

Declaration

Strengthening Forest and Farm Producer Organizations in a changing climate

FFPOs exchanging experiences on business, innovation, youth and gender

**2nd African Regional Conference of Forest and Farm Producer Organizations,
Tanzania, Morogoro, 28th -29th September 2017**

Generously hosted by MVIWATA the national network of farmers groups and
the Tanzania Tree Growers' Associations Union

Co-organizers: FAO, FFF, IFFA, We Effect, MTK/FFD, FF-SPAK, NGARA, AFECONET,
African Union Commission and sponsors/donors

**We the participants of the Forest and Farm Producer Organizations
Exchange Forum at our 2nd African meeting on 28-29th September 2017**

- **RECOGNIZING** the key role of forest and farm producer organizations within the policy, legal and institutional frameworks needed to plant, care, protect and market our family forest and farm products as significantly contributing to the broader sustainable development agenda as identified in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs);
- **RECOGNIZING** that secure land tenure (including forest land), 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 are indispensable pillars for an enabling environment for the success of forest and farm producer organizations;
- **RECOGNIZING** the serious climate change threats to our lives as well as the large-scale climate change mitigation and adaptation functions that forest and farm producer groups can provide through the interlinkage between trees and food production, recovering the forest/agricultural landscape, promoting ecosystem services, and improving livelihoods and sustainable land management through locally controlled forestry and farming;



We commit to the following actions, we will:

- Expand our membership and strengthen our capacities, with emphasis in improved data on our forests and trees and management activities, thereby enhancing respect and legitimacy for our associations;
- Ensure the full inclusion of women, youth and indigenous peoples in the forest and farm sector;
- Provide leadership (men and women) of high character and organisations with good governance that is democratic, transparent and well-managed;
- Promote trees as an asset with a broad spectrum of forest products including non-timber products and wood energy, employ agro-forestry practices where appropriate, increase capacity, and add value to products and services along the value chain;
- Increase collaboration with informal and formal, existing or new networks at the national, regional and global levels;

We call on our governments to:

- Recognize the importance of and facilitate financing including climate related financing for tree growing and use in sustainable forest and farm management by smallholders and their producer organizations to enhance rural livelihoods and enterprises, as well their contribution to national economies;
- Reduce legal barriers for commercial and sustainable use of forests and trees and non-wood products by smallholders;
- Do everything possible to improve land access and to strengthen land tenure legislation that incentivizes tree growing and sustainable forest and farm management;
- Promote and ensure widespread acceptance that trees are an asset both in the growth and use of wood from sustainable forests as well as a prime contributor climate change action;
- See the initiatives of all participating Forest and Farm Producer Organisations as promising efforts to contribute to the restoration of forest and farm landscape for the benefit of people as a source of income and as positive for the environment;

We call on our regional and global partner organizations to:

- Strengthen national, regional and international cooperation between forest and farm producer organizations; and
- Meet again in a similar African regional context within 2-3 years to measure achievements and track progress in relation to the SDGs.