



RESEARCH
PROGRAM ON
Forests, Trees and
Agroforestry

2012
ANNUAL REPORT

Forests, Trees and Agroforestry







Key Messages

In this section, we provide a synthesis of the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (CRP-FTA known internally and previously as CRP6), progress and the implementation challenges we have faced, our two greatest success stories for 2012, and an overview of our financial status. Abbreviations and references are listed at the end.

Progress and challenges

CRP-FTA aims to enhance the management and use of forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources across the landscape from forests to farms. Research investments under this program contribute to all four System Level Outcomes (SLOs), primarily to poverty reduction (SLO1) and to improved management of natural resources (SLO4).

2012 marked the program's first full year of implementation. Progress toward achieving outputs is encouraging with 72% of research milestones planned for 2012 completed (27% in progress, 1% uncompleted).

We have achieved some important 'firsts':

- launching the CRP-FTA gender strategy;
- completing the CRP-FTA monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment (MEIA) strategy;
- selecting priority 'sentinel landscapes';
- rolling out a competitive internal budget allocation process to stimulate increased cross-center and cross-theme synergies.

Measurable progress has been made toward achieving program outcomes, such as an analysis of patterns and drivers of tree cover change, and the collation and processing of existing data sets and information for four sentinel landscapes. These advances are described more fully in Section C.

The formation of cohesive, collaborative thematic research teams has been instrumental to the program's success in 2012. A number of impact assessments have been conducted and will inform future research investments, both to build on the 'hits' and to learn from the 'misses'.

The most significant programmatic challenges relate to ongoing uncertainty regarding CRP-FTA core funding, and the knock-on effects for successfully planning and implementing multi-year research.

The positioning of policy-oriented and natural resource management (NRM) research within the CGIAR results framework remains a challenge. It is difficult to accommodate the complexity of this research within a framework designed for more linear-based commodity research impact pathways.

Success stories

Getting to impact

In 2012, CRP-FTA (under Theme 1) mounted two key impact studies that showed the effectiveness of rural resource centers (RRCs) in promoting adoption of high-value trees in Cameroon and the positive impact of farmer-managed natural regeneration (FMNR) of trees in the Sahel on rural livelihoods.

In Cameroon, we found that RRCs (a CRP-FTA innovation in seed and seedling delivery) led to more people being aware of agroforestry options (71% in villages with RRCs *cf.* 52% in those without) and the proportion of people planting high-value trees more than doubling (37% *cf.* 17%). Adopters were mainly married, male-headed households and many more men planted improved trees (30% men *cf.* 18% women), pinpointing new areas of research required to improve the inclusiveness of this approach.

In the Sahel, there is widespread increase in tree cover from farmers encouraging natural regeneration, with over 5 million ha impacting 2.5 million people in Southern Niger alone. While it was assumed that the trees improve crop yields and household income, our CRP-FTA impact study was the first robust attempt to quantify benefits through surveys across four countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Senegal).

Overall, we found a positive effect of trees on crop yield across the Sahel of typically 15% to 30% under a typical canopy of mature trees, which provide soil benefits. Impact depended on location, tree species and crop type. Trees were a significant source of household livelihood (typically US\$200 p.a.) despite only 10–25% of harvested products being sold, which suggests they play significant, non-monetary roles in rural livelihoods.

Bringing science to the policy table

Forest Day 6, organized by CIFOR on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, was held on the sidelines of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP). ICRAF, CIAT and Bioversity played major roles in the program. The meeting was a key vehicle for informing UNFCCC negotiators and others about the latest CRP-FTA climate change research.

703 people from 80 countries attended Forest Day 6, including 241 UNFCCC negotiators. Hundreds more followed online via a live video feed. A participant survey found that 82% agreed it had been "important" or "very important" for informing UNFCCC COP talks. 83% agreed that the conference had an "important" or "very important" influence on the formulation of new government policies.

The Indonesian Government used CRP-FTA research to inform stakeholders on the sidelines of the UNFCCC COP. Government representatives drew from a package of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks) videos, photos and stories produced to complement earlier CIFOR-led training sessions. These sessions gave rise to significant growth in the REDD+ Indonesia website (46 000+ visitors, 28 000+ publications downloaded and 4000+ readership of its monthly eNews).

The Global Comparative Study on REDD+ – a major international collaboration led by CIFOR that brings together 46 partners in 12 countries – published a summary of its Phase 1 findings. The book, *Analysing REDD+: Challenges and choices*, was released at the Rio+20 meeting. From Jun to Dec 2012, it had been downloaded more than 62 000 times according to AWStat, which includes indexing by online search engines.

Financial summary

In 2012, CRP-FTA’s total expenditure was US\$74.04m for the four partner centers (CIFOR, ICRAF, Bioversity and CIAT). This represents 101% compliance against the approved CRP-FTA budget of US\$73.10m.

Of the reported expenditure, US\$29.39m was from Window 1/Window 2 funds¹ (approved budget US\$27.94m), US\$1.34m from Window 3 funds, US\$40.77m from bilateral funds, and US\$2.54m from center funds (operational plan for these funds in aggregate was US\$45.10m). Personnel accounted for 40%, Supplies and Services 31%, Collaboration 17%, Travel 10% and Depreciation 2% of costs.

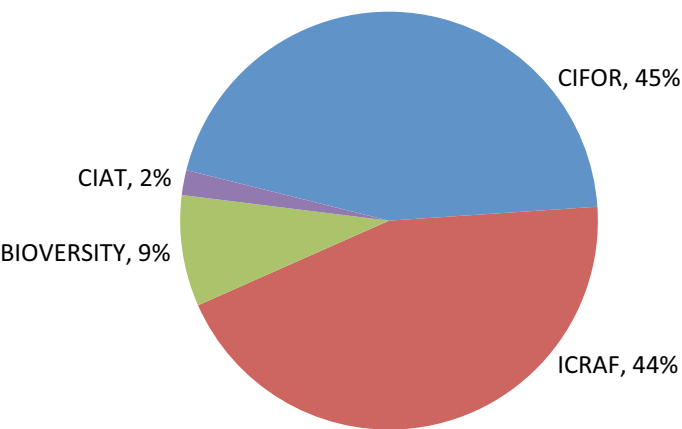


Figure 1. CRP-FTA expenditure by center (%)

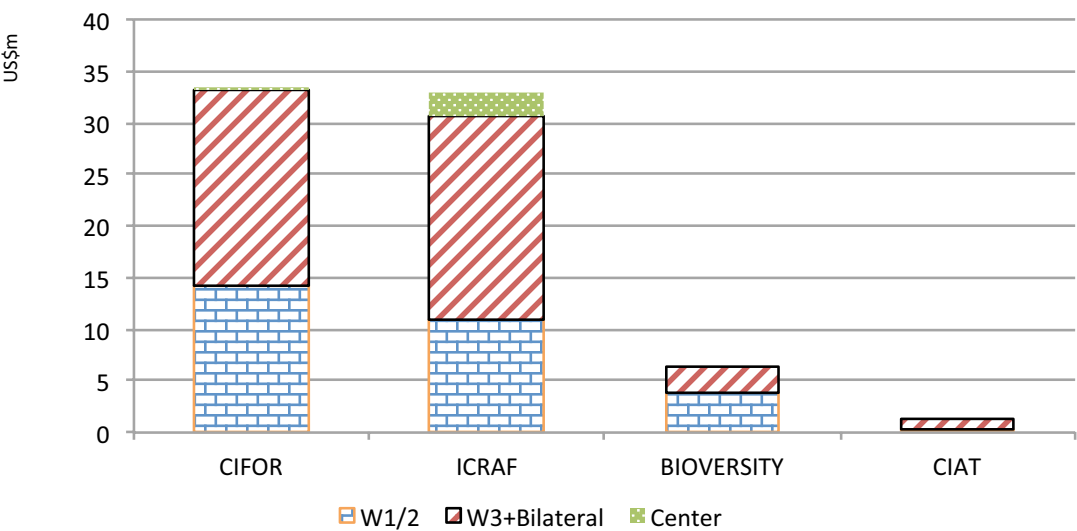


Figure 2. CRP-FTA expenditure by center and window (US\$)





Impact Pathway and Intermediate Development Outcomes (IDOs)

The theories of change underlying CRP-FTA, and associated impact pathways, recognize both the policy-oriented and smallholder foci of this research. Their elaboration across the CRP-FTA portfolio was a major focus in 2012, together with working closely with other CRPs through the NRM Impact Evaluation Community of Practice.²

In 2012, we significantly advanced our articulation of IDOs, showing how CRP-FTA research contributes to these and, through them, to SLOs. We have developed an interactive online model³ to represent and visualize these relationships. The model schematically represents the main research outputs, and the pathways by which those outputs (and the process itself) influence partners and research users. In turn, these partners and users have influence at higher levels, and contribute to delivery of the IDOs.





Progress along the Impact Pathway

We focus here on our major achievements, outputs and outcomes for CRP-FTA's five core themes (T1–T5) and four cross-cutting themes (Sentinel Landscapes, Gender, MEIA and Communications). Gender is covered in the section below on "Gender Research Achievements". All highlights are detailed in CRP-FTA's draft progress report for Jan–Dec 2012 (Annex C to the full report).

Major achievements

Theme 1 – Production systems and markets

Further to the impact studies highlighted above as a CRP-FTA 'success story', we have focused on generating and delivering improved tree germplasm of high-value species in West Africa and India, and tree diversity in key landscapes across Africa, Asia and Latin America. Changes in knowledge, attitudes and behavior are evidenced in National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems (NARES) and NGO partners, such as in the uptake of high-value tree germplasm by farmers from RRCs in Cameroon and in the use of new tools, described below, in the Lake Tanganyika basin.

We analyzed nine forest product value chains across Africa and Asia with recommendations on how to improve rural livelihoods, including through greater market access for women, with respect to three non-timber forest products (NTFPs) in Africa. Sophisticated new tools that combine targeting degradation hotspots from satellite imagery, high-tech natural vegetation mapping and local knowledge of tree attributes are enabling partners to promote tree diversity to improve productivity and resilience of lives and landscapes. For example, our partners across three countries comprising the Lake Tanganyika basin have used these tools in the control of sediment flow to the lake while improving livelihoods. In 2012, in the DRC alone, 27 community nurseries were established in vulnerable parts of the catchment and over 1.5 million trees were planted, including 85 000 trees of 16 previously neglected native tree species. This is a major shift from the promotion of eucalyptus woodlots that preceded use of the CRP-FTA tools.

Theme 2 – Conservation and management

To date, our efforts have mostly focused on output delivery and on engagement with boundary partners in the research process to enhance the likelihood of adoption.

Key outputs have included syntheses of knowledge (e.g. a special issue of *Forest Ecology and Management*) and the thematic studies for FAO's *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*. The latter will provide a foundation for the first-ever global action plan for the conservation of the world's forest genetic resources.

Some outputs have focused on policy constraints and knowledge, notably on the definition of degraded lands and on mechanisms for cooperation between timber concessionaires and communities.

Progress in capacity development has been made through mentoring of students and fellows. In Swaziland, for example, a research fellow is mapping the distribution and conservation status of an important medicinal tree; another is evaluating forest genetic resources education. Further, our modules on forest genetic resources conservation and use have been used to train over 200 students and professionals.

Outcomes are emerging from projects that have been ongoing for five years or more, notably the United Nations Environment Programme – Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) co-funded project on conservation and improved use of fruit trees in Central Asia, which has led to farmers planting locally adapted varieties of fruit and nut trees on degraded land.

Theme 3 – Landscape management

Substantial progress has been made in research synthesis on aspects of landscape management, notably for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from oil palm and land-use change in Indonesia. Three paradigms – commodification, compensation and co-investment – are now recognized in part because of our synthesis of economic incentives to support environmental services.

We have articulated 12 hypotheses for CRP-FTA's sentinel landscapes (see 'Cross-cutting-theme – Sentinel landscapes' below) with respect to understanding patterns and drivers of forest transition. These hypotheses relate, for example, to temporal change, spatial patterns and institutional challenges at the forest/non-forest transition. Sentinel landscapes work will test the scope for using policy instruments (rules, incentives, suasion), which vary along the tree cover transition.

A stock-take of empirical evidence available for CRP-FTA's sentinel landscapes is well underway. The design of this cross-cutting theme will benefit significantly from our improved understanding of the spatial representativeness of the Poverty and Environment Network (PEN) data sets.

Theme 4 – Climate change adaptation and mitigation

We have made progress with reference emission levels (RELs), the performance baselines required to implement REDD. They are a significant technical hurdle for countries in developing REDD policies and measures. We have developed a stepwise approach based on elements of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) GHG inventories, integrating indicators of social and economic drivers of deforestation into models to predict deforestation.

The REL framework was accepted by the UNFCCC in Durban (Dec 2011). Throughout 2012, the stepwise approach was extended to the entire measurement, reporting and verification system. Ongoing research continues to build the evidence base for the practicability of this approach.



▲ Tea plantation workers, Halimun Salak National Park, West Java (Photo by Aulia Erlangga/CIFOR)

Our research complements CRP-CCAFS. We will use data sets from our respective work on oil palm in Sumatra, for example to produce a series of joint papers.

ICRAF's HQ is now equipped with a state-of-the-art tree-ring laboratory. This will enable us to produce empirical data sets and tools on, *inter alia*, past, current and future climate, climate reconstructions, and age dating and estimation of wood (carbon) production. The lab will also enable capacity development.

Theme 5 – Trade and investment

Our work has markedly improved understanding of the likely implications of biofuel policy for land use change with a focus on six countries, emphasizing that different pathways can be adopted for biofuel development from 1st to 2nd generation.

Our research on domestic and international timber markets is assessing compliance challenges for countries such as Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, Indonesia and Ecuador in satisfying market regulations adopted by the European Union for buying legal timber. Our findings have been disseminated to civil society and governments, and form part of Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) negotiations (except in Ecuador).

In Indonesia's East Kalimantan and Papua provinces, we are assessing the implications of large-scale land acquisition for fiber, food and fuel in the context of development plans to stimulate economic growth. Our work brings into sharp focus the trade-offs between growth and sustainability that these governments must reconcile.

Cross-cutting Theme – Sentinel landscapes

Our 'sentinel landscapes' theme emerged in response to the 2009 'Stripe review'.⁴ The report highlighted that CGIAR lacked common research instruments for enabling the collation of comparative results and the identification of cross-national patterns.

This cross-cutting theme has catalyzed more coordinated and collaborative research within the selected landscapes. We have worked closely with new research projects, such as the High Value Biocarbon Development project and the Agrarian Change project. 2012 saw new cross-theme activities on ecosystem services and certification.

The sentinel landscapes umbrella has stimulated critical review of the CRP-FTA framework, and provided a vehicle for partners to influence its agenda. We have markedly raised awareness of the benefits of data sharing and of 'high-value data sets'.

Cross-cutting Theme – MEIA

CRP-FTA's MEIA strategy outlines the approaches available to CRP-FTA for demonstrating progress toward outcomes and impacts.⁵ It is underpinned by the MEIA 2013–2015 Operational Plan.

The cross-center MEIA team contributed significantly to the development of CRP-FTA's IDOs, both through leadership roles and in working with theme leaders and others to design monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks at different levels.

Cross-cutting Theme – Communications

Across the board, CRP-FTA increased the scope of its communications in 2012, leading to a 15% increase in publication downloads and a 30% increase in pageviews of our websites. The number of people following the centers' news feeds nearly doubled, to 13 000 on Facebook and 18 000 on Twitter.

The focus of the online growth was via blogs: CIFOR wrote and posted 263 stories related to CRP-FTA; ICRAF posted 51 stories; Bioversity, 13; and CIAT, 14.

CRP-FTA presented its research at 18 international conferences. Two highlights were Forests: The 8th Roundtable at Rio + 20 and Forest Day 6, held in Durban at the

▼ Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono gives global policy address at CIFOR HQ in Bogor, Indonesia in June, 2012 (Photo by Dita Alangkara)



UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Conference of Parties. More than 700 people attended, and 83% of surveyed participants felt Forest Day had an 'important' or 'very important' influence in informing the formulation of new government policies.

Progress toward outputs

Research publications and new knowledge

We have published our research findings in a range of forms from peer-reviewed papers and technical reports, to synthesis books and online articles. Publishing our work in national languages has enabled greater access by key target audiences.

Notable examples of **peer-reviewed articles**, including three Special Issues:

- A major analysis of opportunities for forest tenure reforms to benefit smallholders published as a Special Issue of *Conservation and Society* comprising 11 articles⁶ (T1);
- A Special Issue of *Forest Ecology and Management* on multiple use of tropical production forests⁷ comprising 11 benchmark papers (T2);
- An analysis of smallholder agroforestry system contributions to the *circa situm* conservation of genetic resources in *Biodiversity Conservation*⁸ (T2);
- An analysis of the conditions for creating and sustaining collective action for securing property rights in production forest management in *International Forestry Review*⁹ (T2);
- A Special Issue of *Ecology and Society* on local, social and environmental impacts of biofuels¹⁰ (T5); and
- Analysis of women's participation in forest management in *Global Environmental Change*¹¹ (Gender).

Other publication types for 2012 include:

- **Technical reports** on nine key value chains for tree and forest products, including gender participation¹² (T1; Gender);
- Global **review** of tree impacts on below-ground diversity and soil health¹³ (T1);
- A global **primer** on tree domestication¹⁴ (T1);
- A **policy brief** on using volunteer farmer trainers to disseminate tree fodder options in East Africa¹⁵ (T1);
- CacaoNet Safe Movement **Guidelines** on CD (T2);
- **Strategic syntheses** on ecosystem services and the ways in which regulation, suasion and incentives can influence decision makers (T3);
- A **book**, *Analysing REDD+: Challenges and choices*, summarizing the first three years' work under CIFOR's Global Comparative Study on REDD+ (T4);
- **Scoping papers** on synergies between adaptation and mitigation to climate change (T4);
- A **series** on high carbon stock, pro-poor rural development pathways and low carbon development pathways (T4);
- Country **assessments** on domestic timber markets in Cameroon, Gabon, DRC, Indonesia and Ecuador (T5);
- **Options** for improved policies and regulations for more responsible large-scale investments¹⁶ (T5);
- A **synthesis** of knowledge related to the different dimensions of biofuel development¹⁷ (T5);
- **Occasional papers** reviewing approaches, resources and methods for addressing gender¹⁸ (Gender); and
- A gender-based **assessment** of NTFP-based trade in Africa, Asia and Latin America (Gender).

Better materials, methods and tools

The development and refinement of materials, methods and tools is a core feature of our work. We list some examples that demonstrate our progress in this arena:

- Methods and tools for acquiring local knowledge about tree attributes for a wide range of species^{19,20} (T1);
- New propagation methods for several high-value tree species in Africa, including *Dacryodes edulis* and *Allanblackia floribunda*²¹, and improved germplasm of Sahelian parkland tree species²² (T1);
- Community-based conservation actions or principles for safeguarding fruit tree diversity (South/Southeast Asia) (T2);
- In-depth analysis of patterns and drivers of tree cover change (T3);
- Resolution of technical obstacles to carbon measurement in REDD (T4);
- Assessment of approaches to implementing Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade principles (T5);
- Sustainability criteria for biofuels development²³ (T5);
- Guidelines for gender research in the CRP-FTA arena²⁴, and a framework for analyzing gender roles in forest management²⁵ (Gender);
- Methodologies are being designed to assess the co-variation of livelihoods and trees at landscape scale (Sentinel);
- Methodology harmonization for ‘core’ monitoring data collection (Sentinel);
- Best-bet practices for agroforestry compiled as part of a CGIAR-wide set of best-bet technologies (MEIA); and
- ‘DoView’, outcomes visualization software²⁶, tested with anticipated expansion of its use in 2013 (MEIA).

Improved data and management systems

We invest significant resources in data and systems, which are essential to achieving CRP-FTA’s overarching goal. We note some examples of our successes in this arena:

- Analyzing the footprint of oil palm production in Indonesia (T3);
- Enhancing understanding of the spatial representativeness of the PEN data sets (T3);
- Contributing to IPCC’s supplementary guidelines on GHG inventories in wetlands (T4);
- Assembling emission factors (e.g. Bolivia, Peru, Kenya, Indonesia, Vietnam) (T4);
- Systematizing information on large-scale biofuel investments²⁷ (T5);
- Collecting data on large-scale investments across sectors in Indonesia and on oil palm in seven countries (T5);
- Collating and processing existing information and data across four sentinel landscapes (Sentinel);
- Developing an online technical progress reporting system based on the Operational Plan structure (MEIA); and
- Bringing CRP-FTA into the main CGIAR foresight process (MEIA).

Targeted outreach

We utilize an array of communication platforms and pathways, including new media, for keeping our researchers, partners and stakeholders informed about and engaged with our research, as well as for seeking their input and views. Some examples of products include:

- CIFOR, ICRAF and Bioversity all launched CRP-FTA webpages, and worked with CGIAR on its CRP-FTA page (CGIAR.org);
- Knowledge sharing is enabled through our ‘learning landscapes network’ (T3);

- An online platform on forest and climate change adaptation and mitigation was launched under the auspices of ‘weADAPT’ (T4);
- 263 stories related to CRP-FTA were written and posted by CIFOR in English – with translations into Spanish (116), Portuguese (9), French (46) and Indonesian (90) – and 51 stories and feature articles were posted by ICRAF, 13 by Bioversity and 14 by CIAT; and
- Use of video documentaries and photo essays to communicate complex research findings increased in all centers.

Progress toward outcomes

We present examples of progress toward outcomes with respect to: using our research to influence policy; realizing tangible changes in perceptions and on-ground practices; and demonstrating uptake of outreach products.

Evidence-based policy

We have informed and shaped policies at all scales, including several high-profile strategies, through active engagement with policy development processes, notably:

- A *Global Strategy for the Conservation and Use of Cacao Genetic Resources*²⁸, *FAO report on the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources*²⁹, and *The Forests of the Congo Basin: State of the Forest 2010*³⁰ (T2);
- An agreement was reached on how CRP-FTA science can contribute to Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) processes and targets (T3);
- District land use planning processes have identified more realistic options, and there is evidence in pilot countries of national policy uptake (T3);
- The Governments of Indonesia and Vietnam, building on CRP-FTA science and the RUPES project, have clarified operational procedures for economic incentives for ecosystem services (T3);

▼ Scientists making measurements to determine how much carbon is stored in mangrove ecosystems (Photo by Kate Evans)





▲ Water porter for gold panning, Burkina Faso (Photo by Ollivier Girard/CIFOR)

- Our guidelines have been adopted by international fora on combining conservation and livelihood goals around protected areas (T3);
- The REL framework was accepted by the UNFCCC in Durban (Dec 2011) and the stepwise approach was extended to the entire measurement, reporting and verification system in 2012 (T4);
- Our country-specific assessments for Indonesia, Cameroon, Gabon and DRC form part of the VPA negotiations (T5);
- We are facilitating the introduction of a new small-scale logging permit scheme with the Indonesian Government and provincial authorities in Papua (T5); and
- New land-based concessions have been temporarily suspended pending the review of impacts to date, further to our earlier research findings (T5).

Perception and practice change

Our action-based and collaborative approach to research has stimulated changes in perceptions and practices in a variety of ways for a range of stakeholders, such as:

- We enabled WWF and Zambian and Tanzanian NARES to promote tree diversity options rather than eucalyptus monocultures in the Lake Tanganyika catchment through capacity strengthening and use of FTA tools (T1);
- Our co-researcher, a local wild-honey collector in Mozambique's Niassa Reserve, was effective in presenting non-destructive harvesting practices to 127 honey hunters in 7 locations (T2);
- The broader concept of 'tree cover transitions' is gaining in acceptance, and the shift from 'payments for ecosystem services' to compensation and co-investment is increasingly perceived as a necessary next step (T3);
- Over 5000 smallholders in India adopted measures under a project launched in 2009 designed to improve livelihoods and carbon finance benefits (T4); and



- We have contributed to rationalizing integrated food and energy estate development in Papua, including suspension of about 300 000 ha of oil palm investments (T5).

Information utilization

- A survey of CIFOR's Forests News blog found that readers come from a broad cross-section of professions (up to 45 000 views per month);
- The number of people who follow the centers' news feeds has nearly doubled since 2011, reaching more than 13 000 on Facebook and 18 000 on Twitter;
- Similar gains were experienced in other social media, including YouTube, SlideShare and Flickr; and
- A major jump in media coverage from proactive engagement with journalists through interviews, press releases, media workshops, field tours, and using journalists' blogs as virtual news services on forest issues.

Progress toward impact

CRP-FTA invests significant resources in impact assessments for tracking progress against CRP-FTA's overall impact pathway, and the more detailed pathways defined for each theme. Further to our success stories and achievements already outlined, we provide some examples of impact studies:

- Co-management of forests in the Guinea's Fouta Djallon Highlands;³¹
- Sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin (slated to begin in 2013) with terms of reference available on request; and
- Lessons from the implementation of the LAMIL project (slated to begin in 2013) with terms of reference being finalized.





Gender Research Achievements

Gender is one of four cross-cutting research themes in the CRP-FTA, and guides gender research across each of the five core research themes. In this section, we describe major achievements in the context of the CRP-FTA gender strategy, published in 2013.³²

Gender equality targets defined

The gender strategy establishes four clusters of outcomes that cut across CRP-FTA's five research themes: (1) reflecting knowledge, preferences and priorities of women (and men) across relevant decision chains, (2) identifying and mitigating the differential effects of policy processes on men and women, (3) accounting for differential capacities to adopt materials, methods and knowledge during interventions, and (4) enhancing the equitable participation in and influence over decision-making processes.

These outcomes are integrated into specific research activities at the theme level. Each of the five themes operates at a global scale and within a network of 'sentinel landscapes' designed to enable long-term comparative research and lesson learning. Commencing in 2013, a two-tier monitoring approach will be used to track these four outcomes. Firstly, we will monitor individual project proposals and research outputs on an annual basis. Secondly, monitoring will form an integral part of all impact analyses, which are envisaged to occur at 3–5-year intervals. These analyses will apply impact indicators derived from IDOs developed in consultation with theme leaders.

Institutional architecture for gender mainstreaming in place

Overall, capacity to integrate gender across the research cycle differs for each of CRP-FTA's themes. Expertise in the biophysical sciences dominates across CRP-FTA collectively, while our social science experts are not always skilled in the conduct of gender-responsive research.



Our process indicators to date focus on quantifying scientists trained and gender-specific outputs. In 2013, a broader set of indicators will assess the number of gender integrated research proposals, and gender-specific partnerships. The gender framework developed for CRP-FTA scientists and partners will be used in 2013 for a more systematic synthesis of results. Further, a comprehensive evaluation of our gender approach is anticipated at that time.

We now present some key examples of ways in which we are mainstreaming gender integration within CRP-FTA.

Training for scientists:

- In 2012, five workshops were conducted to train 62 scientists in gender concepts, methods and integration;
- ICRAF convened gender training and awareness seminars;
- 26 participants (CGIAR scientists and partners) attended a workshop on advanced gender methods; and
- A workshop on writing gender concept notes and sharing of research methods was held.

Materials to guide gender integration:

- A methods manual (in four languages), with an accompanying detailed review;



▲ Cotton ginning, Burkina Faso (Photo by Ollivier Girard/CIFOR)

- A framework for gender integration;
- A review of women's leadership in NRM and conservation;
- Analysis of IFRI's multi-country, multi-site data set to explore gender relations; and
- A bibliographic database with around 2000 entries relevant to each of the themes.

Recruiting gender specialists:

- Four gender specialists (all post-doctoral fellows) have been recruited through each CRP-FTA partner center;
- Theme 1 has hired a gender specialist (with a PhD) as a staff member;
- Three consultants have guided methodological development and gender/training needs assessments;
- Four research fellowships have been taken up by PhD candidates.

Developing communities of practice:

- ICRAF has formed a 'Gender Implementing Team', which comprises 11 scientists from all regional programs and CRP-FTA themes.
- The 'Gender Implementing Team' approach will be monitored for possible CRP-FTA-wide application.





Partnership Building

CRP-FTA has formal partnerships with more than 80 institutions across all continents. The first full year of CRP-FTA operation saw both a deepening and a broadening of these partnerships, at a range of scales, to facilitate research conduct and impact.

Four examples illustrate different forms of global partnership. One is exemplified by CIRAD joining the CRP-FTA Steering Committee, and the seconding of six CIRAD/ IRD researchers to work full-time on CRP-FTA activities in 2012. A second example is Bioversity's partnership with FAO on the development of the *State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* report, and related regional syntheses. A third is ICRAF's partnership with FAO and others to develop guidelines for advancing agroforestry policy, and a fourth is the MoU signed between the CBD and CRP-FTA during Tree Diversity Day at the CBD COP11 in October 2012. The MoU facilitates CRP-FTA work in support of CBD objectives.

The depth of partnership achievement is well illustrated by the *Global Strategy for the Conservation and Use of Cacao Genetic Resources*. Developed under Bioversity's auspices, the strategy aims to foster the sustainable availability of cocoa diversity. Over 30 institutes from 26 countries involved in the management of cacao genetic diversity contributed to and endorsed the strategy; 20 public and private sector organizations are now partnering in its implementation. CRP-FTA's Sentinel Landscapes are another prime example of effective partnership building, with three led by partner organizations. At a country level, CIFOR's and ICRAF's complementary work with Indonesia's Forest Research and Development Agency typify CRP-FTA partnerships with NARES. The 10-year cocoa development project in ô Côte d'Ivoire, 'Vision for Change' (V4C), led by ICRAF and supported by the Mars Corporation, illustrates the increasing level of CRP-FTA partnership with the private sector.

◀ A CIFOR scientist accompanying Kichwa villagers transporting wood downstream on the Arajuno River, Ecuador (Photo by Tomas Munita/CIFOR)



Capacity Building

CRP-FTA capacity building activities took a number of forms, frequently in the context of the partnerships discussed above. The most common were various forms of workshop or training conducted by or between CRP-FTA research projects.

In 2012, CRP-FTA conducted almost 100 workshops or training programs in nearly 40 countries, for a total of about 3000 participants (52% women, 48% men). Some 10% of these focused on gender dimensions or issues. We have also invested in up-skilling CRP-FTA staff (120 participants in 3 courses, 67% women).

CRP-FTA scientists supervised 60 PhD and master's students (47% women, 53% men); and some 350 interns. The REFORCO (Congo Forestry Research) project in DRC, which aims to replenish the ranks and train a new generation of researchers, is noteworthy, with 21 students in 2012.



▲ Gathering local knowledge on climate change, Burkina Faso (Photo by Ollivier Girard/CIFOR)

We have initiated both strategies and research for more effective capacity building. ICRAF developed a new capacity building strategy, and a CRP-FTA-wide project, entitled 'Toward more effective capacity building: A comparative evaluation of CRP-FTA partner center experiences', will be implemented in 2013. Similarly, the CRP-FTA gender fellowship scheme will be initiated in 2013 as a result of collaboration among CRP-FTA gender focal points in 2012.

In 2012, we partnered with IUCN and Transparency International to host a series of workshops in Vietnam, with the aim of improving environmental reporting. These events commenced with a briefing to 15 senior newspaper/TV editors and the Deputy Minister of Information, followed by CIFOR-led workshops and field trips for 36 reporters.





Risk Management

We identify three major risks to CRP-FTA that may hinder delivery of results, and describe the mitigation actions planned.

Coherence and collaboration

Coherence and collaboration among centers and themes are essential for averting fragmentation, duplication, inefficient use of funds and unsatisfactory progress toward IDOs and SLOs. We address this risk through an array of measures. We are mapping individual center-based contributions to a common CRP-level operational plan. We are building an integrated picture of all reporting requirements so as to leverage project-level indicators at the CRP level. 5% of operating funds have been allocated for proposals that strengthen multi-center, multi-theme synergies to achieve IDOs and SLOs.

Evidence

Inadequate evidence of progress toward IDOs and SLOs risks the program’s access to performance-based funding. We have adopted a multi-faceted and integrated approach to mitigate this risk, including implementing CRP-FTA’s MEIA strategy, participating in CGIAR’s NRM research impact working group, engaging with outcome-based planning and monitoring specialists to apply effective evidence-capture mechanisms (e.g. Outcome Mapping and DoView), and commissioning impact assessments.

Funding uncertainty

The continuity of core funding for CRP-FTA research remains uncertain, and threatens to compromise the program’s multi-year research approach. Our approach to mitigating this risk entails, *inter alia*, enhancing bilateral funding as a primary source of funds, adopting a conservative risk profile (e.g. delaying the hiring of international research staff) and working with the Consortium Office to develop low-volatility funding approaches and identify new funding sources.

◀ A Kichwa villager walks past an area he recently cleared for farming, near the Napo River in Orellana, Ecuador (Photo by Tomas Munita/CIFOR)



Lessons Learned

It is important to recognize that 2012 represents the first full year of CRP-FTA implementation. We anticipate participating in and learning from lesson-sharing activities with other CRPs.

Overall indicator confidence

CRP-FTA is unable to respond to many of the indicator categories in Table 1 (Annex D to the full report) due to their release just prior to the reporting period deadline. We anticipate a high level of confidence in responding to these indicators in 2013 following the establishment of a tailored data collection system.

Unexpected results and implications

All CRP-FTA themes and cross-cutting themes are 'on track' with their impact pathways as originally defined. However, unexpected results and implications may arise as the program matures.



▲ CIFOR scientists talking with local community members (Photo by Kate Evans/CIFOR)

Indicator monitoring and qualitative analyses

In support of the CRP-FTA MEIA strategy, we give high priority to harmonizing the collection and sharing of project-level information among centers. Once project-level information has been standardized and shared, more detailed and real-time tracking of milestone delivery and progress against outputs and outcomes will be possible.

At the center level, we will better align MEIA activities and enhance the availability and accessibility of results. Progressively, we will be better positioned to give an accurate and timely picture of aggregated progress along the results chain toward IDOs and SLOs.

In 2013, we plan to develop and apply a mechanism for capturing and integrating evidence from across the CRP-FTA research portfolio. Further, we are exploring more interactive and narrative-based approaches to presenting information on CRP-FTA's progress to a range of stakeholder interests.

Abbreviations

CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAFS	Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research
CIRAD	Agricultural Research for Development
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRP6	CGIAR Research Program 6 (obsolete; now CRP-FTA)
CRP-FTA	CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FMNR	Farmer-managed natural regeneration
GHG	Greenhouse gas
HQ	Headquarters
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IDO	Intermediate development outcome
IFRI	International Forestry Research Institute
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LAMIL	Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods (project)
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MEIA	Monitoring evaluation and impact assessment
MoU	Memorandum of understanding
NARES	National Agricultural Research and Extension Systems
NGO	Non-government organization
NRM	Natural resource management
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PEN	Poverty and Environment Network
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and enhancing forest carbon stocks
REFORCO	Congo Forestry Research
REL	Reference emission levels
RRC	Rural resource center
RUPES	Rewarding Upland Poor for Environmental Services (project)
SLO	System level outcome
T1	CRP-FTA Theme 1 (Production systems & markets)
T2	CRP-FTA Theme 2 (Conservation & management)
T3	CRP-FTA Theme 3 (Landscape management)
T4	CRP-FTA Theme 4 (Climate change adaptation & mitigation)
T5	CRP-FTA Theme 5 (Trade & investment)
UNEP-GEF	United Nations Environment Programme – Global Environment Facility
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
V4C	Vision for Change
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WWF	Worldwide Fund for Nature

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Cover photo by Mokhamad Edliadi/CIFOR
Village scenery at Halimun mountain valley, West Java, Indonesia



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