



Webinar: NON- TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS AND THEIR VALUE CHAINS

May 31st, 2023, 15:30-17:30 CEST, Zoom

This webinar is part of the series of Webinars on European Green Deal - Greening EU cooperation (Environment and Climate Change), offered by the European Commission's Directorate General for International Partnership (DG INTPA).

The webinar was organised by INTPA F2/Forest Sector with the support of the Forests for the Future Facility (F4).

Questions and comments posted in the chat and verbally

N	Question/Comment	Response
1	<p>Q :</p> <p>In the case of a pulp mill from bamboo, when bamboo is planted in an agricultural area for that purpose, is that considered as agricultural activity or forest activity?</p>	<p>This depends on the definitions used in the country concerned. Some countries (e.g. China) consider this as forestry.</p> <p>The FAO defines a forest as: <i>Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.</i></p> <p>So, if the land is predominantly under agricultural use, FAO would consider it as an agricultural activity. Natural bamboo grows mostly on forest land and often mixed with trees. We would consider this as a forest-based value chain, also as the pulp mill might use wood-based fibres as well.</p> <p>Note that bamboo-based pulping tends to have relatively polluting technologies, whereas modern wood-based pulp mills are much less polluting.</p>

N	Question/Comment	Response
2	<p>Q :</p> <p>In Papua New Guinea we have a nexus of forestry, climate change and biodiversity, the programme is implemented by the FAO and Expertise France. In a remote country like PNG, how to attract the private sector?</p>	<p>In less populated countries, the number of private sector companies is often limited. However, when analysing the value chain and the markets, one will find the processors and buyers of the products. Contacting the chamber of commerce and business associations (if existent) may also provide useful information, contacts, or entry points. Exchanges with the buyers and processors will often disclose their strategy and ambitions as well as the bottlenecks they encounter with sourcing. This exchange can be the starting point for a joint action plan to address bottlenecks and grasp opportunities. At a certain point, it will be negotiated who can bring what to the table for the implementation. The private international investors have different investment strategies. All of them need long term profits with reasonable risks and sufficient scale. Impact investors want to secure the desired climate, environmental or development impacts, strategic investors (building supply chains) need to secure the expansion of value chains. To attract investors, studies of different value chains that consider risk profiles and scalability will help. All actions aimed at creating a conducive business environment (legal framework, reliable utilities, transport, affordable finance, etc) are important.</p>

N	Question/Comment	Response
3	<p>Q :</p> <p>Is there any EU support foreseen to the Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) ?</p>	<p>INTPA F2 and the Forests for the Future Facility have prepared 35 country fiches with a succinct analysis of the wood, non-wood and other (e.g. tourism) value chains, trends and opportunities. For the Forest Partnership countries (now five, seven by end of 2023), a 25 MEUR programme will soon become available to support the implementation of the Forest Partnerships, and to strengthen governance and value chains. In addition, the F4 Facility can assist with analysing value chains of both non-wood and wood. Another role the EU could play is in supporting improvement of forest governance, land tenure and user rights, or the regulatory framework for NTFPs.</p> <p>NTFPs are an integral part of the Forest Partnerships and the workstreams. E.g. honey in Zambia, Uganda and pine resin in Uganda are potential NTFP value chains for support. In several countries, the EU supports NTFPs value chains, such as the charcoal sector in East Africa, honey in Suriname (training of beekeepers through GCCA+ projects), and the value chain of Xate ornamental leaves in Guatemala. The Sustainable Wildlife Management (SWM) programme, which operates in 15 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (including Gabon, Guyana, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Zambia) also aims to improve wildlife conservation and food security, and livelihoods of local populations.</p>
4	<p>Q :</p> <p>What happens to those products that do not have a market potential?</p>	<p>Value chain development and support should focus on products that actually have markets: local, regional or international. Forests have several NTFPs that are seldom collected and are left to the forests. With product research and development, some of these products might have new uses and markets. From experience, we know that there are always new uses that emerge, e.g. some countries have discovered new international markets (e.g. recyclable packaging) for mushrooms that did not have any local use. Some markets are niches that can only absorb relatively low volumes of raw material, but the products might have high unit prices, such as NTFPs used for medicines and cosmetic products.</p>

N	Question/Comment	Response
5	<p>C:</p> <p>In Ghana, charcoal has been used since many years. Ghana is a major producer of charcoal, especially in the border zone between savannah and forest for domestic market and even export. Until 5 years ago, the government used to push LPG with subsidies, which worked for a while. But when it stopped the subsidies, the LPG price went up and people went back to using more affordable charcoal. Woodlots to produce charcoal need attention.</p>	<p>In my country, due to hydro power electricity black outs, people also turned back to charcoal. Since transition to cleaner energy sources has remained elusive, in the short and medium term we need to make the charcoal value chains more sustainable, while working on affordable and appropriate alternatives.</p> <p>This can be achieved by improving charcoal feedstock sourcing (for instance through agro-forestry woodlots and assisted natural regeneration) and improving carbonization efficiency, so as to reduce the number of trees / amount of feedstock required.</p>
6	<p>Q :</p> <p>In the charcoal sector, which is largely an informal sector, are producers somehow organised? And what is the potential for producer or sector organisations to play a role in the transition to greener and sustainable charcoal?</p>	<p>First of all, there should be an appropriate legal framework.</p> <p>For instance, in Kenya, based on the Charcoal Rules of 2009, all producers should be members of a registered association. In practice, only a few have done so. If charcoal is branded and traceable, it becomes easier to develop more efficient production, marketing systems and compliance mechanisms.</p> <p>In different countries, associations of charcoal producers and other stakeholders exist.</p>

N	Question/Comment	Response
7	<p>Q : Speaker Sola Phosiso mentioned that regional interventions and alignment are needed. In the East African charcoal sector, what could regional interventions look like?</p>	<p>Charcoal is a globally traded good, cross borders as far as the Gulf States and even Europe. Several initiatives have been mooted already by African Union and Regional Economic Communities to regulate this value chain but no implementation. These initiatives focus a lot on developing standards, regulating trade, improving production systems, and managing the production basis. For instance, a ban in one country can shift production to another, and most often one that does not have capacity to regulate and enforce compliance, resulting in further degradation and deforestation of supply basin. This is what happened between Kenya and Uganda, after Kenya imposed a ban on charcoal but allowed imports. Although in this case Uganda tightened control, and thus charcoal came from even further afield - from South Sudan and DRC, most went underground. Such challenges can only be tackled at regional and continental level.</p>
8	<p>Q : To Marie Veyrier: the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) has been very successful, attracting many members and with a private sector engaging and investing in value chains. What have been the success factors of the Global Shea Alliance? How to get private sector on board? Do you have tips for other NTFPs?</p>	<p>Some key aspects of setting up a sector association include: multistakeholder engagement and strong governance mechanisms to ensure a collective strategy that benefits the entire sector, development of services for members, investment into a secretariat to have capacity to implement services.</p> <p>To facilitate private sector investment, start defining a co-investment model (who pay for what, what are the goals and the benefit of the partnership etc.). E.g. a company and donor project sharing costs of an innovation. This model can be piloted before scaling-up. Ideally, the partnership switches from a CSR project to being embedded within sourcing strategy of the buyer company, in which a long-term business relationship is created between cooperatives and private sector, thus ensuring sustainability upon project exit.</p>

N	Question/Comment	Response
9	<p>Q :</p> <p>Côte d'Ivoire also has shea and we (EUD) support a project implemented by Nitidae, which has a component where female shea producers are supported. Is the Global Shea Alliance involved in this project? And how can we make the support more sustainable (beyond the end of the project)? Could we arrange a meeting with GSA in Côte d'Ivoire?</p>	<p>Nitidae is a member of the Global Shea Alliance.</p> <p>The GSA organizes its annual conference in Abidjan from June 12-14 and is happy to meet and discuss further.</p>

The presentations and other relevant materials are available on the Cap4Dev platform [here](#).