



The Food, Fuel, Fiber and Forests (4Fs) Initiative

Targeted dialogue, policy change and practical action in support of fairer, more sustainable land-use

The 4Fs Challenge

Humanity's increasing and often clashing needs for food, fuel, fiber and forests (4Fs) lie at the heart of the 21st Century challenge to balance local and global social, environmental and economic priorities. How will we shift from unsustainable consumption and production toward an equitable use of natural resources that the Earth can sustain? And what steps can we take to begin this shift quickly? Key projections include:

- Global population will surpass 9 billion by 2050;
- Food supplies must expand 70 per cent by 2050;
- Climate change will reduce crop yields in many countries;
- Demand for wood and fiber products will continue to increase;
- 100% reliance on renewable energy by 2050 will require bio-energy production from an additional 250 million hectares of crop and tree plantations, in addition to 4.5 billion cubic meters of wood.

Over the next 30-40 years, food, fiber, and fuel production will compete intensively for limited land and water resources. Keeping space for forests requires forestry and farming practices that produce more with less land, water and pollution, and new consumption patterns that meet the needs of the poor while eliminating waste and over-consumption by the affluent. For the world to feed and house its growing populations, without destroying or overtaxing natural systems, decisions about land-use need to be made carefully, with the participation of all key stakeholders, and soon.

The Initiative

This initiative is founded on shared belief that effective dialogue, policy change and practical action can be mustered to help bridge forestry and agriculture sectors and provide more holistic insight into the challenges of land and water use, intensification of forestry and farming, poverty alleviation and expanding patterns of mass consumption. The organizations listed below hope to develop a partnership with strong convening power amongst stakeholders and experts in agriculture, forestry, bioenergy, ecosystem services and food security.

The Forest Dialogue (TFD) led a first scoping dialogue on some of the issues in Washington D.C. in June 2011. Thirty-six influential stakeholders from diverse backgrounds agreed that dialogue on 4Fs demands new landscape-level perspectives, better decision-making models, collaboration across different sectors and integrated systematic solutions. In November 2012, TFD led the second dialogue on 4Fs, this time adding a field component and a much deeper case study of the 4Fs in Brazil. Over 50 Brazilian and international stakeholders met for 4 days with landowners, private companies, government agencies, NGO's and leaders of social movements in Capão Bonito (Sao Paulo state). Participants decided to establish a national organizational process to continue the 4Fs dialogue and work collaboratively for better information, land use and policy models, stakeholder engagement and integrated supply chains.

Objectives

The goal of the 4Fs initiative is **fairer, more sustainable land use**, which could be catalyzed by achieving following more specific objectives:

- Better information and best practice examples to support land-use decision making and to enable policy at local, national and international levels;

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- Stronger evidence-based, cross-sector stakeholder engagement platforms, understanding, and capacity at national and international levels;
- Improved decisions in specific jurisdictions and along value chains that enable better, fairer and more sustainable land-uses and consumption patterns.

Approach

Targeted dialogue, identification of, and commitment to, policy change, and practical action lie at the heart of this initiative. The partners will convene nationally focused dialogues with field-based learning activities, and international level dialogues that gather key stakeholders along global supply chains. The partners will work with in-country and international stakeholders to structure these dialogues and fuel them with research on priority issues associated with the 4Fs. The partners will actively disseminate information and advocate solutions generated through research and dialogues to inform key stakeholder networks and motivate broad political support for its stated goal and objectives. A steering group comprising representatives of each partner organization, supported and facilitated by The Forests Dialogue secretariat governs and directs the 4Fs Initiative.

Outputs

Expected outputs of the 4Fs Initiative include:

- A synthesis of key challenges and actions for addressing 4Fs issues at international and national levels;
- A review of options, structured by an effective framework and populated with best practice examples and leading methodologies, for effective land use decision-making that takes account of trade-offs across different sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, water, infrastructure), scales (global, national, local), sources of political power (e.g. international law, state sovereignty, indigenous peoples' rights) and needs (e.g. climate change mitigation and adaptation, ecosystem services, food security, cultural diversity, gender equity, carbon sequestration);
- Guidance for stakeholders along the supply chain on actions that can leverage market processes to support better, fairer and more sustainable land-use and a shift to fairer and less wasteful consumption patterns;
- Shared understanding and ideas, and increased preparedness for action among engaged stakeholders in forest, agriculture and other land-use sectors;
- Collaborative actions among the partners to use the outputs, and implement and advocate suggested solutions, identified from this Initiative.

Annex: Current partners in the 4Fs Initiative – others are sought, particularly in food production and retail sectors.

The Forests Dialogue – theforestdialogue.org

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) – cifor.org

Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS) – ccaafs.cgiar.org

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) – iied.org

The World Bank – worldbank.org

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) – wbcsd.org

World Resource Institute (WRI) – wri.org

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – wwf.panda.org