1st WORLD CONGRESS OF AGROFORESTRY

ORLANDO DECLARATION

We, the participants from 82 countries who gathered in Orlando, Florida for the 1st World Congress of Agroforestry, declare that over the past 25 years significant progress has been made in building a scientific foundation for the design, installation, and management of agroforestry systems. This progress has allowed farmers to increase crop yields under resource-poor conditions. The resultant gains in crop production and diversification, economic performance, and environmental benefits serve to illustrate the value of agroforestry research and technology development efforts and argue for the need to expand our gains to better meet societal demands.

Agroforestry is a dynamic, ecologically based, natural resources management system that, through the integration of trees on farms, ranches, and in other landscapes, diversifies and increases production and promotes social, economic, and environmental benefits for land users. Unfortunately, to date, insufficient emphasis has been given to raising the awareness of many policy-makers, natural resource professionals, and farmers regarding the potential of agroforestry.

This Congress declares that the adoption of agroforestry systems and technologies during the next decade will greatly enhance the achievement of the United Nations *Millennium Development Goals*. Advances will be achieved by building on past research accomplishments and the expanded stakeholder base of agroforestry, which now includes private/public partnerships, communities, ecologists, conservationists, foresters, farmers, indigenous peoples, and policy makers in both temperate and tropical countries. Agroforestry will:

> **Increase household income** by diversifying farming and forestry systems to generate profits from the sale of high-value trees and associated products, and creating options to lift millions in the developing world out of poverty;

> **Promote gender equity and empower women**, who often are responsible for the use of agricultural and forest resources and marketing their products in developing countries;

> **Improve the health and welfare** of people, especially mothers, children, and HIV/AIDS sufferers, by increasing the food and nutritional security of households through the domestication and cultivation of trees and associated companion crops for their nutritious and medicinal products; and

> **Promote environmental sustainability** for improved crop production, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation by restoring ecological processes that increase soil fertility, sequester carbon, create native species habitat, and maintain hydrological processes and other ecological services on degraded agricultural lands and in watersheds.

The Congress calls upon the:

International community that supports and implements international agreements and commitments of the Conventions related to Biodiversity, Desertification, and Climate Change, as well as the United Nations Forum on Forests, to endorse the significant role of, and the enormous potentials afforded by agroforestry in accomplishing their targeted objectives and goals;

International organizations, agencies, and institutions to foster synergies and collaboration on dryland management and the special needs of the countries of low forest cover, within the context of the Tehran Process;

International donor community to increase its support for research, development, and education to accelerate progress in agroforestry science, to foster effective transfers of agroforestry technology options, and to assist developing countries in formulating related agroforestry policies;

Developed nations to fully utilize agroforestry as a tool to improve landscape functioning, on-farm profitability, and environmental quality domestically, and to support the efforts of developing nations to build capacity and to mainstream agroforestry to help alleviate hunger and poverty and improve the environment to enhance human health;

Developing nations to integrate agroforestry into their poverty-reduction strategies by formulating and adopting appropriate policies;

Private enterprise sector to join in existing and emerging private and public partnerships to help incorporate agroforestry into a sustainable future for people and societies;

Non-government organizations to promote agroforestry nationally and internationally for local development and conservation efforts;

Global conservation community to utilize the science and practice of agroforestry as a powerful ally in the effort to reduce species extinction risks and strengthen the viability of protected area networks;

Scientific community to recognize the value of agroforestry and include it in its efforts to advance the generation of knowledge that can benefit human welfare; and

Educational community to vigorously integrate agroforestry into its training and educational efforts to build the capacity of natural resource professionals and land users.

There is a global need for increased investments to support research, technology development, and extension to improve the integration of agroforestry with broader natural resource and watershed management efforts. We urge governments to highlight the role of agroforestry in their poverty eradication strategies, provide funding, and develop policies that promote agroforestry adoption to spark an agroforestry revolution.

Orlando, Florida, USA
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