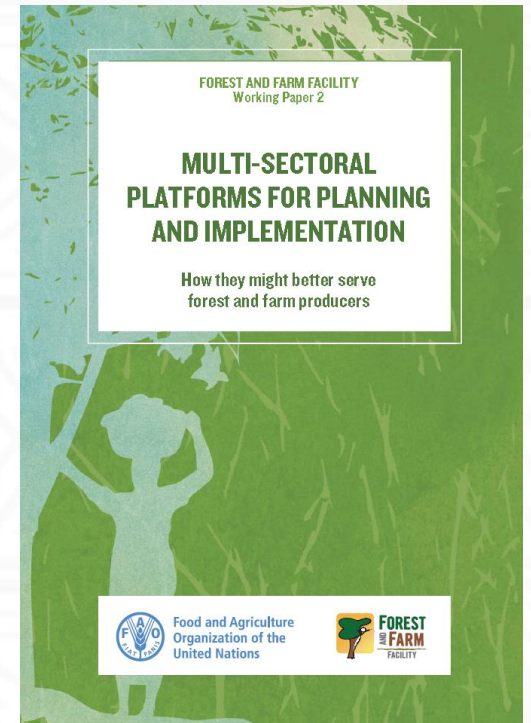
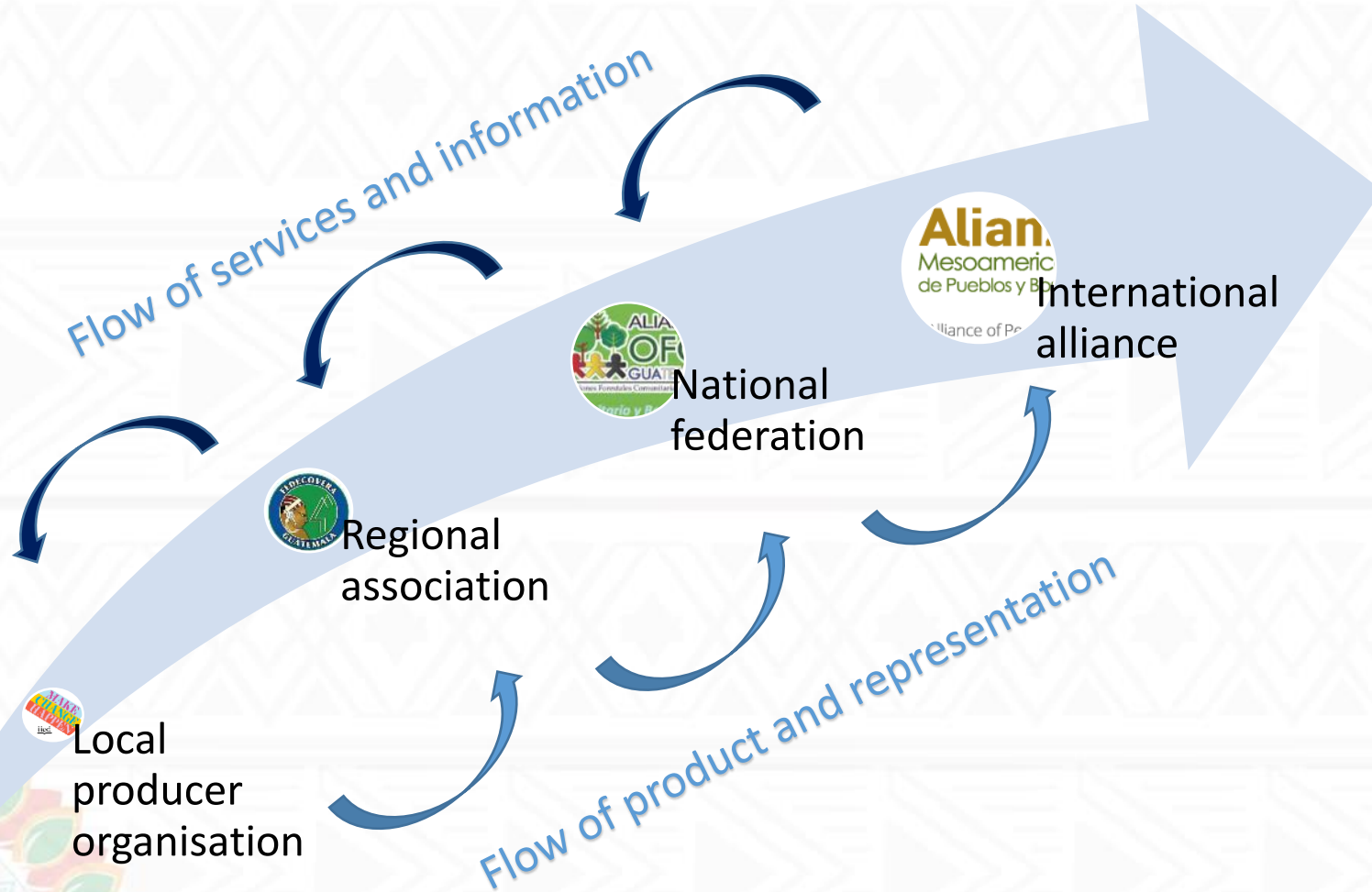




# Organisations unleashes their potential at scale



# FFPOs use strength in numbers to influence policy





# FFF PHASE II - How are we working?

## Stronger focus on:

- Youth involvement- to counter rural migration
- **Mainstreaming gender equality**

## Key approaches:

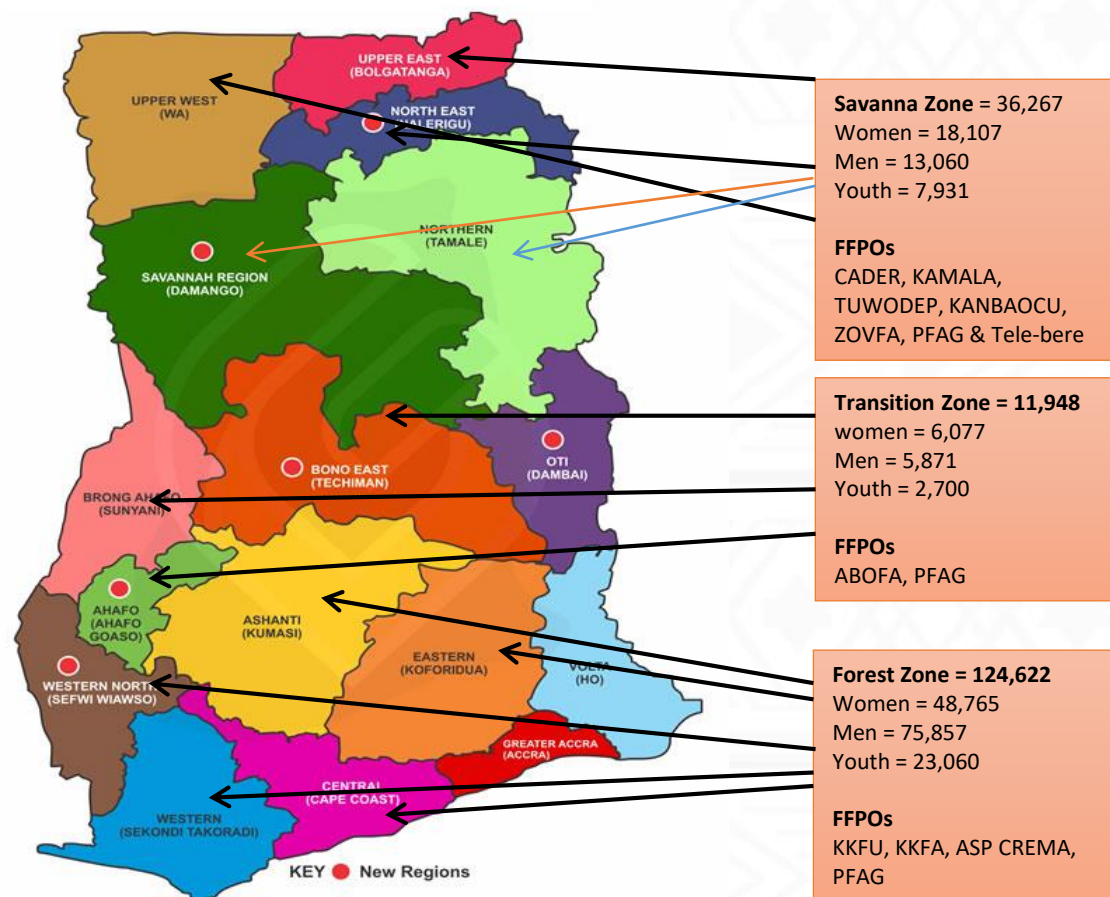
- Direct financial support to FFPOs and other partners
- Capacity support, peer-to-peer learning, exchange visits
- Value chain focus and Business incubation services within FFPOs
- Leveraging and linking FFPOs to other major initiatives
- Cross-sectoral processes and partnerships
- Support to national and subnational FFPO communication strategies
- Monitoring and Learning framework – systematic tracking indicators

# FFF's work on sustainable woodfuel value chains with Producer Organizations in Africa

- Kenya:
  - Strengthening the National charcoal association, which is now a member of FF-SPAK
  - In collaboration with the Njandarua treegrowers association: farmer-led inventory of trees, including potential for woodfuel
  - Challenge: charcoal ban for production and commercialization continues
- Liberia:
  - Strengthening of the National Charcoal Association NACUL
- Zambia:
  - Collaboration with the FD of Zambia to strengthen the Charcoal Association of Choma, develop a participatory guarantee system for sustainable charcoal production and support charcoal producers with study circles.
- Ghana:
  - strengthening the formation of national charcoal association
- **Regional Exchanges** between different experiences of FFPOs involved in charcoal VC, government, research, service providers, private sector, etc.



# OVERVIEW of FFF Support in Ghana



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# FFF Ghana & the bioenergy and the FLR Context

- FFF Outcome 3: **Improved delivery of landscape scale mitigation, adaptation and climate resilience** through direct engagement of FFPOs and integration with inclusive livelihood approaches



- Charcoal and firewood is the main cooking energy source of rural and peri-urban households in Ghana – integral to the Ghana economy
- No organized charcoal producer organizations in Ghana (charcoal traders association however exist)
- No regulatory framework on charcoal & woodfuel production in Ghana
- Govt relatively low revenue share due the non organized nature of the producers
- Charcoal & woodfuel production have a direct impact on forest landscape & need sustainable initiatives

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# The Production Chain of Charcoal – driving deforestation



Inefficiency



Sustainability –  
Producers & FLR

Disconnect –  
traders & FLR



Producers  
missing link



High wood mass  
Low product value

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# Unique Approach of FFF Support in Ghana

- Direct support to producers through FFPOs = providing funding to the actors themselves rather than through intermediaries
- Support to built the internal democracy of FFPOs (autonomous organizations) to address the priority needs of their members (smallholder farmers)
- Support for FFPOs to engage in advocacy that ensure their members benefit from existing policy/legal opportunities and address policy/legal barriers affecting them
- Provide business devt and business incubation capacity that ensure FLR and sustainable production landscapes
- Support FFPOs to develop and provide social and cultural services to their members



# Mobilization of Charcoal Producers into Association



- Mobilization producers into grassroot-zonal-national associations -**269 charcoal producers (101 women and 168 men) in 7 forest districts** across the transition and savanna ecological zones of Ghana
- A database of these producers is being compiled
- Challenges & opportunities for the charcoal producers is being compiled through meetings organized
- Training has also been initiated on sustainable charcoal production as an initial strategy to create environmental awareness
- Partnership with the FC for support with tree seedlings has been initiated through the REDD+ Directorate



# Key Issues from Initial Scoping



- Lack of clarity on tenure and user rights to land and resources, including trees.
- Inefficient methods of production resulting in larger wood mass for lesser charcoal production.
- The government of Ghana loses potential revenue from the charcoal trade - because most producers and traders are not mobilized in groups and difficult to track the trade flow for the required levies/taxes.
- Current charcoal value- chain management has driven some charcoal producers into the black economy – where they try to avoid being identified, they trade illegally and offer low prices compared to the market value in order to meet their basic financial needs.



# Changing the deforestation dynamics

- Firewood and charcoal is, remain and will continue to be a major source of energy, livelihood and relevant part of Ghana's economy
- How do charcoal production become a driver of FLR & sustainable landscapes instead of driver of deforestation???
- How do charcoal producers become agents of FLR and building resilient landscapes instead of agents of deforestation???
- Key to FFF support is to build strong forest and farm producer organization and their businesses that promotes sustainable and resilient production landscapes
- FFF sees forest and farm producers organizations (FFPOs) and their members as critical agents of FLR and building climate resilient landscapes



# FFF Ghana - Targeted Impact

## Strength in Numbers of Charcoal Producers

Charcoal Producers Associations in the forest, transition and savanna zones

National Apex Charcoal Producers Association partnering with government and contributing to national policy



## Strength in Business Collectively of Charcoal Producers

Strong sustainable Charcoal Production businesses that show evidence of landscape restoration in the ecological zones

National Apex Charcoal Producers Association build a Sustainable Charcoal brand as an emerging choice for domestic and international markets & improve govt revenue mobilization



## Strength in Climate Resilience and Forest Landscape Restoration Collectively

Improved vegetation cover in charcoal production landscapes

National Apex Charcoal Producers Association contributing to ongoing national climate change and landscape restoration activities

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# Key role of women in use of Charcoal VC

- Women are key in the charcoal value chain in Ghana – production to trade
- Women are the focus in the mobilization of charcoal producer associations supported by FFF
- The current numbers mobilized includes about 50% women
- Women apart from trade in the domestic market also are the key actors in domestic uses of charcoal
- Women capture relatively low share in the bulk trade of charcoal
- FFF support will target to support women play critical role in sustainable charcoal production & trade high up the value chain



# Conclusion



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