

AGRICULTURE · C4S COURSES

FAO Report: "Forests for Food"

21 September 2026

Source: Down To Earth

Context The **FAO**, with the **Landscape Alliance (CIFOR-ICRAF)**, published "**Forests for Food: Nourishing People, Sustaining the Planet**" — developed under the **Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Joint Initiative**.

What It Is

- Synthesises global evidence on the links between forests and the **four dimensions of Food Security and Nutrition — availability, access, utilisation and stability**
- Addresses a systemic knowledge gap caused by:
 - **Absence of globally standardised definitions**
 - **Unrecorded informal wild-food consumption**
 - **Fragmented policy silos** across agriculture, forestry and health

Key Findings

- **Over 5 billion people** depend to some extent on forests for livelihoods; forests generate up to **20 per cent of rural household income** in several developing regions
- **More than 50,000 wild species** are used globally for food, energy, medicine and materials — including at least **10,000 consumed directly as human food**
- In remote forest-dependent communities, **wild forest foods supply up to 80 per cent of daily dietary protein** and nearly **half of total food mass by weight**
- **1.8 billion people (23 per cent of the global population)** relied primarily on **woodfuel for cooking** in 2022; **410 million** depended on wood energy to **boil and sterilise drinking water**
- Forests host **pollinators supporting 35 per cent of global crop production**; **forested watersheds supply freshwater to over 85 per cent of the world's major cities**
- Agricultural zones across **155 countries** depend on forests in **other countries** for up to **40 per cent of annual rainfall**, through **atmospheric moisture recycling and evapotranspiration**
- **More than 1 billion people** rely on **forest-derived medicinal plants** for primary healthcare
- **10.9 million hectares** of forest were deforested annually between **2015 and 2025**

Important Facts for Exams

- Report: "**Forests for Food: Nourishing People, Sustaining the Planet**" — by **FAO** with **CIFOR-ICRAF**, under the **CPF Joint Initiative**
- **FAO** — headquartered at **Rome**, founded **1945**; also publishes **SOFA**, **SOFI** and the **Global Forest Resources Assessment**
- **CIFOR-ICRAF** — Center for International Forestry Research and World Agroforestry
- **Four dimensions of food security**: availability, access, utilisation, stability
- **5 billion people** depend on forests; up to **20 per cent of rural income**
- **50,000+ wild species** used; **10,000+** eaten directly
- **80 per cent of protein** in remote forest communities from wild foods
- **1.8 billion** rely on **woodfuel** for cooking; **410 million** for boiling water
- Pollinators support **35 per cent of global crop production**; forested watersheds supply **85 per cent of**

"What feels hard today is the easy question next month."WhatsApp channel: whatsapp.com/channel/0029Vao03aUADTO9sOoigE2F · +91 87086 52887 · c4scourses.in · free, share it on

major cities

- **155 countries** depend on foreign forests for up to **40 per cent of rainfall**
- Deforestation: **10.9 million ha/year (2015–2025)**; net loss fell from **10.7 to 4.12 million ha** annually
- **Arapaima** — the Amazon giant fish, recovered **30-fold** through community management
- **VGGT** — FAO Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure
- **One Health** — the integrated approach linking human, animal and environmental health

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