



Credit: Mark Angelini

Final Media Coverage Report - IUFRO

GFEP Report: Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition

May 2015

burness

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Executive Summary

Burness once again managed media relations for the IUFRO-led release of the Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) report on "Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition," which was officially launched on May 6 at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

Burness successfully implemented a media outreach strategy for the report that made it a media highlight of the UNFF. This culminated in the UN news center [highlighting the report](#).

Before embarking on a global promotion of the report, Burness took advantage of the lead author's close proximity to London to set up interviews in the major media market. Dr. Bhaskar Vira met with reporters from the *Hindustan Times* and SciDev.net. He also met with a freelance reporter who files stories for *Newsweek* and *Forbes*.

This outreach set the stage for wider global outreach that focused on the U.S. and Europe—but also extended to Nairobi, Kenya, as well as Latin America. More than 20 reporters requested interviews, which happened over the phone or email. We also set up an interview in New York with Voice of America.

The highlight of the resulting extensive, global coverage of the report was [a story](#) by Mark Kinver, BBC's environment writer. It carried IUFRO's key messages, and ensured top tier exposure for the report. A [Reuters story](#) that focused on the role that local people can play in protecting forests also ran widely.

In addition to Reuters, several other wires covered the report. These include Notimex (Mexico), ANI (India), Xinhua (China), EuropaPress (Spain) and Inter Press Service (Italy).

Major regional outlets—print and broadcast—also ran stories about the report. These include *O Globo* (Brazil), *East African*, SABC (South Africa) and *Hindustan Times*.

It is important to point out that many of the reporters who requested the materials ultimately did not cover the report.

- Reporters with *Science*, the *New York Times*, *Nature* and other outlets did not cover the report because it did not offer new findings.
- Some reporters, such as CBS' environment reporter, said that they viewed it as background information.
- Others who write for more "consumer-oriented" outlets, such as *New Scientist*, found the report lacked interesting details about forest foods that could appeal to general readers.

This insight might suggest that promotion around the next report could benefit from at least one new finding with a number attached. It would also be useful to include a fact sheet that pulls out interesting details from the report, or an infographic that lays out the report findings in a succinct and clear way.

Clearly, however, we were able to secure extensive and far-reaching coverage despite this that ensured that the role of forests in food security was broadcast across the globe, in multiple languages.

Journalist Interest

Outlets that Requested Materials

Agence France-Presse

Agencia EFE (Spain)

Asahi Shimbun (Japan)

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

BBC Online (UK)

Blantyre Newspapers (Malawi)

Business Daily (Kenya)

CBS (USA)

Christian Science Monitor (USA)

Climate Central (USA)

Climate News Network (UK)

ClimateWire (USA)

CNBC Africa

Correio Brasiliense (Brazil)

Daily Nation (Kenya)

Daily Times (Malawi)

Deutsche Welle (Germany—Swahili service)

Diario el Mercurio (Chile)

East African

Ecologist (UK)

Ecosystems Marketplace (USA)

France24

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany)

Frankfurter Rundschau (Germany)

Grist (USA)

Inter Press Service

IRIN

K24 (Kenya)

Le Figaro (France)

National Geographic (USA)

Nature (UK)

New Scientist (UK)

New York Times (USA)

Nikkei (Japan)
NPR/Salt Blog (USA)
NTV (Kenya)
Pagina22 (Brazil)
Responding To Climate Change (UK)
SABC: Channel Africa (South Africa)
SciDev.net (UK)
Science (USA)
Scientific American (USA)
Standard (Kenya)
TakePart (USA)
Telegraph (UK)
The Conversation (UK)
The Grocer (UK)
Thompson Reuters Foundation (UK)
Voice of America
Xinhua (China)
Yale360 (USA)

Interviews

Outlet	Journalist	Spokesperson
BBC Online (UK)	Mark Kinver	Bhaskar Vira
ClimateWire (USA)	Elizabeth Harball	Bhaskar Vira
Correio Brasiliense (Brazil)	Vilhena Soares	Bhaskar Vira
<i>Daily Times (Malawi)</i>	Charles Mpaka	Bhaskar Vira
Freelance (Guadian, Forbes.com)	Peter Guest	Bhaskar Vira
Hindustan Times (India)	Prasun Solwalkar	Bhaskar Vira
NTV (Kenya)	Zeynab Wandati	Bhaskar Vira
Responding to Climate Change (UK)	Alex Pashley	Bhaskar Vira
SABC: Channel Africa (South Africa)	Wandile Kallipa	Stepha McMullin
SciDev.net (UK)	Emese Balog	Bhaskar Vira
Telegraph (UK)	Aislinn Laing	Bhaskar Vira
The Grocer (UK)	Carina Perkins	Bhaskar Vira
Thomson Reuters Foundation (UK)	Chris Arsenault	Bhaskar Vira
Voice of America (USA)	Rosanne Skirble	Bhaskar Vira
Xinhua (China)	Naftali Mwaura	Stepha McMullin

Press Release



International Union of Forest Research Organizations

New Report: Forests could be the trump card in efforts to end global hunger

One billion people worldwide depend on forests and trees for balanced diets and sustainable incomes

New York/Vienna (6 May 2015)– About one in nine people globally still suffer from hunger with the majority of the hungry living in Africa and Asia. The world’s forests have great potential to improve their nutrition and ensure their livelihoods. In fact, forests and forestry are essential to achieve food security as the limits of boosting agricultural production are becoming increasingly clear.

That’s according to the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on the relationship among forests, food and nutrition launched today in New York at a side event of the United Nations Forum on Forests. The new report released by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the world’s largest network of forest scientists, also underlines the need for the most vulnerable groups of society to have secure access to forest foods.

More than 60 renowned scientists from around the world collaborated on the peer-reviewed publication “*Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition. A Global Assessment Report*”, which was coordinated by IUFRO on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

“This report reminds us of the vital role of forests in building food security. It makes a convincing case for multi-functional and integrated landscape approaches and calls for community level engagement to re-imagine forestry and agriculture systems”, says Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

“Large-scale crop production is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur more frequently under climate change. Science shows that tree-based farming can adapt far better to such calamities.” says Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO’s Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative. “We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This report makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and improving nutrition.”

Forests provide healthy and diverse diets

“Forest foods often provide a safety net during periods of food shortages,” says Bhaskar Vira, University of Cambridge, and the chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which compiled the report. “In the study, we reveal impressive examples which show how forests and trees can complement agricultural production and contribute to the income of local people, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world.”

The benefits of forests and trees to nutrition are manifold:

- *Tree foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins, and other nutrients and are associated with more diverse diets.* For example, the iron content of dried seeds of the African locust bean and raw cashew nut are comparable with, or even higher than, that of chicken meat.
- *Wild meat, fish, and insects are also important forest food sources.* Insects are an especially cheap, abundant source of protein, fat, vitamins and minerals. Particularly in Southeast Asia, many forests and agroforests (tree-based farms) are managed by local communities specifically to enhance edible insect supply.
- *Forests are also essential for firewood and charcoal.* In developing countries, 2.4 billion households use these renewable biofuels for cooking and heating. In India and Nepal, for example, even better-off rural households depend on woodfuels.
- *Trees offer a multitude of ecological services.* For instance, they support bees and other pollinators, which are essential for crop production including on farmland. They also provide animal fodder that enables communities to produce meat and milk, and protect streams and watersheds as habitat for fish.

Forests help the poor to make a living

According to the report, close to one out of six persons directly depend on forests for their food and income. In the Sahel region, for example, trees contribute 80% on average to household incomes, especially through shea nut production. Evidence also shows that worldwide the lower the level of prosperity, the higher the share of forests in household incomes.

The report documents efforts currently underway in Africa and elsewhere to develop new tree commodities to supply the poor with sustainable incomes. For example, poor producers in Tanzania are engaged in a global effort to produce the seeds of the *Allanblackia* crop, which yield an edible oil with potential for the global food market. A private–public partnership known as Novella Africa is developing a sustainable *Allanblackia* oil business that they believe could be worth USD hundreds of millions annually for local farmers.

“What keeps people hungry is often not the lack of food, but the lack of access to that food and control over its production. We need to recognize claims over food sovereignty which give local people greater control over their food,” notes Bhaskar Vira. “Improved tenure rights and stronger rights for women who are becoming more and more responsible for food production from agricultural and forest lands are key to ensure the success of sustainable poverty reduction efforts.”

Linking Forests and Farming Favours Food Security

Although forests are not a panacea for global hunger, the report emphasizes that they play a vital role in complementing crops produced on farms. This is especially important when the staple food supply is impaired by droughts, volatile prices, armed conflicts, or other crises. This forest-farm link also means that the loss and degradation of forests exacerbate the problem of food insecurity. Indeed, the report points out that the expansion of agricultural land accounts for 73 per cent of forest loss worldwide.

The study comes in the lead up to the United Nations' finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals, designed to address, among other global challenges, poverty and hunger. The report also provides useful insight into how the UN can respond to the "Zero Hunger Challenge," which aims to eliminate global hunger by 2025.

Picture 1: (by Terry Sunderland)

Caption: A child's daily requirement for vitamin A can be met by around 25 g of a deep orange-fleshed mango variety.

Picture 2: (by Nathalie van Vliet)

Caption: Grubs are on the menu in the Amazon.

Picture 3: (by Terry Sunderland)

Caption: Cacao is a significant cash crop grown in the forest, for example, in Cameroon.

###

The [International Union of Forest Research Organizations \(IUFRO\)](#) is the only world-wide organization devoted to forest research and related sciences. Its members are research institutions, universities, and individual scientists as well as decision-making authorities and other stakeholders with a focus on forests and trees.

The [IUFRO-led Global Forest Expert Panels \(GFEP\) initiative](#) of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) established the Expert Panel on "Forests and Food Security" with the aim to provide a comprehensive global assessment of scientific information on the relationship of forests and trees on the one hand, and food security and nutrition on the other hand, and to prepare a report to inform relevant policy decision-makers.

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<http://www.iufro.org/science/gfep/forests-and-food-security-panel/report-embargoed-release/>





ANI News (India)

Here's how forest foods can help solve global hunger crisis

May 7, 2015



Washington, May 7 ([ANI](#)): A new study has suggested that forests could be the trump card in efforts to end [global hunger](#).

About one in nine people globally still suffer from hunger with the majority of the hungry living in Africa and Asia. The world's forests have great potential to improve their nutrition and ensure their livelihoods. In fact, forests and forestry are essential to achieve food security as the limits of boosting agricultural production are becoming increasingly clear.

That's according to the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on the relationship among forests, food and nutrition launched today in New York at a side event of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

The new report released by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the world's largest network of forest scientists, also underlines the need for the most vulnerable groups of society to have secure access to forest foods.

The benefits of forests and trees to nutrition are manifold: Tree foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins, and other nutrients and are associated with more diverse diets. Wild meat, fish, and insects are also important forest food sources. Insects are an especially cheap, abundant source of protein, fat, vitamins and minerals. Particularly in Southeast Asia, many forests and agroforests (tree-based farms) are managed by local communities specifically to enhance edible insect supply.

Forests are also essential for firewood and charcoal. In developing countries, 2.4 billion households use these renewable biofuels for cooking and heating. In India and Nepal, for example, even better-off rural households depend on woodfuels.

Trees offer a multitude of ecological services. For instance, they support bees and other pollinators, which are essential for crop production including on farmland. They also provide animal fodder that enables communities to produce meat and milk, and protect streams and watersheds as habitat for fish. [Forests](#) help the poor to make a living

According to the report, close to one out of six persons directly depend on forests for their [food](#) and income. In the Sahel region, for example, trees contribute 80 percent on average to household incomes, especially through shea nut production. Evidence also shows that worldwide the lower the level of prosperity, the higher the share of forests in household incomes. ([ANI](#))

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail9/story214712/here-039-s-how-forest-foods-can-help-solve-global->

[hunger-crisis.html](#)

Select online pick-up:

Business Standard (India)

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/here-s-how-forest-foods-can-help-solve-global-hunger-crisis-115050700506_1.html

New Kerala (India)

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2015/fullnews-54603.html>

Northern Californian (USA)

<http://northerncalifornian.com/content/5200-heres-how-forest-foods-can-help-solve-global-hunger-crisis>

Los bosques podrían convertirse en un recurso clave por acabar con el hambre

EP / MADRID | Día 06/05/2015

Una de cada seis personas en el mundo depende directamente de los bosques para su alimentación e ingresos



Aproximadamente [una de cada nueve personas en el mundo](#) sigue padeciendo hambre, con la mayoría de ellas en África y Asia, y los bosques de todo el mundo tienen un gran potencial para **mejorar su nutrición** y garantizar su subsistencia. De hecho, los bosques y la silvicultura son esenciales para lograr la **seguridad alimentaria** a medida que los límites para impulsar la producción agrícola están cada vez más claros.

Así concluye un completo análisis científico sobre la relación entre los bosques, la alimentación y la nutrición hecho público este miércoles en Nueva York en un evento paralelo al **Foro de las Naciones Unidas** sobre los Bosques. El nuevo informe, publicado por la Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal (IUFRO, por sus siglas en inglés), la mayor red mundial de científicos forestales, también subraya la necesidad de que los **grupos más vulnerables de la sociedad tengan acceso seguro** a los alimentos de origen forestal.

Más de 60 científicos de renombre de todo el mundo colaboraron en esta publicación revisada por pares 'Bosques, Árboles y Paisaje para la Seguridad Alimentaria y la Nutrición. Un Informe de evaluación global', coordinado por la IUFRO en nombre de la Asociación de Colaboración en Materia de Bosques (CPF, por sus siglas en inglés).

"Este informe nos recuerda el **papel fundamental de los bosques** en la construcción de la seguridad alimentaria. Hace un argumento convincente para los enfoques de paisajes multifuncionales e integrados y pide un compromiso a nivel comunitario para re-pensar los **sistemas forestales** y agrícolas", subraya Thomas Gass, secretario general asistente de Política del Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales de la ONU.

"La producción de cultivos a gran escala es altamente vulnerable a los [fenómenos meteorológicos extremos](#) que pueden ocurrir con más frecuencia debido al [cambio climático](#). La ciencia demuestra que la **agricultura** basada en los **árboles** se puede adaptar mucho mejor a este tipo de calamidades", dice Christoph Wildburger, coordinador de la iniciativa del Panel de Expertos de los Bosques Mundiales de IUFRO.

Mitigación del cambio climático

"Sabemos que los bosques desempeñan ya un papel clave en la **mitigación** de los efectos del cambio climático. Este informe deja muy claro que ellos también juegan un papel clave en aliviar el hambre y mejorar la nutrición", agrega este experto.

"Los **alimentos forestales** a menudo proporcionan una red de seguridad durante los periodos de escasez de alimentos", destaca Bhaskar Vira, de la Universidad de Cambridge, en Reino Unido, y presidente del Grupo de Expertos Forestales sobre los Bosques Mundiales y la Seguridad Alimentaria, que compiló el informe.

"En el estudio, revelamos impresionantes ejemplos que muestran cómo los **bosques y los árboles** pueden complementar la producción agrícola y contribuir a los ingresos de la población local, especialmente en las regiones más vulnerables del mundo", señala.

Según este documento, los beneficios de los bosques y los árboles a **la nutrición** son múltiples. Los alimentos secos son a menudo ricos en **vitaminas, proteínas** y otros nutrientes y se asocian con dietas más diversas. Por ejemplo, el contenido de hierro de las semillas secas de **algarrobo africano y el anacardo** es comparable con, o incluso más alto, el de la carne de pollo.

Los **insectos** son una abundante fuente especialmente barata de proteínas, grasas, vitaminas y minerales y, en particular en el sudeste de Asia, muchos bosques y sistemas agroforestales son gestionados por las comunidades locales específicamente para mejorar el suministro de **insectos comestibles**.

Biocombustibles renovables

Los bosques también son esenciales para la **leña y el carbón vegetal**. En los países en desarrollo, 2.400 millones de hogares utilizan estos biocombustibles renovables para cocinar y calentarse. En India y Nepal, por ejemplo, los hogares rurales, incluso más acomodados, dependen de combustibles de madera.

Los árboles ofrecen una **multitud de servicios ecológicos**. Por ejemplo, sustentan a las abejas y otros polinizadores, que son esenciales para la producción de cultivos incluidos en las tierras agrícolas. También aportan **forraje para los animales**, lo que permite a las comunidades producir carne y leche, y proteger los arroyos y cuencas como hábitat para los peces.

Según el informe, cerca de una de cada seis personas depende directamente de los bosques para su **alimentación e ingresos**. En la región del Sahel, por ejemplo, los árboles contribuyen al 80 por ciento en promedio de ingresos de los hogares, especialmente a través de la producción de nueces de karité. La evidencia también muestra que en todo el mundo cuanto más bajo es el nivel de prosperidad, mayor es la proporción de ingresos en los hogares a través de los bosques.

"Lo que hace que haya gente con hambre todavía a menudo no es la falta de alimentos, sino la falta de acceso a la comida y el control sobre su producción. Tenemos que reconocer concesiones sobre la **soberanía alimentaria** que proporcionen a los locales un mayor control sobre sus alimentos --señala Bhaskar Vira--. Mejorar los derechos de propiedad y derechos más fuertes para **las mujeres** que son cada vez más **responsables de la producción de alimentos** de las tierras agrícolas y forestales son fundamentales para garantizar el éxito de los esfuerzos de reducción sostenible de la pobreza".

Aunque los bosques **no son una panacea** para el hambre mundial, el informe hace hincapié en que juegan un **papel vital** en complementar los **cultivos** producidos en las granjas. Esto es especialmente importante cuando el suministro de alimentos de primera necesidad se ve afectado por las sequías, los precios volátiles, los conflictos armados u otras situaciones de crisis. Además, la pérdida y degradación de los bosques exacerba el **problema** de la **inseguridad alimentaria**. De hecho, el informe señala que la expansión de la tierra agrícola representa el 73 por ciento de la pérdida de bosques en todo el mundo.

El estudio se presenta en el periodo previo a la finalización de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de las Naciones Unidas, diseñados para abordar, entre otros desafíos globales, la pobreza y el hambre. El informe también proporciona información útil sobre cómo la **ONU** puede responder al "Desafío Hambre Cero", que tiene como finalidad eliminar el hambre mundial para el año 2025.

<http://www.abc.es/sociedad/20150506/abci-bosques-alimentacion-201505051545.html>

Select online pick-up:

Finanzas.com (Spain)

<http://www.finanzas.com/noticias-001/sociedad/20150506/bosques-podrian-convertirse-recurso-2932711.html>

Forests trump card in efforts to end global hunger

May 6, 2015

London: The world's forests have great potential to improve the nutrition and ensure livelihoods of the people across the world, said researchers, including one of Indian-origin.

About one in nine people globally still suffers from hunger with the majority of the hungry living in Africa and Asia.

The report released by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) also underlines the need for the most vulnerable groups of society to have secure access to forest foods.

"Forest foods often provide a safety net during periods of food shortages," said Bhaskar Vira from the University of Cambridge.

"In the study, we reveal impressive examples which show how forests and trees can complement agricultural production and contribute to the income of local people, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world," noted Vira, chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which compiled the report.

Tree foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins, and other nutrients and are associated with more diverse diets.

Wild meat, fish, and insects are also important forest food sources. Insects are an especially cheap, abundant source of protein, fat, vitamins and minerals.

Forests are also essential for firewood and charcoal. In developing countries, 2.4 billion households use these renewable biofuels for cooking and heating.

Thus, in India and Nepal even better-off rural households depend on wood-fuels. Close to one out of six persons directly depends on forests for their food and income.

"What keeps people hungry is often not the lack of food, but the lack of access to that food and control over its production. We need to recognize claims over food sovereignty which give local people greater control over their food," Vira said.

The report also provides useful insight into how the UN can respond to the "Zero Hunger Challenge", which aims to eliminate global hunger by 2025.

IANS

http://zeenews.india.com/news/eco-news/forests-trump-card-in-efforts-to-end-global-hunger_1590858.html

Select online pick-up:

Bharat Press (India)

<http://bharatpress.com/2015/05/06/forests-trump-card-in-efforts-to-end-global-hunger/>

Business Standard (India)

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/forest-foods-can-help-solve-global-hunger-crisis-115050600579_1.html

Daijiworld.com (India)

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=317078

Digital News World

<http://www.digitalnewsworld.com/news/forests-trump-card-in-efforts-to-end-global-hunger.html>

New Kerala (India)

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2015/fullnews-53828.html>

WebIndia123

<http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/Science/20150506/2586063.html>

Z News

http://zeenews.india.com/news/eco-news/forests-trump-card-in-efforts-to-end-global-hunger_1590858.html



Inter Press Service

Bossen en bomen essentieel voor voedselzekerheid

May 6, 2015

BRUSSEL , 6 mei 2015 (IPS) — Wouden en bomen zijn onmisbaar in de strijd tegen honger in de wereld, blijkt uit een grootschalige studie. Wouden regelen het klimaat, bieden zelf voedsel en voorzien in een waaier aan ecologische diensten.

Meer dan zestig toonaangevende wetenschappers brachten de relatie tussen wouden, gewassen en voeding in kaart in een lijvig rapport voor de International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO). Ze onderzochten met name de rol van boslandbouw, waarbij gewassen geteeld worden onder een beschermend bladerdak van bomen.

Bossen worden wereldwijd bedreigd door de uitbreiding van landbouwareaal, maar uit het rapport blijkt duidelijk dat ze essentieel zijn in de productie van landbouwgewassen. "Grootschalige teelt van gewassen is erg kwetsbaar voor extreme weerfenomenen, en die komen vaker voor door de klimaatverandering", zegt Christop Wildburger van IUFRO. "De wetenschap toont aan dat boslandbouw beter bestand is tegen dergelijke tegenslagen."

Rijke bron

De studie brengt de verschillende manieren in kaart waarop bossen en bomen de voedselproductie ondersteunen. Enerzijds vormen de vruchten van de bomen zelf een rijke bron van vitamines, mineralen en andere voedingsstoffen, anderzijds bieden de wouden vlees, vis en insecten. Vooral insecten zijn een bijzonder goedkope en alomtegenwoordige bron van proteïnes, vet, vitamines en mineralen. In Zuidoost-Azië worden veel wouden beheerd door lokale gemeenschappen als bron van insectenvoedsel.

Daarnaast bieden de wouden een enorme waaier aan ecologische diensten. Zo vormen ze een thuishaven voor bijen en ander bestuivers die cruciaal zijn voor de gewassen in de landbouw. Tot slot zijn de wouden ook een essentiële bron van brandhout en houtskool. Wereldwijd maken 2,4 miljard gezinnen daarvan gebruik.

De auteurs besluiten dat wereldwijd één op zes mensen direct afhankelijk is van wouden voor hun voeding en inkomen. In de Sahel bijvoorbeeld zijn bomen goed voor gemiddeld 80 procent van het gezinsinkomen.

Sleutelrol

"We wisten al dat bossen een sleutelrol spelen in de matiging van de effecten van de klimaatverandering", zegt Wildburger. "Dit rapport maakt glashelder duidelijk dat ze ook een sleutelrol spelen in de strijd tegen honger."

Wouden bieden voedsel in tijden van schaarste. "In de studie sommen we indrukwekkende voorbeelden op van hoe wouden en bomen de landbouwproductie kunnen aanvullen en het inkomen van de lokale bevolking kunnen versterken, met name in de meest kwetsbare regio's in de wereld", zegt Bhaskar Vira van de Universiteit van Cambridge, een van de auteurs van het rapport.

"Dit rapport herinnert ons aan de vitale rol van wouden in de voedselzekerheid", zegt Thomas Gass, van het VN-departement voor Economische en Sociale Zaken. "Het vormt een overtuigend pleidooi voor een multifunctioneel en geïntegreerd beheer van het landschap en voor engagement op gemeenschapsniveau om bos- en landbouwsystemen opnieuw uit te vinden."

<http://www.ipsnews.be/artikel/bossen-en-bomen-essentieel-voor-voedselzekerheid>

Select online pick-up:

De Wereld Morgen Be (Belgium)

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Los bosques son clave para combatir hambre en el mundo

06.05.2015

Los bosques son esenciales para la seguridad alimentaria y ofrecen una de las claves para ayudar a combatir el hambre que padece una de cada nueve personas en el mundo, de acuerdo con un informe difundido hoy en la ONU.

Elaborado por la Unión Internacional de Organizaciones de Investigación Forestal (IUFRO), el informe destacó que los bosques son una de las claves para mejorar la nutrición y contribuir al sustento de los hambrientos, en especial cuando los límites del crecimiento agropecuario son cada vez más evidentes.

Titulado "La contribución de los bosques, árboles y paisajes a la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición", el documento subrayó también la necesidad de que los grupos más vulnerables de la sociedad tengan acceso seguro a los alimentos del bosque.

Asentó que por ahora más de mil millones de personas en el mundo, o una de cada seis, dependen de los bosques y de los árboles para obtener una dieta balanceada, así como para generar ingresos económicos sustentables.

Christoph Wildburger, coordinador del panel de expertos del IUFRO, subrayó que la producción a gran escala de cultivos es altamente vulnerable a los cambios cada vez más frecuentes en el clima, por lo que la agricultura basada en los árboles tiene mayor resistencia a estos desastres.

"Sabemos que los bosques juegan un papel clave en mitigar los efectos del cambio climático. Este informe deja muy claro que también juegan un papel en aliviar el hambre y en mejorar la nutrición", indicó Wildburger.

El informe resaltó ejemplos de la riqueza de los alimentos del bosque y de su abundancia de proteínas, vitaminas y otros nutrientes.

Las semillas secas de África y las nueces de India (anacardos) crudas tienen igual o más hierro que la carne de pollo. Asimismo, la carne de animales salvaje, el pescado y los insectos son fuentes económicas de proteínas, grasas, vitaminas y minerales.

Los bosques además son esenciales para proveer de leña y carbón, que aún son usados por dos mil 400 millones de hogares como fuente de energía para cocinar y calentarse.

Estos ecosistemas ofrecen también innumerables servicios, como albergar abejas y otros insectos polinizadores esenciales para la producción de cultivos; generar alimentos para los animales forrajeros

que dan leche y carne; y albergar ríos donde se practique la pesca.

"El informe revela impresionantes ejemplos de cómo los bosques y los árboles pueden complementar la producción agrícola y contribuir a los ingresos de las personas, en especial en las regiones más vulnerables del mundo", explicó Bhaskar Vira, co-autor del documento.

<http://www.20minutos.com.mx/noticia/b275574/los-bosques-son-clave-para-combatir-hambre-en-el-mundo/>

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Thomson Reuters Foundation (UK)

Residents' control is best answer to threat of deforestation: researchers

BY CHRIS ARSENAULT | Wed May 6, 2015 3:36am IST

ROME (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Expanding agriculture is the biggest driver of deforestation around the world, and giving local residents greater control over forested land leads to better environmental management, forest researchers said on Wednesday.

An estimated 1.2 billion people rely on forests for their livelihood, including about 60 million indigenous people who are almost entirely dependent on them, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) said in a 170-page report.

Expanding agriculture accounts for 73 percent of the world's forest loss, the report, released at the United Nations Forum on Forests, said.

Balancing competing interests is not easy in the face of climate change and a growing population, but forests should be viewed as key food producers and thus be better managed, rather than being seen as a barrier to agriculture, researchers said.

"There are countries that are achieving food security while at the same time reducing the rate of deforestation," Eva Muller, a senior forestry official at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) told the Thomson Reuters Foundation, though she declined to give examples.

Giving local residents the power to take decisions on land use is generally the best way to reach a compromise between forest users and farmers, she said.

Local communities have a natural interest in balancing food production and forest cover on their land, said Cambridge University's Bhaskar Vira, the study's lead author.

"There is considerable evidence to show that when local communities are given a clear stake in the health of forests, they look after it," Vira told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Giving women more control is especially effective."

Globally, nearly 80 percent of forests are publicly owned, so governments have the ability to provide local residents with secure land tenure, the FAO's Muller said.

Powerful logging or cattle ranching interests are likely to put pressure on local residents to sell them forested land, and national governments need to counter this with strong environmental protection policies, Vira said.

In some of the world's most vulnerable regions, such as the Sahel in North Africa, trees contribute 80 percent of the average household's income through shea nut production and other activities, the report

said.

Food products harvested from forests in the developing world are worth an estimated \$17 billion annually, the report said. About 2.4 billion households in developing countries depend on wood or other biofuels from forests for cooking and heating.

Food products derived from forests, including wild animals, nuts, fruits and seeds are especially important for vulnerable people at times of price volatility, war and drought, the report said.

(Reporting By Chris Arsenault; Editing by Tim Pearce)

<http://www.trust.org/item/20150505220049-hi65s>

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Global Post (USA)

<http://www.globalpost.com/article/6539040/2015/05/05/residents-control-best-answer-threat-deforestation-researchers>

Jakarta Globe (Indonesia)

<http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/business/residents-control-seen-best-answer-threat-deforestation/>

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Reuters (UK)

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/05/05/us-food-un-forests-idINKBN0NQ2DA20150505>

Reuters Africa (UK)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL5N0XW29I20150505>

Yahoo! News (USA)

<http://news.yahoo.com/residents-control-best-answer-threat-deforestation-researchers-220620456.html>

Yahoo! Maktoob News (Jordan)

<https://en-maktoob.news.yahoo.com/residents-control-best-answer-threat-deforestation-researchers-220620456.html>



Forests key to eliminate global hunger and malnutrition

May 9, 2015

Major forest ecosystems could provide answer to chronic hunger and malnutrition that affects one in nine people globally, says a report launched by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

Experts stressed that forests have the potential to shield rural communities from hunger, poverty and poor health.

“Forests are the building blocks of food security and sustainable development. There is a compelling case for community level engagement to re-imagine forests and agriculture systems,” said Assistant Secretary General for Policy at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Thomas Gass.

Sixty eminent scientists authored the report dubbed “Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition which was received by Xinhua on Saturday.

The report reveals that benefits of trees are manifold to include source of food for rural communities alongside vital ecosystem services like water supply and air purification. Forest products, according to the report, provide abundant supply of proteins, vitamins and minerals to the rural poor.

It added that forests provide animal fodder that enable communities to obtain meat and milk. Globally, one in six people depend on forests for food and income while a further 2.4 billion depend on them to meet energy needs.

The report indicates that in the Sahel region, trees contribute 80 percent to household incomes through Shea nut production.

Experts noted that investments in forest conservation will have multiplier effects on livelihoods.

A Scientist at the Nairobi based World Agro forestry Centre (ICRAF), Stepha Mc Mullin noted that forests will cushion rural communities from food insecurity occasioned by climate change and shrinking arable land.

“Directly, forests and other tree based systems like agro forestry provide a number of highly nutritious edible tree crops such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds and edible oils. They can help address seasonal food and nutrition gaps,” McMullin said.

The international community should explore innovative policy and funding incentives to promote sustainable management of forest ecosystems.

Chief Scientific Advisor at ICRAF Meine Van Noordwijk urged countries to tap funds from multilateral agencies and the private sector to invest in forest conservation.

“There are experiments with systems that provide a more structural and long-term funding to forest conservation. They are however pegged on the ecosystem services they provide to communities,” Van Noordwijk said.

<http://www.spyghana.com/forests-key-to-eliminate-global-hunger-and-malnutrition/>

Print

The EastAfrican East African

Forests, tree foods better option in fight against malnutrition and poverty

By Christabel Ligami

Posted Tuesday, May 12 2015 at 10:46

In the face of “peak farmland,” forest and tree foods are emerging as a better, more sustainable source of nutrition and income across the globe.

A new report released by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) says that the world’s forests have great potential to improve nutrition and fight poverty. In fact, forests and forestry are essential to achieving food security, as the limits of boosting agricultural production are becoming increasingly clear.

International recommendations say that people should eat 400 grams of fruits and vegetables per day to stave off diseases.

The report says that in sub-Saharan Africa, consumption of fruits and vegetables is low, with a mean daily intake of between 36 grams and 123 grams in surveyed East African countries; 70 grams and 130 grams in Southern Africa; and 90 grams and 110 grams in West and Central Africa.

Tree foods are often rich sources of vitamins, minerals, proteins, fats and other nutrients.

“Edible leaves of wild African trees such as the baobab and tamarind are high in calcium and are sources of protein and iron. Consumption of only 10 to 20 grams of baobab fruit pulp (or a glass of its juice), for example, covers a child’s daily vitamin C requirement,” says the report.

“The iron contents of dried seeds of the African locust bean and raw cashew nut are comparable with, or even higher than, that of chicken meat.”

However, the nutritional potential of countless other fruits and vegetables remains unknown because they have yet to be quantified. One in nine people globally still suffers from hunger with the majority of the hungry, living in Africa and Asia.

But forest food consumption is increasing in some high-income countries, including Northern Europe, in response to perceptions that food should be locally grown, organic and aesthetic.

In Ethiopia, the inclusion of fruit-bearing trees as shade in coffee plantations provides farmers with access to additional foods, such as mangoes, oranges, bananas and avocados, as well as firewood and timber.

“Large-scale crop production is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur more frequently due to climate change. Science shows that tree-based farming can adapt far better to such calamities,” said Christoph Wildburger, the co-ordinator of IUFRO’s Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative.

“We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This report

makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and improving nutrition.”

Bhaskar Vira of the University of Cambridge and chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security said that forest foods often provide a safety net during periods of food shortages.

The report documents efforts currently underway in Africa and elsewhere to develop new tree commodities to supply the poor with sustainable incomes.

For example, poor farmers in Tanzania are participating in a global effort to produce seeds of the *Allanblackia* crop, which yields edible oil with potential for the global food market.

A private–public partnership known as Novella Africa is developing a sustainable *Allanblackia* oil business that they believe could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually for local farmers.

In Kenya, for example, the “Education for Sustainable Development” initiative included a “Healthy Learning” programme that targeted schoolchildren and resulted in attitudinal and behavioural changes in communities.

The programme is a collaborative project between the Kenya Ministry of Education, VVOB, the Flemish Association for Development Co-operation and Technical Assistance, and the World Agroforestry Centre.

It aims to develop and implement sustainable strategies for an integrated approach to health for the poorest and most vulnerable primary school students in arid and semi-arid areas. The programme was implemented in 2013.

Counselling to change feeding behaviours is important within the context of culture and knowledge.

The education of men should also not be neglected, since they often have the most control over household incomes, and need to be aware of the importance of diverse cropping systems and the spending of income on healthy foods.

“What keeps people hungry is often not the lack of food, but the lack of access to that food and control over its production. We need to recognise claims over food sovereignty that give local people greater control over their food,” said Dr Vira adding, “Improved tenure rights and stronger rights for women who are becoming more and more responsible for food production from agricultural and forest lands are key to ensuring the success of sustainable poverty reduction efforts.”

Although forests are not a panacea for global hunger, the report emphasises that they play a vital role in complementing crops produced in farms. This is especially important when the staple food supply is impaired by droughts, volatile prices, armed conflicts, or other crises. This forest-farm link also means that the loss and degradation of forests exacerbate food insecurity.

Indeed, the report points out that the expansion of agricultural land accounts for 73 per cent of forest loss worldwide.

The study comes in the lead-up to the United Nations’ finalisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, designed to address, among other global challenges, poverty and hunger. The report also provides useful insights into how the UN can respond to the “Zero Hunger Challenge,” which aims to eliminate global hunger by 2025.

Despite advances in agricultural production globally, approximately one billion people are still chronically hungry, two billion people regularly experience periods of food insecurity and just over a third of humans are affected by micronutrient deficiencies.

Most of the countries with “alarming” Global Hunger Index scores are in sub-Saharan Africa and this region is therefore a particular target for intervention.

While rates of hunger have been falling in many parts of the world, there has been little change in the rates of micronutrient deficiencies.

In particular, deficiencies of iron, vitamin A, iodine and zinc, are associated with poor growth and cognitive development in children, and increased mortality and morbidity in both adults and children. Micronutrient deficiencies are often referred to as “hidden hunger,” as they can occur within the context of adequate energy intake, and can be overlooked using traditional measures of food security.

Malnutrition, including under-nutrition, micronutrient deficiency and over-nutrition (obesity and overweight) are developmental challenges.

Rates of obesity are increasing in virtually all regions of the world, affecting 1.4 billion adults globally; so obesity can no longer be viewed only as a disease of affluence.

The burden of over- and under-nutrition on the well-being of people in low-income nations is immense. As such, there have been calls for greater attention to “nutrition-sensitive” agriculture and food systems.

<http://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/news/Forests--tree-foods-better-option-in-fight-against-malnutrition/-/2558/2713682/-/item/2/-/8pjfqbl/-/index.html>



Hindustan Times (India)

Food from forests can help India's food security

Prasun Sonwalkar, Hindustan Times, London | Updated: May 07, 2015 15:13 IST

Food from forests in India and elsewhere have much potential to address needs of nutrition and food security at a time when the limits of boosting agricultural production are becoming increasingly clear, a major report released on Wednesday said.

Bhaskar Vira, an expert based at the University of Cambridge and chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, told HT that many fruits and other crops from Indian forests are yet to be recognised as food but could help address the needs of millions.

"India relies mostly on agriculture, but that is subject to vagaries of weather. Forests can complement the agriculture-based strategy. Most of the forest foods are not in commercial production systems, but can be vital with sustainable harvesting", he said.

Vira added: "Forest foods often provide a safety net during periods of food shortages. In the study, we reveal impressive examples which show how forests and trees can complement agricultural production and contribute to the income of local people, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world."

The report, titled 'Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition: A Global Assessment', by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations, was released at a side event of the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York.

Comprising several examples and figures from India – including 'jhum' cultivation in the north-east – the report says that benefits of forests and trees to nutrition include the fact that tree foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins, and other nutrients and are associated with more diverse diets.

Vira said: "We need to recognise the valuable contribution of forests to food in India and elsewhere. What keeps people hungry is often not the lack of food, but the lack of access to that food and control over its production. We need to recognize claims over food sovereignty which give local people greater control over their food."

Noting recent initiatives of the Narendra Modi government on the Forest Rights Act, he added: "Improved tenure rights and stronger rights for women who are becoming more and more responsible for food production from agricultural and forest lands are key to ensure the success of sustainable poverty reduction efforts."

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/food-from-forests-can-help-india-s-food-security/article1-1344778.aspx>



O Globo (Brazil)

Relatório destaca a importância das florestas no combate à fome global

Sistemas florestais e agroflorestais terão que complementar ainda mais a produção agrícola tradicional para alimentar população mundial

By Cesar Baima | 06/05/2015

RIO – A chamada “revolução verde”, responsável pelo forte aumento da produtividade no campo a partir da segunda metade do século XX, não se mostrou capaz de resolver o problema da fome no mundo e, ainda assim, já estaria próxima de seu limite sustentável. Diante disso, as florestas têm um papel cada vez mais importante de complementar a produção global de comida, além de possuir diversas características e desempenhar vários serviços ecossistêmicos fundamentais para garantir a segurança alimentar no planeta, em especial nas suas regiões e países mais pobres. O alerta é de um extenso relatório elaborado por mais de 60 renomados cientistas da área coordenados pela União Internacional de Organizações de Pesquisa Florestal (Iufro, na sigla em inglês) em nome da Parceria Colaborativa sobre Florestas (CPF, também na sigla em inglês), apresentado nesta quarta-feira em Nova York evento paralelo à abertura do Fórum das Nações Unidas para Florestas.

De acordo com estimativas da Organização para Alimentação e Agricultura das Nações Unidas (FAO), mais de 800 milhões de pessoas, ou cerca de um em cada nove habitantes do planeta, sofrem com a fome e a desnutrição, a maior parte na África e na Ásia. E, embora este número venha diminuindo, cresce a quantidade considerada mal nutrida, como crianças com seu desenvolvimento prejudicado, mulheres em idade reprodutiva com anemia e a obesidade entre os adultos. Soma-se a isso a expectativa de que a população mundial passe de 9 bilhões em 2050 e cumprir o desafio de acabar com a fome global até 2025, lançado pela ONU em 2012, durante a Rio+20, será praticamente impossível sem a contribuição dos produtos florestais e uma revisão nos processos de obtenção, acesso e preservação dos mesmos, destacam os autores do relatório.

- O relatório nos relembra o papel vital que as florestas têm na construção da segurança alimentar – diz Thomas Gass, secretário-geral assistente de políticas do Departamento de Economia e Questões Sociais da ONU. - Ele faz uma convincente defesa de abordagens multifuncionais e integradas e é um chamado para o engajamento comunitário em reimaginar as florestas e os sistemas agrícolas.

Segundo os autores do documento, as florestas podem ajudar a combater a fome e a má nutrição sob muitos aspectos. Elas e seus produtos são, por exemplo, mais resistentes aos efeitos das mudanças climáticas, como secas e inundações, do que as grandes plantações dedicadas a apenas um ou alguns poucos cultivos que marcaram a dita revolução verde.

- A produção de colheitas em grande escala é altamente vulnerável a eventos climáticos extremos, que podem ocorrer mais frequentemente em um cenário de mudanças climáticas – lembra Christoph Wildburger, coordenador do Painel Global de Especialistas Florestais (GFEP) da Iufro. - Sabemos que as

florestas já desempenham um papel-chave na mitigação das mudanças climáticas, e este relatório deixa muito claro que elas também podem ter um importante papel no alívio da fome e na melhora da nutrição.

ALIMENTOS MAIS DIVERSOS E NUTRITIVOS

Assim, outro benefício das florestas é que os alimentos extraídos delas, como frutas, vegetais, nozes, cogumelos, carnes de caça, peixes e até insetos, além de forragem para animais domesticados, costumam ser mais diversos e nutritivos do que os produzidos pela agricultura tradicional, promovendo uma dieta mais saudável. Isso sem contar que esta extração é uma importante fonte de renda e de segurança alimentar para as populações envolvidas, em geral muito pobres.

- Os alimentos das florestas frequentemente provêm uma rede de segurança durante os períodos de falta de comida - ressalta Bhaskar Vira, chefe do painel para florestas e segurança alimentar dos GFEP, que compilou o relatório. - No estudo, revelamos impressionantes exemplos que mostram como as florestas podem complementar a produção agrícola e contribuir para a renda das populações locais, especialmente nas regiões mais vulneráveis do mundo. Em geral, o que deixa as pessoas com fome não é a falta de comida, mas a falta de acesso a ela e de controle sobre sua produção. Precisamos reconhecer a soberania alimentar que dá a essas populações locais um maior controle sobre seus alimentos e alimentação.

<http://oglobo.globo.com/sociedade/sustentabilidade/relatorio-destaca-importancia-das-florestas-no-combate-fome-global-16067291>

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This Day Live (Nigeria)

New UN Report Emphasises Possible Contribution of Forests to Ending Hunger

14 May 2015

By Abimbola Akosile

A new United Nations-backed report on the link between forests and food production and nutrition says that woodlands could be the key to ending hunger and will be intimately linked to the global fight against climate change.

Launched recently at UN Headquarters in New York, where the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests held, the Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition report outlines the potential of forests to improve food security and nutrition, and to ensure the livelihoods of the world's most vulnerable people.

"What the report is trying to get us to focus on is the relatively neglected contribution that forests and trees make to food security and nutrition," said Mr. Bhaskar Vira, who serves as Chair of the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security. "Not necessarily neglected by the people who actually consume them but possibly neglected in some of the policy discourses."

He stressed that it was understood in the report that conventional agriculture would remain the major source of people's nutrition needs but underlined the complementary role that forests and tree-based systems would also play in feeding the world.

"We're not trying to suggest that forests and tree-based systems will replace agricultural practices in relation to the critical relationship between crops and food," said Vira. "But what we document in extensive detail is the role that forests and tree-based systems already play in supplementing people's diets and the important roles they play in supplying people with a nutritionally balanced diet."

Apart from the importance of forests and trees to food security and nutrition, the report's other key messages are that integrated governance is important in the interaction between different areas of land-use, that local control of forests are vital to their well-being and to food security as a whole, and that there is a need going forward to re-imagine forests and food security.

The report, which is based on existing knowledge, was put together by more than 60 renowned scientists who are part of the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Forests and Food Security.

The initiative was led by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) – a world-wide organisation devoted to forest research and related sciences, and a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is an informal arrangement among 14 international organisations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests.

The current session of the Forest Forum is trying to forge an international forest policy for the next 15 years that will be aligned with the new sustainable development agenda expected to be adopted in September. The current integration of forests into the new agenda demonstrates the increasing recognition of the critical role forests play in eradicating poverty, as well as addressing climate change.

“Conservation of forests and arresting deforestation remains the most affordable and most interesting and valuable cost-benefit option to decrease carbon emissions,” said Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat.

Filho also stressed how crucial the current year was as the international community discussed a new development agenda, and he noted that forests were to be included in two of the proposed new sustainable development goals.

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/new-un-report-emphasises-possible-contribution-of-forests-to-ending-hunger/209218/>

Broadcast



NTV (Kenya)

Saving forests, deforestation threatens biodiversity and farming resources

Published on May 11, 2015

By Zeynab Wandati

Video clip available [here](#)



Saving forests, deforestation threatens biodiversity & farming resources



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SABC: Channel Africa (South Africa)

Stepha McMullin interview with Channel One Africa

By Wandile Kallipa

Audio clip available [here](#).

Report: Proper Forest Management Is a Key to Feeding Planet

Rosanne Skirble

May 12, 2015 7:11 PM



Forests can help to reduce hunger and improve nutrition for millions of people, according to a major report released at the United Nations.

The world population is expected to climb to 9 billion by 2050. By that time the demand for food will double. Accommodating those future needs is a concern today, especially for the more than 800 million people who go to bed hungry.

In its report, the [International Union of Forest Research Organizations \(IUFRO\)](#), the world's largest network of forest scientists, notes that healthy forests provide half the fresh fruit we consume. They produce valuable commodities like coffee, avocados, cashews and other seeds popular on the world market.

The products are also rich in vitamins, proteins and other nutrients. The iron content of dried seeds of the African locust bean and raw cashew nut are comparable with, or even higher than, that of chicken meat, the report says.

Tree foods can also be a safety net for people living in and around the forest, said Bhaskar Vira, director of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute and chairman of the IUFRO panel that wrote the report.

He compared it to an insurance policy. "Having access to tree-based foods is hugely important when you can't buy food from other sources or when you can't produce food because your fields have failed," he said.

Complementary activities

Yet agriculture is a major driver of deforestation. Vira said the two can co-exist, even complement each other, if managed properly.

"The neglect of those forest foods is one of the reasons why people are willing to clear them and convert them over to agriculture," he said. "We are arguing that you should think about that landscape as a much more integrated production landscape."

Agricultural yields in one place, Vira added, can free up other areas to retain trees and the products and services they provide.

What keeps people hungry is often not lack of food, but lack of access to that food and control over its production, Vira said. "When people have greater control over the resources, forest health, its economic value and the lives of the people improve," he said.

Take, for example, the [locally managed agro-forestry project in Ghana](#) where people hope to reap profits from *Allanblackia*, a fruit-bearing plant. The oil from its seed can be used in soaps, beauty products and food. According to project coordinator Okai Michael Henchard, communities "get additional income. They get trees on their land. It provides shade to [understory crops] and then collectively we restore the land."

"*Allanblackia* also sequesters carbon," he added, "so it is helping to fight climate change."

'Vigilant' about resource use

Vira cautioned that overharvest can bring ruin. "We don't want to be in a situation where we are overexploiting this resource and then reducing its long-term sustainability," he said. "So we have to be quite vigilant, especially when you get market value imposed on these commodities and the desire for short-term profitability sometimes competing with the long-term sustainability of the resource."

The report underscores the importance of reimagining forested and agricultural landscapes through careful management and good governance. Vira said that approach, if done right, can help alleviate hunger and poverty worldwide.

Sixty scientists from around the world collaborated on the publication, *Forests, Trees, Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition, A Global Access Report*.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/proper-forest-management-key-feeding-planet/2765408.html>

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BBC Online (UK)

Forests are 'key feature' of food security landscape

By Mark Kinver

Environment reporter, BBC News

May 6, 2015 | Science & Environment



The study calculates that almost one-in-six people depend on forests for food and income

Forests can play a vital role in supplementing global food and nutrition security but this role is currently being overlooked, a report suggests.

The study says that tree-based farming provides resilience against extreme weather events, which can wipe out traditional food crops.

It warns that policies focusing on traditional agriculture often **overlook the role forest farming could play**.

The findings were presented at the **UN Forum on Forests** in New York, US.

The report is the result of a collaboration of more than 60 leading scientists, co-ordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO) on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

"The report is not trying to suggest that people should start relying on forests more than conventional agriculture," explained Bhaskar Vira, the chair of the panel which compiled the report.

"It is very much about the complimentary roles that forests can play alongside conventional agriculture.

"The evidence shows that a large number of people still rely on the food from forests and trees to supplement their diet," Dr Vira, director of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute.

Branching out

Global estimates suggest that one-in-nine people are still suffering from hunger, and the majority of them are in Africa and Asia.

The report highlights a range of measures that offer "great potential" to improve food security and improve people's quality of life.

It calculates that almost one-in-six people directly depend on forests for their food and income. It adds that in the Sahel region of Africa, tree-related production contributes an average of 80% to household incomes, particularly from shea nut production.

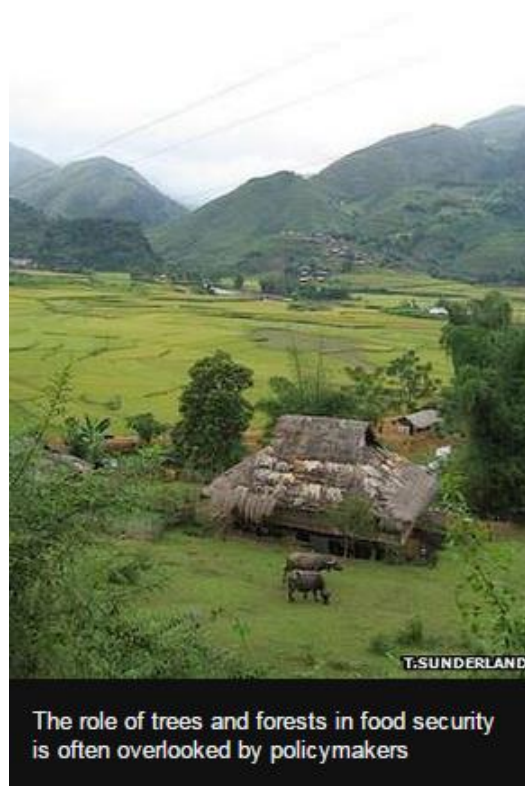
The report also highlights the importance of forests as a source of firewood and charcoal, essential to enable people to consume the calories found in conventional food crops. Globally, an estimated 2.4bn people use this renewable fuel source for heating and cooking.

More than wood

The authors also emphasise links between forests and conventional farming. For example, forests are a crucial habitat for key pollinators of many food crops. Without forests, the vital ecosystem service provided by birds and insects would be diminished, resulting in increased food security concerns.

"This report reminds us of the vital role of forests in building food security," observed Thomas Gass, assistant secretary-general for policy in the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs.

"It makes a convincing case for multi-functional and integrated landscape approaches, and for community-level engagement to re-imagine forestry and agriculture systems."



Another benefit lies in forests' ability to add diversity to the food production system, explained Christoph Wildburger, co-ordinator of the IUFRO Global Forest Expert Panels.

"Large-scale crop production is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events," he said.

"We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This report makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and improving nutrition."



Dr Vira added: "What we are saying to policymakers is to start thinking more about the landscape as an integrated production system rather than the current and conventional view that often places agriculture and forestry in opposition to each other.

"We make a really strong case for thinking about the landscape holistically."

Late last year, the **Global Nutrition Report** warned that most countries in the world faced a serious public health problem as a result of malnutrition.

It said that every nation except China had crossed a "malnutrition red line", suffering from too much or too little nutrition.

According to that report, malnutrition led to 11% of global GDP being "squandered as a result of lives lost, less learning, less earning and days lost to illness".

Dr Vira told BBC News: "One really important insight we got was that conventional agriculture was good for the calorific intake but not so good when you started to think about healthy and balanced diets.

"When we talk about food security we need to stop focusing simply on calories. It is hugely important to recognise how much of a balanced diet comes from outside of conventional agriculture, particularly from trees and forests.

"Forests matter when it comes to human wellbeing."

Select online pick-up:

One News Page (USA)

<http://www.onenewspage.com/n/Front+Page/7551kjk7s/Forests-are-key-feature-of-food-security-landscape.htm>



ClickGreen (UK)

New study finds forests can play key role in efforts to end global hunger

By ClickGreen staff | Published Wed 06 May 2015

Forests and forestry are essential to achieve global food security as the limits of boosting agricultural production are becoming increasingly clear, a new study published today reveals.

The findings are included in the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on the relationship among forests, food and nutrition launched today in New York at a side event of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

The new report released by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the world's largest network of forest scientists, also underlines the need for the most vulnerable groups of society to have secure access to forest foods.



More than 60 renowned scientists from around the world collaborated on the peer-reviewed publication "Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition. A Global Assessment Report", which was coordinated by IUFRO on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

"This report reminds us of the vital role of forests in building food security. It makes a convincing case for multi-functional and integrated landscape approaches and calls for community level engagement to re-imagine forestry and agriculture systems", says Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

"Large-scale crop production is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur more frequently under climate change. Science shows that tree-based farming can adapt far better to such calamities." says Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative. "We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This report makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and improving nutrition."

"Forest foods often provide a safety net during periods of food shortages," says Bhaskar Vira, University of Cambridge, and the chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which compiled the report. "In the study, we reveal impressive examples which show how forests and trees can

complement agricultural production and contribute to the income of local people, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world."

The benefits of forests and trees to nutrition are manifold:

* Tree foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins, and other nutrients and are associated with more diverse diets. For example, the iron content of dried seeds of the African locust bean and raw cashew nut are comparable with, or even higher than, that of chicken meat.

* Wild meat, fish, and insects are also important forest food sources. Insects are an especially cheap, abundant source of protein, fat, vitamins and minerals. Particularly in Southeast Asia, many forests and agroforests (tree-based farms) are managed by local communities specifically to enhance edible insect supply.

* Forests are also essential for firewood and charcoal. In developing countries, 2.4 billion households use these renewable biofuels for cooking and heating. In India and Nepal, for example, even better-off rural households depend on woodfuels.

* Trees offer a multitude of ecological services. For instance, they support bees and other pollinators, which are essential for crop production including on farmland. They also provide animal fodder that enables communities to produce meat and milk, and protect streams and watersheds as habitat for fish.

According to the report, close to one out of six persons directly depend on forests for their food and income. In the Sahel region, for example, trees contribute 80% on average to household incomes, especially through shea nut production. Evidence also shows that worldwide the lower the level of prosperity, the higher the share of forests in household incomes.

The report documents efforts currently underway in Africa and elsewhere to develop new tree commodities to supply the poor with sustainable incomes. For example, poor producers in Tanzania are engaged in a global effort to produce the seeds of the *Allanblackia* crop, which yield an edible oil with potential for the global food market. A private-public partnership known as Novella Africa is developing a sustainable *Allanblackia* oil business that they believe could be worth USD hundreds of millions annually for local farmers.

"What keeps people hungry is often not the lack of food, but the lack of access to that food and control over its production. We need to recognize claims over food sovereignty which give local people greater control over their food," notes Bhaskar Vira. "Improved tenure rights and stronger rights for women who are becoming more and more responsible for food production from agricultural and forest lands are key to ensure the success of sustainable poverty reduction efforts."

Although forests are not a panacea for global hunger, the report emphasizes that they play a vital role in complementing crops produced on farms. This is especially important when the staple food supply is impaired by droughts, volatile prices, armed conflicts, or other crises. This forest-farm link also means that the loss and degradation of forests exacerbate the problem of food insecurity. Indeed, the report points out that the expansion of agricultural land accounts for 73 per cent of forest loss worldwide.

The study comes in the lead up to the United Nations' finalization of the Sustainable Development Goals, designed to address, among other global challenges, poverty and hunger. The report also provides useful

insight into how the UN can respond to the "Zero Hunger Challenge," which aims to eliminate global hunger by 2025.

<http://www.clickgreen.org.uk/research/trends/125986-forest-can-play-a-key-role-in-efforts-to-end-global-hunger.html>

Tree-based farming could deliver abundant benefits

By Tim Radford | May 8, 2015



In addition to mitigating the effects of climate change, forests can help alleviate hunger and provide a safety net for some of the world's poorest people.

LONDON, 8 May, 2015 – Forests may be the green investment with the richest returns for humankind, according to new research.

While one study outlines the ways in which forests provide food, fuel, shelter and a safety net for more than a billion humans, a separate one confirms that a canopy of older, sturdier trees helps protect the saplings and juvenile growths against heat and drought.

An international team of more than 60 scientists collaborated on a report – *Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition: a Global Assessment Report* – just published by

the International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO).

“Large-scale crop production is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur far more frequently under climate change,” says Christoph Wilburger, who co-ordinated the IUFRO initiative. “Science shows that tree-based farming can adapt far better to such calamities.

Key role

“We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This report makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and in improving nutrition.”

Climate scientists tend to consider forests as “carbon sinks” – agencies that soak up carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and that could help counter the rising levels of the greenhouse gas released by the burning of fossil fuels.

But forests also have a role in water storage and in protecting land from the forces of erosion.

Forest fruits and nuts are an important nutrition source for many. The iron content of the dried seeds of the African locust bean and raw cashew nut can, for instance, match the flesh of chickens. And forests are shelter for sources of wild meat, fish and edible insects.

“Extensive losses of forest canopy . . . will amplify the effects of climate change”

In developing countries, around 2.4 billion households use wood and charcoal for cooking and heating, and forests deliver a multitude of what are sometimes called ecosystem services – such as supporting bees and other crop pollinators, delivering fodder for village livestock, and protecting streams and watersheds.

Worldwide, the lower the levels of prosperity, the higher the dependence on forests. In the Sahel region of Africa south of the Sahara, trees contribute on average four-fifths of household income – mostly through shea nut production.

The report also points out that the expansion of agricultural land accounts for 73% of forest loss worldwide.

Increasing threat

But if forests keep people safe, what keeps a forest in leaf when drought, extremes of heat and the attrition of climate change are also an increasing threat?

Solomon Dobrowski, of the Forest Landscape Ecology Lab at the University of Montana, and colleagues report in Global Ecology and Biogeography that the regeneration of future forests could depend on shelter from the extensive canopy provided by the adult trees in mature woodland.

Juvenile trees are more shallow-rooted and more vulnerable to high winds, intense sunlight, high temperatures and extended drought. Without a shady, protective canopy, they could suffer. And without juvenile trees, a forest could only decline.

Professor Dobrowski warns: “Extensive losses of forest canopy from disturbances such as severe wildfire will amplify the effects of climate change.” – *Climate News Network*

http://www.climatenetwork.net/tree-based-farming-could-deliver-abundant-benefits/?utm_source=Climate+News+Network&utm_campaign=e0f9bf30ea-Tree+based+farming+s+benefits5+8+2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_1198ea8936-e0f9bf30ea-38769677

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http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/tree-based_farming_could_deliver_abundant_benefits_20150508



Climate Wire (USA)

FOOD SECURITY: Forest preservation key to efforts to feed growing global population -- report

Elizabeth Harball | Published: Wednesday, May 6, 2015

The United Nations projects that the world's population will reach 9.6 billion by 2050. While discussions on how to feed billions of additional mouths by midcentury often home in on agriculture, a new report argues that forests are also an important piece of the puzzle.

Published today by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), a global network of forest scientists, the report estimates that just under 20 percent of the world's population is "forest dependent," meaning they rely on forests for food, fodder for livestock, wood fuel for cooking and other resources.

Because much of global deforestation is driven by agricultural expansion for commodities like soy and beef, efforts to preserve natural forests are commonly presented as being at odds with efforts to combat hunger in developing nations.

But when it comes to growing more food for a growing population, "the focus has been so far on calories as opposed to nutritionally balanced diets," said Bhaskar Vira, director of Cambridge's Conservation Research Institute and chairman of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which compiled the report.

Forest foods can help address this challenge, Vira said. Evidence presented in the IUFRO report shows that forest foods like wild fruits, bushmeat and even grubs provide important nutritional value and more varied diets that often wouldn't be available to communities through conventional large-scale agriculture.

For example, the report cites a recent study finding that children in the southeastern African nation of Malawi living in communities near cleared forests had less varied diets than children in communities near forests that had been preserved.

'Reorganization of thinking' needed to provide more forest-based food

Vira stressed that the report isn't intended to suggest that forests can replace agriculture's role in ending global hunger.

But in addition to providing a greater range of nutrients, Vira said, foods found in forests can also help communities cope with fluctuating global food prices, as well as provide key ecosystem services like maintaining healthy soils, clean water and providing habitat for pollinators.

Many of the world's extremely poor populations live in or near forests, the report notes, likely because forests are often in remote regions. Forests sometimes provide a refuge for these populations, but remote regions are also commonly far from infrastructure that encourages economic development.

The report calls forests "critical" for food security and nutrition for many of these remote, vulnerable communities. Giving these communities the rights to their land "has significant potential to enhance access to nutritious food," states a policy brief accompanying the report.

Vira said policymakers may have to undergo a "reorganization of thinking" to make sure that poor populations have access to foods found in forests, as government agencies responsible for agriculture and forests are often kept separate.

"Very few in the forestry community imagine the forest as a food productive landscape," Vira said.

Frances Seymour, a forest and climate policy expert and a senior fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Global Development, said the report challenges conventional wisdom that expanding agricultural development is always a boon for nations seeking to feed hungry populations.

"It's really important that a report like this highlights all the ways that standing forests do contribute directly and indirectly to food security," Seymour said.

Forests called pivotal for 2-degree target

"This report is strong in covering the more micro part of the story in terms of how forests contribute to food security at the household to farm to landscape level," Seymour added. "That is an important complement to what I would refer to as the new science -- at a more macro scale -- on the role of forests, particularly tropical forests, in affecting rainfall and temperature patterns at even broader scales."

Seymour was referring to a recent paper published in Nature Climate Change determining that large-scale clearing of tropical forests could alter temperature and rainfall on a global scale, potentially to the detriment of agricultural production worldwide (ClimateWire, Dec. 18, 2014).

The report was released as the U.N. Forum on Forests, a subsidiary body of the U.N. Economic and Social Council, begins a two-week session in New York to strengthen the International Arrangement on Forests, which aims to enhance international political commitments to conserve forests.

"The science is clear. We cannot limit the increase in global temperature to below 2 degrees Celsius without serious efforts on forest preservation," Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Jan Eliasson said Monday at the forum's opening session.

It is estimated that deforestation accounts for 10 percent of annual global greenhouse gas emissions.

Forest-related goals for global sustainable development must "at the same time address the challenges of poverty eradication and climate change," Eliasson said.

http://www.eenews.net/staff/Elizabeth_Harball

How tasty forest foods can help solve the global hunger crisis

By Bhaskar Vira | 6 May 2015



Healthier than meat, more resilient than crops. Erik Hersman, CC BY.

About [one in nine people globally](#) still suffer from hunger, with the majority living in Africa and Asia. The world's forests have great potential to improve their nutrition and ensure their livelihoods. In fact, forests could be essential to global food security, particularly when considering the importance of diverse, nutritionally-balanced diets.

Forests are key to [protecting biodiversity](#), and for mitigating the effects of climate change. This is well known. However their contribution to alleviating hunger and improving nutrition has been somewhat neglected. A recent study by the [Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security](#), which I chaired, shows how forests and trees can complement agricultural production and give an economic boost to some of the world's most vulnerable regions.

Four ways forests benefit food security

- Tree foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins, and other nutrients and are associated with more diverse diets. For example, the [iron content](#) of dried seeds of the African locust bean and raw cashew nut are comparable with, or even higher than that of chicken meat. Trees in home gardens, widespread in Africa and Asia, increase fruit and vegetable consumption.
- Wild meat, fish, and insects are also important forest food sources. Insects are an especially cheap, abundant [source of protein and fat](#). Caterpillars are great for vitamins and minerals. Particularly in South-East Asia, many forests and agroforests (tree-based farms) are managed by local communities specifically to enhance edible insect supply, such as the management of sago palms in Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesia to support [grub production](#).
- Forests are also essential for firewood and charcoal. In developing countries, [2.4 billion people](#) still use wood-fuel for cooking and heating. In India and Nepal, even better-off rural households depend on it. The volatile and often high prices for other energy sources suggest this situation is unlikely to change for some time. Access to cooking fuel provides people with more flexibility in what they can eat, including more nutritious foods [that require more energy to cook](#).
- Trees offer a multitude of ecological services. For instance, they support bees and other pollinators, which are essential for crop production including on farmland. They also provide animal fodder that enables communities to produce meat and milk, and protect streams and watersheds as habitat for fish.

Close to one out of six people directly depend on forests [for their food and income](#), and it is important to recognise the rights of local people to these livelihood options. In the Sahel, for example, trees can contribute as much as 80% to household incomes, especially through shea nut production.

Novel initiatives are attempting to develop new tree commodities to supply the poor with sustainable incomes. For example, poor producers in Tanzania are engaged in a global effort to produce the [seeds of the Allanblackia crop](#), which yield an edible oil. A private–public partnership known as Novella Africa is developing a sustainable Allanblackia oil business that could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars annually for local farmers.

From forest to farm

Although forests are not a panacea for global hunger, they play a vital role in complementing crops produced on farms. This is especially important when the staple food supply is impaired by droughts, volatile prices, armed conflicts, or other crises.

While large-scale crop production remains important, it is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur more frequently under climate change. Tree-based farming can [adapt far better](#) to such calamities. During periods of food shortage triggered by such events, forest foods can provide a vital safety net, especially for the poorest households.



Better than chicken? TREEAID, CC BY

This forest-farm link also means that the loss and degradation of forests exacerbate the problem of food

insecurity. Losing forests jeopardises “ecological services” such as a clean water supply, crucial for crop and livestock production. Managing landscapes on a multi-functional basis that combines food production, the maintenance of ecosystem services and other land use services should be at the forefront of efforts to achieve global food security.

In the lead up to the UN’s finalisation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) later this year, the contribution of forests and tree-based systems to the “[Zero Hunger Challenge](#)” needs to be emphasised.

They can be managed to provide better and more nutritionally-balanced diets, greater control over food inputs – particularly during lean seasons and periods of vulnerability (especially for marginalised groups) – and deliver ecosystem services for crop production. It will be a critical element of the responses to global hunger.

Select online pick-up:

Gizmodo (India)

<http://www.gizmodo.in/science/Unused-Forest-Foods-Could-Help-Solve-the-Global-Hunger-Crisis/articleshow/47189200.cms>

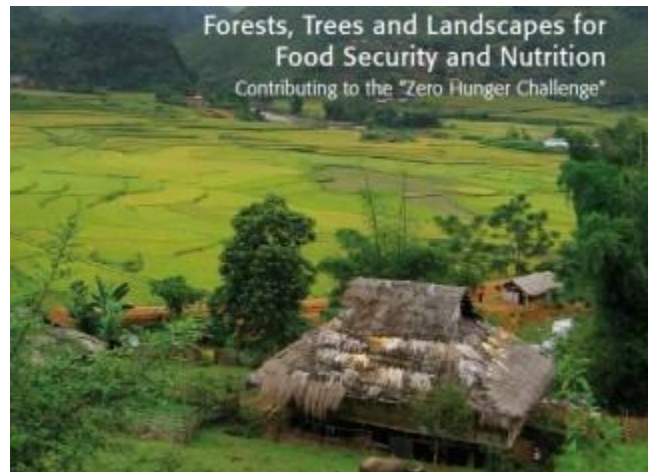
Senza le foreste impossibile sconfiggere la fame nel mondo

Una fonte abbondante di proteine, reddito, biocarburanti e servizi ecosistemici

6 maggio 2015

Secondo il nuovo rapporto dell'International Union of Forest Research Organizations (Iufro), il più grande network di scienziati forestali del mondo, «Le foreste potrebbero essere la carta vincente negli sforzi per porre fine alla fame nel mondo». Infatti persone nel mondo un miliardo di dipendono dalle foreste e dagli alberi per sfamarsi ed avere redditi sostenibili.

Nel mondo circa una persona su 9 soffre la fame e la maggior parte dei denutriti vive in Africa e in Asia. L'Iufro è convinto che «Le foreste del mondo hanno un grande potenziale per migliorare la loro nutrizione e garantire i loro mezzi di sussistenza. In realtà, le foreste e la silvicoltura sono essenziali per raggiungere la sicurezza alimentare, dato che i limiti di poter incrementare la produzione agricola stanno diventando sempre più chiaro».



Il "Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition. A Global Assessment Report", realizzato per conto della Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), al quale hanno collaborato più di 60 ricercatori, è l'analisi scientifica più completa su questo argomento prodotta fino ad oggi, è stata presentata New York all'United Nations Forum on Forests e sottolinea anche «La necessità che i gruppi più vulnerabili della società abbiano un accesso sicuro agli alimenti della foresta».

Lo studio fa parte dei documenti preparatori per definire i Sustainable Development Goals Onu per affrontare le sfide globali come la povertà e la fame e si propone come elemento per rispondere alla "Zero Hunger Challenge", un'iniziativa dell'Onu che punta ad eliminare la fame nel mondo entro il 2025.

Thomas Gass, assistente del segretario generale dell'Onu all'UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, ha detto che «Questo rapporto ci ricorda il ruolo fondamentale delle foreste nella costruzione della sicurezza alimentare. Presenta casi convincenti di approcci al territorio multifunzionali e integrati e chiede un impegno a livello comunitario per ri-immaginare i sistemi forestali e l'agricoltura»,

Secondo Christoph Wildburger, coordinator del Global Forest Expert Panels dell'Iufro, «La produzione delle colture su larga scala è estremamente vulnerabile agli eventi meteorologici estremi, che possono verificarsi più spesso all'interno del cambiamento climatico. La scienza dimostra che l'agricoltura basata

sugli alberi è in grado di adattarsi molto meglio ad una tale calamità. Sappiamo che le foreste svolgono già un ruolo fondamentale nel mitigare gli effetti del cambiamento climatico. Questo rapporto rende molto chiaro che svolgono un ruolo fondamentale per alleviare la fame e migliorare la nutrizione».

Bhaskar Vira, dell'università di Cambridge, e presidente del Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security che ha redatto il rapporto, evidenzia che « Le foreste forniscono una dieta sana e diversificata. Gli alimenti forestali spesso forniscono una rete di sicurezza durante i periodi di scarsità di cibo. Nello studio, sveliamo impressionanti esempi che mostrano come le foreste e gli alberi possono integrare la produzione agricola e contribuire al reddito della popolazione locale, in particolare di quelle delle regioni del mondo più vulnerabili».

I vantaggi di foreste e degli alberi per una corretta alimentazione sono molteplici: il cibo forestale è spesso ricco di vitamine, proteine e altre sostanze nutritive e permette diete più diversificate. Ad esempio, il contenuto di ferro dei semi essiccati delle carrube africane e degli anacardi non trattati sono è paragonabile o addirittura superiore a quello della carne di pollo; Anche la selvaggina, i pesci e gli insetti sono importanti fonti di cibo forestale. Gli insetti sono una fonte abbondante di proteine, grassi, vitamine e minerali particolarmente a buon mercato. In particolare, nel Sud-Est asiatico, molte foreste ed agroforeste sono gestite dalle comunità locali specificamente per migliorare il rifornimento di insetti commestibili; Le foreste sono essenziali anche per legna da ardere e il carbone. Nei paesi in via di sviluppo, 2,4 miliardi di famiglie utilizzare questi biocarburanti rinnovabili per cucinare e riscaldarsi. In India e Nepal, per esempio, anche famiglie rurali più agiate dipendono da combustibili legnosi; Gli alberi offrono una moltitudine di servizi ecologici. Ad esempio, sostengono le api e gli altri impollinatori, che sono essenziali per la produzione agricola. Forniscono cibo anche agli animali che consentono alle comunità per produrre carne e latte, e proteggono torrenti e bacini come habitat per i pesci. Insomma, le foreste aiutano i poveri a vivere

Secondo il rapporto, «Circa una persona su 6 dipende direttamente dalle foreste per il cibo e il reddito».

Nel Sahel, gli alberi contribuiscono in media all'80% dei redditi familiari, in particolare con la produzione di noci di karité. L'evidenza mostra che in tutto il mondo più basso è il livello di benessere, maggiore è la quota di foreste nei redditi delle famiglie.

Il rapporto documenta gli sforzi in corso, in Africa e altrove, per lo sviluppo di nuovi prodotti di base dagli alberi per fornire ai poveri con un reddito sostenibile. Ad esempio, i contadini poveri della Tanzania sono impegnati a produrre i semi di allanblackia, che permettono di ottenere un olio commestibile con potenzialità per il mercato alimentare globale. Il partenariato pubblico-privato Novella Africa sta sviluppando un business sostenibile di olio di allanblackia che potrebbe valere centinaia di milioni di dollari all'anno per i contadini locali. .

Vira spiega ancora: «Quello che rende le persone affamate spesso non è la mancanza di cibo, ma la mancanza di accesso al cibo e il controllo sulla sua produzione. Dobbiamo far nostri le richieste di sovranità alimentare che diano alle popolazioni locali un maggiore controllo sul loro cibo. Il miglioramento dei diritti di fondiari e il rafforzamento dei diritti per le donne, che stanno diventando sempre più responsabile della produzione di cibo dai terreni agricoli e forestali, sono fondamentali per garantire il successo degli sforzi di riduzione della povertà sostenibile».

Anche se le foreste non sono la panacea per la fame nel mondo, il rapporto sottolinea che «Svolgono un ruolo fondamentale nell'integrare le colture prodotte nelle aziende agricole. Ciò è particolarmente importante quando l'approvvigionamento del cibo base è compromesso dalla siccità, i prezzi sono volatili,

ci sono conflitti armati o altre crisi. Questo collegamento foresta-fattoria significa anche che la perdita e il degrado delle foreste esacerba il problema dell'insicurezza alimentare». In effetti, il rapporto evidenzia che l'espansione dell'agricoltura è responsabile del 73% della perdita di foreste in tutto il mondo».

<http://www.greenreport.it/news/aree-protette-e-biodiversita/senza-le-foreste-impossibile-sconfiggere-la-fame-nel-mondo/>



LifeGate.it (Italy)

Le foreste possono sconfiggere la fame nel mondo

Secondo un nuovo studio le foreste possono ricoprire un ruolo decisivo nel raggiungimento della sicurezza alimentare globale.

di Lorenzo Brenna | 06-05-2015

Sottolineare l'importanza delle foreste è quasi superfluo, esistevano molto tempo prima della comparsa dell'uomo e, se glielo consentiamo, continueranno ad esistere per milioni di anni. Esse offrono alla nostra specie un'infinità di risorse, ospitano una ricca biodiversità e sono indispensabili per la riduzione della quantità di CO2.

Boschi e foreste sono inoltre fondamentali per raggiungere la sicurezza alimentare, senza le piante semplicemente non potremmo mangiare. Da esse viene infatti la maggior parte del cibo che consumiamo, il restante consiste in prodotti animali i quali a loro volta sono derivati dalle piante.

Attualmente una persona su nove nel mondo è vittima di malnutrizione, con l'aiuto delle aree boschive si potrebbe contrastare questa piaga, mentre sono sempre più evidenti i limiti dell'incremento della produzione agricola.

Lo afferma un nuovo studio, presentato come l'analisi più completa mai effettuata sul **rapporto tra boschi, cibo e nutrizione**, realizzato dall'Unione Internazionale degli Istituti Forestali (Iufro), network internazionale non-governativo di scienziati forestali. Il nuovo rapporto, presentato a New York in occasione del Forum delle Nazioni Unite sulle foreste, sottolinea la necessità di garantire un accesso sicuro agli alimenti della foresta.

Lo studio, chiamato "Foreste, alberi e paesaggi per la sicurezza alimentare e la nutrizione. Rapporto di una valutazione globale", è stato realizzato da oltre sessanta scienziati, coordinati da Iufro, per conto del **Partenariato di cooperazione sulle foreste (Cpf)**.

"La produzione delle colture su larga scala è estremamente vulnerabile agli eventi meteorologici estremi – ha dichiarato Christoph Wildburger, coordinatore del Global Forest Expert Panel (Gfep). – La scienza dimostra che l'**agricoltura forestale** è in grado di adattarsi meglio a tali calamità".

Secondo lo studio i **vantaggi delle foreste in ambito nutrizionale sono numerosi**. Gli alimenti offerti dagli alberi sono spesso ricchi di vitamine, proteine e altre sostanze nutritive. Il contenuto di ferro di semi essiccati di carrube africana, ad esempio, è superiore a quello della carne di pollo.

Secondo il rapporto **circa una persona su sei al mondo dipende direttamente dalle foreste** per il proprio cibo e reddito, più il reddito della popolazione è basso maggiore è la dipendenza dalle foreste.

“La gente soffre la fame spesso non per effettiva mancanza di cibo quanto per la mancanza di accesso ad esso e al controllo della sua produzione”, ha concluso Bhaskar Vira, responsabile del Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security.

<http://www.lifegate.it/persone/news/le-foreste-possono-sconfiggere-la-fame-nel-mondo>



Mongabay (USA)

To improve food security, look to the forests, new report says

Mike Gowarecki

May 08, 2015

Forests could help alleviate global hunger, according to a new report released Wednesday during the United Nations Forum on Forests in New York.

It's a bold claim, and [the report](#), published by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), doesn't shy away from the enormity of the problem it seeks to address. Some 805 million people — one in nine citizens of Earth — are undernourished, primarily in Africa and Asia. At the same time, between 1.2 and 1.5 billion people worldwide depend on forests for all or most of their diet and livelihood, according to the report.

This suggests that if countries with big forest-dependent populations adopt national policies and land-use strategies that support the planting of multi-functional trees to provide food, timber, fuel wood, medicine, and a host of environmental services, they could do much to ensure access to safe, nutritious food for all. However, the report does not quantify forests' current or potential contribution to food security.

Even as the benefits of forest-based food production are becoming better known, the limitations of conventional agriculture in alleviating global hunger for a growing human population are becoming clear. The report cites research from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization showing that conventional agriculture tends to result in an unbalanced diet lacking nutritional diversity, exposes the poor to volatile food prices, and has long-term ecological consequences.

But forests and tree-based farming systems such as agroforestry can complement agricultural production to ensure greater food security and better nutrition for some of the world's most vulnerable communities, Stepha McMullin, a social scientist with the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, and one of the report's authors, said in a statement emailed to mongabay.com.

If you're familiar with shade-grown coffee, then you have an idea of what agroforestry is all about. By planting fruit trees and other useful species, selectively weeding and otherwise managing the forests as intensively as any farmer might tend their fields and rotate their crops, people all over the world have created gardens that resemble natural forests in many ways, including providing suitable habitat for a diverse array of flora and fauna.

One forest garden — or "tembawang," as it's called locally — in West Kalimantan, an Indonesian province on the island of Borneo, harbors trees from 44 different species, 30 of which produce something edible, per the report. Some forest gardens include trees and other plants grown for fuel wood or their ability to attract game.

McMullin pointed to the direct benefits of forest and tree-based systems, including the fact that they provide a number of highly nutritious edible tree crops that help diversify diets, like fruits, leafy vegetables, nuts, seeds and edible oils. These provisions, as well as the wild meat, fish and insects that are also important forest food sources, help fill seasonal food and nutritional gaps, McMullin said.

"Due to the higher resilience of trees compared to annual crops, tree foods play an important role in periods of drought and help overcome hunger due to food shortages, especially when staple crops fail or before they are ready for harvest," she said.

Forests and tree-based systems also benefit people indirectly, according to McMullin, such as by providing a source of income so people can purchase food.

For instance, in the Sahel region of Africa, the report states that by planting trees, "poor farmers have turned millions of acres of what had become semi-desert by the 1980s into more productive land." Trees now account for 80 percent of average household incomes in the region, largely through shea-nut production. Shea trees (*Vitellaria paradoxa*) growing in what the report refers to as "shea parklands" are selected for desirable traits, and culled trees can be used for fuel or construction. People also raise livestock and grow staple crops within the parklands.

Of course, forests provide environmental services essential to conventional crop production, too, such as supporting bees and other pollinators.

According to McMullin and her co-authors, agroforestry, as defined by tree cover of greater than 10 percent on agricultural land, is found on more than 43 percent of all agricultural land in the world. It is particularly prominent in Central America, South America, and Southeast Asia, where more than half of all farmland is considered agroforest.

Ultimately, lack of community control over forests and, of course, deforestation could limit the abilities of forests to enhance food security. Forest management in most countries is fragmented across different governmental agencies and administrative jurisdictions.

"The complex, overlapping and interconnecting processes which link tree products and services to food security and nutrition are currently not adequately represented in forestry, agriculture, food or nutrition-related strategies at global and national levels," the report's authors write. This contributes to cropland and forests being disproportionately subject to degradation, which limits their productivity.

Climate change is also a threat, not just to the productivity of agroforests but to conventional agricultural operations, as well.

"Large-scale crop production is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur more frequently under climate change. Science shows that tree-based farming can adapt far better to such calamities," Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels initiative, which brought together the various researchers who wrote the report, said in a [press release](#).

"We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This report makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and improving nutrition," he said.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2015/0508-gowarecki-food-security-forests.html>

NATURE WORLD NEWS

Nature World News

Forests are Still Essential in Fighting World Hunger, Maybe More Than Ever

By Brian Stallard | May 06, 2015 04:25 PM EDT

It's no secret that despite abundant supplies in developed worlds, a worrying number of people are still starving in the modern age. This problem may only grow worse as net populations rise and agricultural production sinks. Now, new research has shown that even deforestation could make things worse, as forests have proven themselves to be more important to global food security than previously thought.

That's according to the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on the relationships between forests, food, and nutrition. The results were presented today at the United Nations (UN) Forum on Forests.

More than 60 renowned scientists from around the world collaborated on the peer-reviewed publication "[Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition. A Global Assessment Report](#)," which was coordinated by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

"This report reminds us of the vital role of forests in building food security," Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, said in a [statement](#). "It makes a convincing case for multi-functional and integrated landscape approaches and calls for community level engagement to re-imagine forestry and agriculture systems."

A Fall of Farming?

First, it should be pointed out that experts have long been convinced that there is plenty of food in the world to go around. If there was a will and means to evenly distribute global food wealth, no one anywhere in the world would ever go hungry. Unfortunately, that is near impossible from a logistics standpoint, and soon may even take a turn for the worse.

That's because factors like [salted soil](#), global [pollinator declines](#), and even [climate change](#) are all severely impacting agriculture, potentially leading to a [sharp decline](#) for staple crops like wheat and soy in the future.

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A [past study](#) has found that those two leading crops, alongside palm oil, maize and sugars - make up a whopping 80 percent of the world's diet and food trade. What's worse, because many developing worlds are heavily dependent on imported foods, shortages on a local scale could have [far-reaching consequences](#).

"Overall, in the last two decades there has been an increase in the number of trade-dependent countries that reach sufficiency through their reliance on trade," study author Paolo D'Odorico explained in a [statement](#). "Those countries may become more vulnerable in periods of food shortage."

The new UN report argues that as these potential problems press in, many countries could turn to forests for help - more so than ever before.

Forest Favors

"Forest foods often provide a safety net during periods of food shortages," explained Bhaskar Vira, chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which compiled the report. "In the study, we reveal impressive examples which show how forests and trees can complement agricultural production and contribute to the income of local people, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the world."

Specifically, the report details how even today, otherwise starving nations use hunting and gathering in forests to supplement their diets with essential vitamins. Even local pollinators make use of forests as an additional source of nectar - allowing for a strong and robust insect population that can then better support fledgling agricultural sectors.

"We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change," added Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO's Global Forest Expert Panels (GFEP) initiative. "This report makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and improving nutrition."

Underestimating the Undeveloped

And while it may sound like this forest reliance only applies to a small portion of the world, you may simply be underestimating how many undeveloped nations actually exist. According to the report, close to one out of every six people directly depends on forests for their food and income, with regions like Sahel, for example, relying on trees for a whopping 80 percent of the average household's income.

"What keeps people hungry is often not the lack of food, but the lack of access to that food and control over its production. We need to recognize claims over food sovereignty which give local people greater control over their food," Vira explained.

Some parts of the world are already seeing this. Communities in the wild and landmine riddled [Cardamom Mountains](#) - once home to the last Khmer Rouge rebel stronghold - for instance, are ushering in a new era of tree farming and forest stewardship. Thanks to trees, they are hacking out a rough, but healthy living in what most would see as an inhospitable region.

They may even be better off than some more traditional crop farmers in the years to come.

"Large-scale crop production is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, which may occur more frequently under climate change. Science shows that tree-based farming can adapt far better to such calamities," Wildburger added.

<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/14533/20150506/forests-still-essential-fighting-world-hunger-maybe-more.htm>



Responding to Climate Change (UK)

Mangoes to maggots: 7 forest foods that hold ‘trump card’ to hunger

By Alex Pashley | 6 May 2015

In the face of climate change and peak farmland, tree foods offer “hidden harvest” for global hungry, report says

Forests are a “trump card” in boosting nutrition and incomes for the undernourished, experts said today.

An abundant source of vitamins, fats and proteins, forests must be central in efforts to build food security for the world’s one in nine people who go hungry, the majority living in Asia and Africa.

And as climate change increases the risk of droughts and floods, which hit crop production and spark price volatility, they provide a “hidden harvest” for the most vulnerable, according to a [report](#) by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations presented at a UN forum in New York.

Forest products were a “fallback in times of transition”, lead author Bhaskar Vira at the University of Cambridge told RTCC.

As well as offering firewood and charcoal, foods allow communities “to get the nutritional balance that’s needed when food availability from conventional sources is under pressure from climate change,” Vira added.

And here are seven to be harnessed.

1. Mangoes

The juicy stone fruit native to South Asia grows on trees up to 40m tall. Trees are much more resilient to erratic weather events than field crops, the report outlines.

2. Custard Apple

This rough-textured, heart-shaped fruit also known as cherimoya tastes like a mix of banana, pineapple and strawberry. It’s found throughout the Americas’ tropical regions.

3. Allanblackia seeds

Seeds of this African crop produce an edible oil with potential for international food markets. Public-private partnership [Novella Africa](#) is developing its supply chain and with it Tanzania.

4. Maggots

Chewy grubs from sago palms in Papua New Guinea and eastern Indonesia are a strong form of sustenance. They join other insects that have made it onto the gourmet menus of European restaurants, Vira said.

5. Tamarind

The edible pod-like fruit has many uses from spicing recipes to its towering branches being used for carpentry, seeing it spread throughout subtropical zones.

6. Bush plum

Also known as a conkerberry, this tropical fruit found in regions from Australia to Africa sprouts on shrubs measuring 3m.

7. Loquat

This tangy fruit with a taste similar to peach or mango, native to China is now found from central America to India.

Vira called for governments to conceive of agriculture and forestry management as one, rather than having separate ministries as is often the case.

Preserving carbon-sucking forests from deforestation and land change would help food security and work towards the UN's 2025 goal of zero hunger, he said.

<http://www.rtcc.org/2015/05/06/mangoes-to-maggots-7-forest-foods-that-hold-trump-card-to-hunger/>



SciDev.net (UK)

Link forests into food security efforts, UN told

By Emese Balog | 08/05/15

Speed read

- Existing policies to end hunger largely neglect the role of forest foods
- Ensuring local people can access such resources will improve their nutrition
- The final Sustainable Development Goals should include such groups' concerns

International efforts to address food insecurity must pay more attention to the role forests play in food production, say a panel of scientists.

A report issued on 6 May (see video) by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), a body convened by the United Nations, says forests should be considered as food sources, rather than just areas for conservation. It says the concerns of people living in or near forests should be included in the final version of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), one of which currently focuses on ending hunger and promoting sustainable agriculture.

The report warns that most governments separate forests from food production when making policy, usually having different departments deal with each. As a result, the two areas must compete for funding and political attention, and policies that benefit one may harm the other, according to the report's authors.

"The report's main emphasis is to recognise the complementary role of forests to agriculture and promote the awareness that we already depend on forests for supplementing conventional agriculture," says Bhaskar Vira, director of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute in the United Kingdom and chair of the IUFRO's Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which produced the study.

Governments own around 80 per cent of global forests, the report says, but management rights are increasingly being transferred to indigenous communities. The authors say that ensuring local people have access to forest resources is vital to helping them sustain a nutritious diet.



Vira says existing policies to end hunger have largely neglected the value that forest foods — for example, fruits, seeds and wild meat — can add to people’s diets.

Another advantage of making better use of forests in food production is that it would strengthen local people’s ability to resist environmental changes, the report says. Vira says forests appear to be a more-resilient food source under extreme weather conditions caused by climate change than field-based agriculture.

The report’s message of paying more attention to forests in the SDGs was echoed by Dominic White, head of international development at the United Kingdom branch of conservation charity WWF.

“Sustainable development depends on the maintenance of healthy forests and the services they provide,” he tells *SciDev.Net*. “It is essential that the global community agrees strong SDGs and puts the intelligent management of natural capital at the heart of social and economic development.”

References

Forests, trees and landscapes for food security and nutrition — A global assessment report (International Union of Forest Research Organizations)

<http://www.scidev.net/global/food-security/news/link-forests-into-food-security-efforts-un-told.html>

SCIENCE WORLD REPORT

Science World Report (USA)

Forests May be Crucial to Ending Global Hunger

Catherine Griffin | First Posted: May 06, 2015 11:29 AM EDT

When it comes to ending global hunger, forests may be the trump card. Scientists have found that forests and forestry are essential to achieving food security as the limits of boosting agricultural production become clear.

In this latest study, the researchers conducted the most comprehensive scientific analysis to date on the relationship among forests, food and nutrition. Forest foods actually provide a safety net during periods of food shortages. Forest foods are often rich in vitamins, proteins and other nutrients that are associated with more diverse diets. In addition, wild meat, fish and insects are also important forest food sources. "This report reminds us of the vital roles of forests in building food security," said Thomas Gass, one of the researchers, [in a news release](#). "It makes a convincing case for multi-functional and integrated landscape approaches and calls for community level engagement to re-imagine forestry and agriculture systems."

Trees also offer a multitude of ecological services, such as supporting bees and other pollinators that are essential for crop production on farmland. They also provide animal fodder that allows communities to produce meat and milk, and protect streams and watersheds as habitat for fish.

"What keeps people hungry is often not the lack of food, but the lack of access to that food and control over its production," said Bhaskar Vira, the chair of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security, which compiled the report. "We need to recognize claims over food sovereignty which give local people greater control over their food. Improved tenure rights and stronger rights for women who are becoming more and more responsible for food production from agricultural and forest lands are key to ensure the success of sustainable poverty reduction efforts."

The findings reveal the forestlands will be crucial in the future for continued sustainable food production. This is increasingly important to note as forests are cut down.

<http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/25167/20150506/forests-crucial-ending-global-hunger.htm>



TakePart (USA)

Forests Can Feed Billions, but Only If They're Left Standing

Researchers find that making woodlands part of the food supply will help alleviate hunger worldwide.

By Emily J. Gertz | May 06, 2015

Growing more food for the globe's rising population is the major driver of [deforestation](#). But a new report, endorsed by dozens of forest scientists, has found that leaving those trees standing would do much more to [curb hunger](#) than would converting them to cropland or pastures.

More than 1 billion people worldwide already depend on [forests](#) for food and crucial nutrients, according to the report, which was published Wednesday by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

For communities in Machakos County in eastern Kenya, the report stated, forest tree fruits such as pawpaws, mangoes, and loquats are major sources of vitamin A, and guava is a source of vitamin C.

The wild animals, fish, and insects in forests are also important sources of protein, iron, and fats. In the Rio Negro area of Brazil's Amazon, the report noted, communities obtained 70 percent of their protein from fish caught in flooded forests and rivers.

Healthy forests also help communities withstand [changing climate conditions](#), civil unrest, and shifting food prices, according to the researchers.

Although tree crops such as rubber, [palm oil](#), and [coffee](#) are worth tens of billions of dollars a year in international trade, the report warned that [razing natural forests](#) and replacing them with tree crop plantations does not help reduce hunger. Instead, tree crop plantations increase food insecurity by wiping out local sources of food and eradicating agricultural as well as natural biodiversity.

There is little evidence for the "land sparing" argument that such plantations save forests by producing their crops more efficiently, the report noted. But there is a great deal of evidence that "land sharing," or managing the land for multiple uses and biodiversity, can increase the supply of forest foods and support animal species that are important to agriculture, such as the [birds](#), [bats](#), and [bees](#) that pollinate crops.

But unless governments integrate forests into their national food policies and international agreements, these benefits are all but invisible.

The report made several recommendations for ways that political leaders could "reimagine forests and food security." Governments need to restore degraded forests to healthy biodiversity to increase their forest food supplies. They can also "target" particular forest foods for "improved harvest and/or cultivation"—in essence, putting more effort into managing which foods grow in forests. Better education on nutrition, particularly for women and children, can also help communities improve how they gather and

manage forest-based foods.

Economic policies and programs must also help communities develop income from forest-related foods and other products, the researchers said.

“We know that forests already play a key role in mitigating the effects of **climate change**,” Christoph Wildburger, the coordinator of IUFRO’s Global Forest Expert Panels initiative, said in a statement. “This report makes it very clear that they also play a key role in alleviating hunger and improving nutrition.”

<http://www.takepart.com/article/2015/05/06/healthy-forests-food-security-biodiversity-climate-change>



TreeHugger (USA)

How forests can help to feed the world

By Margaret Badore | May 6, 2015

A new report shows how forests around the world can help eliminate malnutrition while fighting climate change.

Often, feeding the world's growing population and protecting natural landscapes are pitted against one another. We know that much of the world's deforestation, particularly in the tropics, is associated with the expansion of crops like [palm oil and soy, as well as cattle and cocoa](#).

Yet a new report from the [International Union of Forest Research Organizations](#) shows that forests can play an important role in eliminating hunger and creating more food security. This is important, because protecting forests has been identified as a key and cost-effective means of fighting climate change. So, a better understanding of how forests help feed people may be another tool in the arsenal of their defense.

Over a billion people around the world experience chronic hunger, and twice as many suffer from periods of food insecurity. "Unfortunately, there is little current appreciation of the diverse ways in which these tree-based landscapes can supplement agricultural production systems in achieving global food security," the authors write.

The report examines the nutritional benefits of both natural forests and agro-forests, where food trees are cultivated among other species of trees and are still part of a functioning ecosystem. They find that tree foods can help create more nutritionally balanced diets, particularly for developing areas in the tropics. Seeds, nuts and fruit can be important sources of vitamins and minerals, particularly for communities that are otherwise dependent on starchier staples. Non-tree foods can also add to a wider food portfolio, such as insects, edible greens, fungi and bushmeat.

Forests can give local communities more control over food access, and minimize their vulnerability to fluctuations in global food commodity prices. According to the report, agroforest systems can be more resilient to bad weather conditions than annual crops—which may be increasingly important in the face of climate change.

The authors of the report aren't claiming that forests alone will feed the world, but say that forest systems can help enhance sustainable agriculture. Forests can provide beneficial ecosystem services, like supporting pollinator species and providing a source of organic material for fertilizer.

It has been established that [forest communities that have been given land rights are successful at protecting the forests](#) they depend on, sometimes even better than national governments. But in some areas, communities don't have the right to access forests and harvest food. So supporting these rights is an important part of the equation.

And the mere presence of edible forest species does not always mean these wild foods are consumed. A lot hinges on local and traditional knowledge. Migration may cause a loss of knowledge about forest foods, while cultural changes may cause certain forest foods to be perceived as less valuable or

inefficient.

New processing or preparation techniques can also help forest communities get more use from these foods. For example in Guatemala, new roasting methods allow rainforest communities to store **ramón nuts**, a traditional food, for years at a time.

As with agriculture, sustainable practices are also important to ensure this food source is available long-term. As we have seen with some types of bushmeat and highly valuable wood types, over-harvesting can threaten a whole species. The good news, the authors say, is that developing forest-based agriculture can actually represent an opportunity in areas where the landscape has already been degraded by human activities. "Working with farmers to combine the best of traditional and formal scientific knowledge offers tremendous potential to enhance the productivity and resilience of these systems."

<http://www.treehugger.com/green-food/how-forests-can-help-feed-the-world.html>



UN News Centre

New UN-backed report emphasizes possible contribution of forests to ending hunger

6 May 2015

6 May 2015 – A new United Nations-backed report on the link between forests and food production and nutrition says that woodlands could be the key to ending hunger and will be intimately linked to the global fight against climate change.

Launched today at UN Headquarters in New York, where the 11th session of the UN Forum on Forests is under way, the Forests, Trees and Landscapes for Food Security and Nutrition report outlines the potential of forests to improve food security and nutrition, and to ensure the livelihoods of the world's most vulnerable people.

“What the report is trying to get us to focus on is the relatively neglected contribution that forests and trees make to food security and nutrition,” said Bhaskar Vira, who serves as Chair of the Expert Panel on Forests and Food Security. “Not necessarily neglected by the people who actually consume them but possibly neglected in some of the policy discourses.”

He stressed that it was understood in the report that conventional agriculture would remain the major source of people's nutrition needs but underlined the complementary role that forests and tree-based systems would also play in feeding the world.

“We're not trying to suggest that forests and tree-based systems will replace agricultural in relation to the critical relationship between crops and food,” said Mr. Vira. “But what we document in extensive detail is the role that forests and tree-based systems already play in supplementing people's diets and the important roles they play in supplying people with a nutritionally balanced diet.”

Apart from the importance of forests and trees to food security and nutrition, the report's other key messages are that integrated governance is important in the interaction between different areas of land-use, that local control of forests are vital to their well-being and to food security as a whole, and that there is a need going forward to reimagine forests and food security.

The report, which is based on existing knowledge, was put together by more than 60 renowned scientists who are part of the Global Forest Expert Panel (GFEP) on Forests and Food Security. The initiative was led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) – a world-wide organization devoted to forest research and related sciences, and a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is an informal arrangement among 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests.

The current session of the Forest Forum is trying to forge an international forest policy for the next 15 years that will be aligned with the new sustainable development agenda expected to be adopted in September. The current integration of forests into the new agenda demonstrates the increasing recognition of the critical role forests play in eradicating poverty, as well as addressing climate change.

“Conservation of forests and arresting deforestation remains the most affordable and most interesting and valuable cost-benefit option to decrease carbon emissions,” said Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the UN

Forum on Forests Secretariat, who also stressed how crucial the current year was as the international community discussed a new development agenda and he noted that forests were to be included in two of the proposed new sustainable development goals.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50787#.VUvTYCFVhBc>

Select online pick-up:

New Kerala (India):

<http://www.newkerala.com/news/2015/fullnews-54382.html>

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VOA

<http://www.lavoixdelamerique.com/content/les-forets-essentielles-a-la-securite-alimentaire/2753336.html>

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