



Vi Agroforestry

ANSAF

Agricultural Non State Actors Forum



POLICY BRIEF

EMBRACING AGROFORESTRY IN NATIONAL POLICIES AND PRIORITIES

PREAMBLE

The area under forest cover in Tanzania has decreased by more than 11 million ha over the past 30 years from 57.4 million ha in 1990 to 45.7 million ha in 2020 (FAO, 2020). This is attributed to, among other factors, by a growing population that demands more land for food production, energy and construction materials; thus, exerting more pressure on forestry. It is essential therefore to foster the adoption of agroforestry practices by integrating tree planting with crop and livestock production to sustain biodiversity, food security, income generation and environmental conservation. Adherence to the country's policies, priorities and resources allocation is of utmost importance in enhancing agroforestry. This policy brief provides an analysis of how agroforestry is addressed in the National Environmental Policy (1997), National Land Policy (1997), National Forestry Policy (1998), National Water Policy (2002), National Livestock Policy (2006), National Agriculture Policy (2013), and as well as other related documents. It further shows gaps in policies and practices, draw lessons from other countries, and offers recommended options for streamlining the agroforestry policy agenda in Tanzania.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mainstream Agroforestry in policies, strategies, programs and plans. This includes development of stakeholders-driven National Agroforestry Strategy.
2. Strengthen coordination among stakeholders including formation of a functional multi-sectoral agroforestry platform to facilitate cross-learning and effective engagement of stakeholders in policy formulation processes.
3. Create awareness and capacity building across levels and scales including integrating agroforestry in extension plans.
4. Create a dedicated financial mechanism for effective implementation of the National Agroforestry Strategy in the country.





INTRODUCTION

Agroforestry is a dynamic, ecologically based natural resource management system that, through the integration of trees on farms and in the agricultural landscape, diversifies and sustains productivity and contributes to more resilient rural livelihoods (FAO, 2014). Agroforestry is an increasingly considered solution for limited resources (land, capital and labour) and is rapidly emerging as a response to the global Sustainable Development Goals due to the role it plays in transforming livelihoods and landscapes. It provides diverse benefits including, among others, enhancing biodiversity, climate change adaptation and mitigation, improving food security and reducing rural poverty by increasing soil fertility and crop yields. In Tanzania, the system has increasingly become a focal entry point for rural development, environmental stewardship including climate change adaptation and mitigation, and ecosystem sustainability through transformation of livelihoods and landscapes (ICRAF, 2008; Boeckmann and Lolster, 2010; Pye-Smith, 2010). It provides several ecosystem services including, but not limited to, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, soil enrichment, and air and water quality (Shibu, 2009).

Similarly, demand for agricultural land and forest products is on the rise in most developing countries like Tanzania. This leads to shortage of arable land hence accelerating land degradation and decline in agricultural production and productivity. Agroforestry technologies have been proposed as the solution to land shortage and productivity due to its great potential for both forestry and agricultural products. However, even though agroforestry interventions have prevailed in Tanzania for a long time, the pace at which related technologies are adopted by rural people is not yet encouraging.

The National Agroforestry Strategy (NAS) was developed in 2004 under coordination of National Agroforestry Steering Committee (NASCO) led by Tanzania Forestry Research Institute (TAFORI) but its implementation has not been effective. Moreover, the practice of agroforestry is not clearly articulated in most legal and policy frameworks thus making its implementation difficult and inadequate. As a result, there has been inadequate coordination to promote and scale-up agroforestry technologies and practices in Tanzania due to lack of sufficient knowledge and information on the importance of agroforestry to poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

NATIONAL POLICIES, STRATEGIES, PROGRAMS AND PLANS ON AGROFORESTRY

A review of the National Agriculture Policy (2013), National Livestock Policy (2006), National Environmental Policy (1997), National Land Policy (1997) and National Water Policy (2002) reveals no explicit mention of agroforestry. It is only the National Forestry Policy (1998) that provides a strong foundation and legal basis for community-managed and privately-managed forests implying an indirect provision for agroforestry. It is on this basis that agroforestry in Tanzania is embedded in community-managed forests (Porter-Bolland et al., 2011). The policy encourages agroforestry practices by recognizing the contribution of trees outside forests in agricultural productivity and forest conservation.

On the other hand, the National Agroforestry Strategy (NAS, 2006), National Climate Change

Response Strategy (2020), Agriculture Sector Development Strategy (2001) and REDD+ Strategy (REDD+, 2013) fairly cover on issues of agroforestry. Much of these need to be framed in a way that guides a wider implementation than the current state where agroforestry is just mentioned as an agricultural practice, thus limiting its impact for a wider community's uptake around the country.

The review further showed that the Agriculture Climate Resiliency Plan (ACRP, 2014) presents a wide range of adaptation options including, but not limited to, improving the agricultural land and water management, accelerating uptake of climate-smart agriculture, reducing impacts of climate-related shocks through risk management and strengthening knowledge and systems to target climate action. Among these four action areas, three actions guide on areas for integrating resilience in agricultural policy decisions, influence planning processes and implement investments on the ground.



CHALLENGES FACING SMOOTH UPTAKE OF THE AGROFORESTRY AGENDA IN TANZANIA

Although the potential of agroforestry to contribute to sustainable development is internationally recognized, including in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), agroforestry in Tanzania continues to face the following challenges:

- a) Unfavorable policies and practices which mainly put emphasis on monoculture food production, industrial agricultural crops and mechanized farming (often subsidized) on top of the agricultural commercialization agenda. These discourage the integration of trees into farmland.
- b) Inadequate understanding of the practice amongst stakeholders, especially the farmers, thereby limiting its wide spreading. Inadequate knowledge of the advantage of agroforestry inadvertently leads to the perception that it is peripheral to agriculture and culminates into a low output subsistence system.
- c) Legal constraints and inadequate coordination among the multiple sectors to which it contributes. Agroforestry typically does not have its own policy space. It belongs to many sectors including agriculture, water, land, environment, natural resources, livestock and fisheries.
- d) Agroforestry is scantily addressed in national policy-making process, land-use planning and rural development programs. As a result, its potential contributions to the economy and Sustainable Development Goals have not been fully exploited in Tanzania.
- e) Its environmental benefits tend to be unrewarded and related investment is normally discouraged by the long-time between adoption and returns. Limited knowledge of management practices needed to minimize competitive interactions and optimize crops production for different agroforestry technologies exacerbates the challenge.

LESSONS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

On the other hand, a review of different practices and policy actions in other countries including Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa and Uganda shows that other countries have created space for agroforestry into their national strategies. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Ghana (2016), among other undertakings, directs communities to adopt and practice cultural agronomic practices such as mixed cropping and agroforestry, rotations and cover cropping. In the case of South Africa, its Agroforestry Strategy framework aims at achieving the integration and mainstreaming of agroforestry as an accepted land-use practice that contributes to food security, improved livelihoods and income generation while building resilient, climate-smart systems that sustain the country's natural resources. India has gone a step further and managed to develop a National Agroforestry Policy (2014) that provides a platform for converging the various tree planting programs outside forest areas as currently being implemented by various ministries. Rwanda has also developed its Agroforestry Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2027) and has uttered a strong policy statement in its National Forest Policy that:

“Mainstreaming agroforestry in agricultural policies and strategies and strengthening cooperation with the agricultural sector would yield significant benefits. More directly, advice from an accessible and knowledgeable forestry extension service could have huge positive impacts on enhancing agroforestry benefits at all levels.”





CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Agroforestry systems have a huge potential to contribute to the three pillars of sustainable development- ecological sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability-through positive transformation of landscapes and the livelihoods of rural Tanzanians. However, the potential of the systems is constrained by the lack of a supportive policy and legal framework and poor coordination of the practices due to lack of a dedicated agroforestry policy. It is important to observe that agroforestry typically does not have its own policy space but rather belongs to several applicable sectors. As such, there is need to develop a robust strategy to enhance implementation of involved policies for its wider adoption in the country. To achieve this, the brief recommends for:

Agroforestry systems have a huge potential to contribute to the three pillars of sustainable development-ecological sustainability, economic sustainability and social sustainability

- i) *Development of a robust National Agroforestry Strategy that articulates specific and concise activity components, targets, key actors and stakeholders, timelines, effective governance structure, monitoring and evaluation and other crucial components required for a strategy. It is through an informed strategy that agroforestry can be effectively implemented and its intended benefits realized.*
- ii) *Strengthening a coordinated implementation mechanism of agroforestry interventions that function effectively across sectoral ministries responsible for agroforestry in collaboration with other stakeholders on the ground, including partners in agroforestry, conservation agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable land-use practices and other climate sensitive land-use promoters.*
- iii) *Strengthening of the national architecture that institutionalizes the coordination, management and administration processes of agroforestry interventions in the country.*
- iv) *Awareness creation and capacity building across levels and scales in the country for the majority of Tanzanians to understand the importance and contribution of agroforestry and commit to seriously implement the practice for an improved rural livelihood.*
- v) *Creating a dedicated financial mechanism through the national budgetary means, private sector and donors for effective implementation of the Agroforestry Strategy in the country.*



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