

The national agroforestry policy of India: experiential learning in development and delivery phases

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Abstract

In 2014 India became the first country to adopt a national agroforestry policy. The Government of India announced this policy in order to resolve the bottlenecks that had emerged at the interface of existing policies for agriculture, forestry, water and environment, recognizing that land use by its very nature must be integrative. This working paper describes the process that led to the development of the agroforestry policy and analyses it in terms of various types of knowledge and know-how required to facilitate the change. It explains various phases of the policy development process required to bring about a sufficiently broad coalition for change to fully take advantage of the nested-scales nature of agroforestry, from trees, through farms and farmers to landscapes and livelihoods, ultimately culminating in land and agricultural governance and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This phased approach allowed for a structured and deliberate process of clarifying views, considering evidence and reaching a consensus on the elements of a policy that could serve a country as large and diverse as India. More importantly, the process was supported by key institutional actors such as the National Advisory Council (NAC), which facilitated two national consultations, and hosted seven specific group deliberations, supported by various ministries at the Union Level and in key states with the support of research and technical institutions such as the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Over a period of three years, the first two meetings were held at intervals of one year, and thereafter seven meetings held in the third year. All these drew key actors from various institutions to create a platform for change. This platform was then transformed into a working group, created by NAC, comprising government, industry, NGOs, civil society organizations and ICRAF, as well as financial institutions. Based on the feedback from 14 meetings and roundtable discussions with various stakeholders, the working group produced a draft policy document. The NAC facilitated meetings with “interest” categories (policy formulation and governance, federal and state level institutions, industry, R&D institutions, financial institutions, etc.), to collate feedback on the draft policy; in this case starting at the higher level of government. Following consolidation of the feedback, the working group decided to incorporate other teams and shared the final draft of recommendations with policy influencers, policy supporting officials in government, industry, the private sector, charity organizations, and other institutions. Finally, the drafting of the policy was launched by a drafting committee (approved by authorities). The NAC was consulted on drafting committee members from multiple sectors and from public and civil society organizations. At the end of what became a four-stage process, the final draft of the policy was shared widely, further feedback obtained, finalized and sent to the Prime Minister’s Office and Cabinet Secretariat for approval. The approval of the agroforestry policy was effected in February 2014.

Subsequently, a high-level Inter-Ministerial Committee, headed by the Secretary of Agriculture, has been monitoring its implementation. In its third year of implementation, the policy, as described in this case study, has been successful in bringing together agricultural, environmental and rural development sectors, and includes stakeholders such as farmers, NGOs, the private and public sectors, research institutions, etc. The policy has also been effective in freeing some farm-grown tree species from felling and transit regulations in many of the Indian states, in upgrading of national R&D institutions, and formulation of a new National Sub-Mission on Agroforestry to promote agroforestry. The emergence of a more complete, equitable and self-sustaining value chain seems promising. The process of this policy

development has also been recognized and is being used in neighbouring countries in South Asia.

Keywords

Agriculture, forestry, agroforestry, water, ecosystem services, Sustainable Development Goals, stakeholders, policy change, boundary work

Acknowledgements

As documented in Appendix 2, the discussions that led to the agroforestry policy benefitted from the active involvement, willingness to commit and openness to change from a large number of stakeholders at various levels in the Indian government and private sector circles. Those mentioned as well as the many more who were involved in one way or another, are gratefully acknowledged. The authors are particularly indebted to Dr. Rita Sharma, Secretary of the National Advisory Council (NAC), who in addition to sharing her wealth of experience in policy influence and providing inputs to this initiative, also tirelessly contributed to inviting senior government officials to the discussions and hosting a series of meetings at the NAC.

Financial resources were availed from the Government of India and ICRAF through the CGIAR Research Programmes (CRPs) on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) and Policies, Institutions and Markets (PIM).

The responsibility for drawing any of the conclusions and descriptions, or the decision to publish the findings presented here solely rests with the authors.

List of abbreviations and acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AF	Agroforestry
AFC	Agriculture Finance Corporation
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
ASA	Action for Social Advancement
AusAid	Australian Aid
AYUSH	Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy
BAIF	Bhartiya Agro- Industry Foundation
BILT	Ballarpur Industries Limited
BoT	Board of Trustees
CAFRI	Central Agroforestry Research Institute
CCAFS	Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Systems
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIDA	Canadian International Development Centre
CII	Chamber of Indian Industries
CRIDA	Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture
CRP	Consortium Research Programme
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC&FW	Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW)
DARE	Department of Agricultural Research and Education, MoA&FW
DFID	Department for International Development
DoLR	Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FES	Foundation for Ecological Security
FICCI	Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
FSI	Forest Survey of India
FTA	Forests, Trees and Agroforestry
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, MoA&FW
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IFFDC	Indian Farmers Forestry Development Corporation
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ITC	Indian Tobacco Company
MNRE	Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, now Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (MoA&FW)
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest, now Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
MoRD	Ministry of Rural Development
MSSRF	MS Swaminathan Research Foundation
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NAC	National Advisory Council
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

NMSA	National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture
OGL	Open General License
PHDCC	Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce
PIM	Policies, Institutions and Markets
PMO	Prime Minister's Office
PNB	Punjab National Bank
R&D	Research and Development
SBI	State Bank of India
SDC-IC	Swiss Development Corporation – International Cooperation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
Sec A&C:	Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation, MoA&FW
TERI	The Energy Research Institute
ToR	Terms of Reference
US\$	United States Dollar
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCA	World Congress on Agroforestry
WOTR	Watershed Organization Trust

1. Introduction

In 2014 India became the first nation in the world to adopt an inter-sectoral policy on agroforestry, which seeks to identify the bottlenecks in expansion of agroforestry in the country and pathways to remove the constraints in a systematic manner. The national policy puts emphasis on bridging forestry, agriculture, water and the environment, which all deal with the way people interact with land-based resources in the country. Rather than defining agroforestry as a separate set of activities worthy of policy support, the process was geared towards ensuring that other policies do not undermine agroforestry as a solution to multiple national goals. The policy is not only seen as crucial to India's ambitious goal of achieving 33 percent tree cover, but also to providing many of the other benefits such as increasing food and nutrition, and supplying fodder, fuel wood and timber for India's growing population.

This working paper highlights the process followed in ensuring this policy change, and discusses it in the wider context of how policy change can be incorporated into the agenda of international agricultural research. Policy change is often perceived as essential to the creation of an 'enabling environment' for the adoption of improved technology, continued innovation and sustainable development (Tripp 2003; Akhtar-Schuster et al. 2011). Research provides evidence of reform of agri-food policies and institutions to make them more conducive to pro-poor development, to improve nutrition and the sustainable management of natural resources (CGIAR 2015). For those trained in a mechanistic cause-effect chain of thinking and project planning, it is difficult to understand how policy change can actually happen. There is ample interest in 'evidence-based policy', but also the realization that we currently have 'policy-based evidence', with funding for research based on predetermined political agendas. Scientific findings do not fall on blank minds that get made up as a result. Science engages with busy minds that have strong views about how things are and ought to be (Plant 2003).

Analysis of public policy-making has supported a conceptual framework focused on the belief systems of advocacy coalitions (Sabatier 1987). These coalitions function as sub-systems that can under certain circumstances coalesce, overcome the resistance to change and result in a process of policy-oriented learning that in the end leads to changes in government programmes. Vested interests tend to be powerful sub-systems of any socio-political system, and their role in maintaining status quo needs to be understood in political ecology (Forsyth 2004). Evidence, whether new or old, never speaks for itself. Accordingly, there is debate about the best strategy of marshalling bygone research results into the policy process (Pawson 2002).

The concept of evidence-based policy reflects a 'modernist' faith in progress informed by reason. Although the rationalist assumptions of evidence-based policy making have been subject to severe challenge from constructivist and post-modernist perspectives, it is argued that the attempt to ground policy making in more reliable knowledge of 'what works' retains its relevance and importance. 'Reflexive social learning' informed by policy and programme evaluation constitutes an increasingly important basis for 'interactive governance' (Sanderson 2002). Reflection on the way boundary work for integrated natural resource management has evolved in interaction with policy change has identified three primary ingredients: credibility, salience and legitimacy (Clark et al. 2011). The first refers to conventional academic criteria for the quality of evidence, the second to the potential to make a difference, and the third to the trust that needs to exist between those who share and communicate new insights and those who might consider them as contribution to their own learning curves.

Although the term *agroforestry* was coined nearly 40 years ago (van Noordwijk et al. 2016), and India is a rich source of examples of how it has been practised traditionally (Nair 1998), and how improved forms have continued to emerge, from a policy perspective, agroforestry was not housed in any specific ministry and thus, little attention was paid to its importance. This is also reflected in resource allocation.

India has a rather strict regulation regime for forestry that has a negative effect on the expansion of agroforestry because of rules around tree felling and transport. This regulation is enforced by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. There are other constraints based on national policies, but for those wishing to implement agroforestry, there is also a lack of high quality planting material and certification guidelines for trees.

Efforts to develop a National Agroforestry Policy were initiated in 2008 when the World Agroforestry Centre, in collaboration with other national institutions, collated existing policies related to forests, water, agriculture, farmers and other relevant topics within and outside the country (for comparison with other policies that were working) and analysed these side-by-side with the expected benefits of an agroforestry policy. Alongside this, evidence was gathered on the need for policy change as perceived by various stakeholders (policy makers and influencers, and thematic sectors – industry, technical, finance, etc.).

India's Secretary of the National Advisory Council (NAC) helped in bringing all the stakeholders for consultation on one platform in order to collate their views on the issue so that their concerns are taken into consideration when formulating the policy. Subsequently, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare, working with inter-ministerial representatives as well as experts in this field, gave final shape to the policy, which was approved by the Government of India. In describing this process in some detail and analysing its modalities and consequences, we need to combine three perspectives (Fig. 1):

- A) Agroforestry as a nested-scales concept that links trees to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their governance, via farms, landscapes and livelihood systems
- B) Multiple types of knowledge and know-how that need to be combined
- C) A stepwise process that linked the various types of knowledge to action perspectives by advocacy coalitions, on the way to national policy change and implementation.

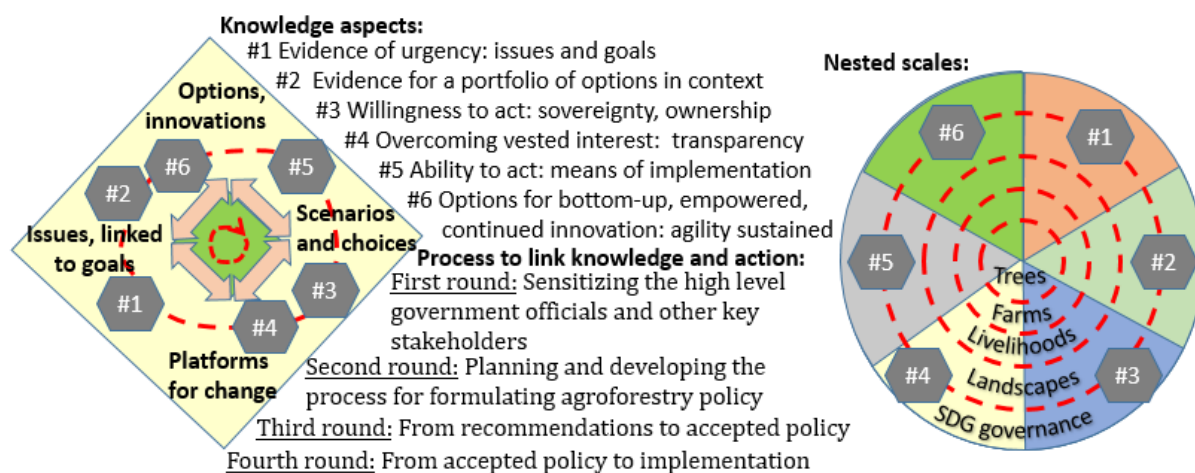


Figure 1. Aspects and knowledge domains that play a role in the policy change process as analysed here for agroforestry policy change in India

2. Agroforestry in the context of land use in India

Land use practices that combine trees, crops and livestock at plot or farm level have a long history around the world, and India is no exception. Agroforestry, as such practices have been labelled in the past decades, can occur outside the ‘forests’. ‘Forest’ as a term and concept emerged in Europe in its Middle Ages (roughly a thousand years ago), and in major parts of the world after colonial contacts with Europe. Elsewhere, efforts to set aside land with a more natural vegetation for the interests of the rules and/or public sphere had emerged under other terms. In India the concept of forest reserves followed the Anglosaxon tradition (from the middle of the 19th Century). Focused on exclusion and restricting use by villagers, forests have a long history of ambivalent relationships with other land uses and the communities, that, at a different level, they are supposed to support. The use of trees on farm is traditionally known in the northern part of India as ‘Kheti-Wadi’. As is done for the field crops, trees can also be grown with the crops in various combinations and geometrical designs and rotations, depending on the farmer’s choice and available resources.

Agroforestry is also perceived as a multi-functional land use system. For example, recent statistics shows that agroforestry though yet at limited scale provides more than 60 percent of the country’s timber requirement, valued at US\$ 25-30 billion. Each ha of moderate density of agroforest sequesters at least about 5-6t of carbon per year. However, in spite of reportedly being a traditional system, suitable for various crop and tree combinations and providing numerous benefits, agroforestry has been implemented on a limited scale and only in certain geographical locations in India. The genesis for such a limited scale can be traced to a number of ‘spirally entangled’ factors. Broadly, these can be divided into technical, regulatory and financial factors; all pointing towards the institutional factor—the lack of any clearly articulated policy on agroforestry.

Agroforestry in the country is not housed in any specific ministry or department and thus, does not attract adequate attention or support. It has fallen through the cracks between existing policy domains for a long time. Financial institutions are unable to provide resources because they can neither classify it in the agriculture nor forestry sector. Their inability is also due to the lack of feasible agroforestry models in fiduciary terms.

Agroforestry expansion, to a large extent, is also restricted by the stringent and practically difficult regulatory regime on tree felling and transit as imposed by the forest regulations of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. There is a total lack of high quality planting material production and certification guidelines for trees.

Permission to import wood and wood products under an open general license (OGL), granted by the government makes the market prices of on-farm grown timber highly vulnerable, and often results in very low prices at the time of timber harvest. This further discourages the farmers from venturing into agroforestry. The ban on saw mills imposed by the Honourable Supreme Court of India, even in areas where there are very small or no forests, also contributes to the limited scale of agroforestry.

Needless to say, it has been widely recognized that among others, agroforestry contributes significantly to the national economy and helps mitigate climate change effects, but needs a well-articulated policy, a living document to scale it up to national level. In the process of articulating an agroforestry policy for India, a large number of existing laws and rules had to be consulted to ensure consistency (Box 1).

Box 1. Indian policies and related documents consulted in the process

Agricultural Policy, 2003. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India

Agricultural Policy: Vision 2020, 2008. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi. Report submitted to the Planning Commission of India. Accessed at

http://www.planningcommission.nic.in/reports/genrep/bkpap2020/24_bg2020.pdf

Agroforestry: Vision 2030, 2011. National Research Centre for Agroforestry, Jhansi (June, 2011)

Chhattisgarh State Forest Policy, 2001. Forest and Culture Department, Mantralaya, Raipur, Government of Chhattisgarh. Accessed at: <http://www.cgforest.com/media/Forest%20Policy-Eng1.pdf>

Dairy Policy, 2008. Assam State Task Force for Dairy Policy Formulation (Vide Government Notification No.VFV.236 /2007 /18 dated 24th Oct 2007). Government of Assam. Accessed at <http://www.tinsukia.nic.in/files/assam-dairy-policy-2008.pdf>

FSI, 2005. State of Forest Report, 2008. Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Dehradun, India. Accessed at http://fsi.nic.in/details.php?pgID=sb_18

FSI 2009. State of Forest Report, 2009. Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Dehradun, India. Accessed at http://fsi.nic.in/details.php?pgID=sb_61

FSI 2011. State of Forest Report, 2011. Forest Survey of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Dehradun, India. Accessed at http://fsi.nic.in/details.php?pgID=sb_16

National Forest Policy, 1988. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi. Accessed at: <http://www.moef.gov.in/sites/default/files/introduction-nfp.pdf>

National Mission for a Green India (Under the National Action Plan on Climate Change). Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Accessed at http://www.moef.gov.in/sites/default/files/GIM_Mission%20Document-1.pdf

National Mission for a Green India: National Consultations, 2010. Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Accessed at: <http://www.moef.nic.in/downloads/public-information/green-india-mission.pdf>

National Policy for Farmers, 2007. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Accessed at <http://agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/policy/NPF2007ENG.pdf>

National Water Policy, 2012. Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. Accessed at: <http://wrmin.nic.in/writereaddata/NationalWaterPolicy/NWP2012Eng6495132651.pdf>

Orissa State Agriculture Policy, 2008. Agriculture Department, Government of Orissa. Accessed at: http://agriodisha.nic.in/pdf/State_Agriculture_Policy_2008.pdf

Report of the Task Force on Greening India for Livelihood Security and Sustainable Development, 2001. Planning Commission, Government of India. Accessed at: http://planningcommission.nic.in/aboutus/taskforce/tk_green.pdf

State Agricultural Policy, Assam, 2008. Agricultural Department, Government of Assam. Accessed at

<http://artassam.nic.in/Agriculture%20Department/The%20Assam%20State%20Agriculture%20Policy,%20%20.pdf>

3. First round: sensitizing high-level government officials and other stakeholders

3.1 Learning from existing policies

As a first step in the process that ultimately led to the agroforestry policy, an inventory was made of the various existing laws and regulations that interact with agroforestry as a farmers' practice across India. Focus at this stage was on presenting cases where policies (not necessarily having agroforestry in mind, and mostly not mentioning the concept) have made a positive impact or where their absence had hindered progress towards public goals of poverty reduction and environmental protection. In 2008 existing policies on agriculture, forests, water, farmers and other subjects from within the country were collected. Policies from other countries that could bring in new perspectives were also included. For example, in the case of Niger's single national policy on trees, replacing previous rules that prevented farmers from using their tree resources.

The AF policy group at this stage summarized reviews and presented the benefits of having a policy. Highlighting the anticipated benefits that would result from the agroforestry policy, the group attended a number of high-level meetings, often requesting for a slot in the programmes. During occasions when invitations came from the organizers to make presentations on aspects of agroforestry other than the policy, the importance of putting in place a policy was deliberately inserted into the speech. The importance of an agroforestry policy was neither acknowledged nor appreciated in the country by then.

Both these approaches had a sensitizing impact, as reflected by the questions and issues raised, and suggestions made by key partners, including high-profile dignitaries. In a few cases, requests were made for more one-on-one discussion on the topic. Although, no quantification of agroforestry extent or benefits was done, the feedback received was proof that the policy topic remained in the minds of some of the target audiences for quite some time, and it was being talked about as 'food for thought'.

Feedback received at this stage is presented in Box 2.

Box 2. Examples of feedback following initial consultations on agroforestry

- Some group members were initially opposed to having an agroforestry policy. However, the overall group consensus at the end of the first meeting was that “there is an absolute need for an agroforestry policy, especially because the tree felling and transit regulations do not promote the adoption of tree planting on farms.”
- “The policy should be in line with other policies in the country, and if at all possible, should be developed by bringing everybody on board.”
- “The group is not in a position to make suggestions on how everyone’s concerns will be taken on board”.
- “A roadmap could be developed by a smaller group on how we will proceed and could be shared with the rest of the group during successive meetings”
- The participants in successive meetings were surprised because “the initially opposing members became the real promoters”, and they consistently supported the initiative to fruition.
- The proposed roadmap for obtaining inputs and views of all was appreciated and positively endorsed by the group as “an ingenious way of moving forward.”

3.2 Collating evidence from different stakeholders

Taking cues from these initial discussions, the AF policy group had documented one-on-one discussions with key policy makers, policy influencers and other stakeholders from different sectors, such as the technical, industry, financial, etc., and prepared a basic note on the need for an agroforestry policy. This was discussed with the Secretary of the National Advisory Council (NAC) and became the foundation paper for furthering the cause of having the policy.

PowerPoint presentations were also prepared and shared with supporters who would then make presentations whenever the opportunity arose.

3.3 Presenting the need to develop the policy at appropriate fora

The agroforestry policy enthusiasts made use of every opportunity to present their case in major fora through presentations, talking points, coffee table discussions, exchange of notes and other means. Although it is not possible to list all of them, it would be remiss not to mention some of the key thought leaders. They included Dr. DN Tewari, former member of the Planning Commission, Government of India and a former member of ICRAF’s Board of Trustees (BoT), Dr. Rita Sharma, Secretary of NAC, the late Michelle Gauthier, FAO, and Frank Place, Devashree Nayak and VP Singh.

In less than two years, the AF policy became the most talked about document in the country, and during the last quarter of 2010, the AF policy group organized a national consultation workshop. At this time there was also a change in ICRAF’s Board of Trustees (BoT) and Dr.

Rita Sharma, NAC Secretary, was elected to replace Dr. DN Tewari. The group then planned for a national event in 2011.

3.4 Receiving feedback and incorporating it in the justification

The feedback received following the interactions described above was regularly used to update and improve the concept note and strengthen the case for a policy. The feedback that the AF policy group received, not only included justifications for further work, but also suggestions on how to proceed.

3.5 Developing a concept note for further use

Before the 2011 national consultation, a revised concept note was prepared to serve as a background paper for the meeting, which also included the main issues to be deliberated upon and the take-home message for all participants. The concept note was finalized through an iterative process and a presentation prepared to introduce the topic, objectives of the meeting and a mechanism to record feedback at the venue.

Box 3. Key paragraphs of the 2011 concept note

- “Agroforestry systems have numerous benefits. They contribute to about 60% of the country’s timber requirements, create more than 450 labour days per ha in tree production, substantial employment in processing, and also add to value addition, income for the transport sector and national revenue. There are also environmental and ecological benefits of agroforestry. Yet, they are limited in practice to certain geographical locations, such as Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh. Why?”
- “Why is it limited to only timber-based systems and in irrigated areas?”
- “Sooner or later the country will not have the luxury of growing food and timber in separate pieces of land, so why not start growing them in a complementary manner in the same piece of farm in various combinations and designs? This should be able to keep the forests intact and save them from illegal exploitation.”
- “Are there technical, institutional, financial or policy issues hampering the development of agroforestry?”

4. Second round: planning and developing the formulation process

4.1 Roadmap

Creating a roadmap for further action was the most important, crucial and daunting task in the entire process. A substantial amount of time was required at this time. In addition, lots of patience and diplomatic skills was necessary.

Since the AF policy as perceived at this stage was to be a multi-clientele venture cutting across a number of government agencies (ministries and their line departments, and other institutions) with diverse, contradictory and opposing views and mandates, it was important to come up with an approach on how the various groups would be handled. Inclusion of the ‘stockholders’, stakeholders, ‘stick-holders’, spectators, viewers and observers was crucial. Identification of who would lead, choreograph and direct from behind the curtains, key players and actors, accepted ‘fence sitters’ and ‘tolerated spoilers’ began. Likewise, the roadmap was tested and further modified by having as much diversity as possible. Identification of who should, could and would be the torchbearer once the policy was approved also needed to be decided upon.

Therefore, two national level consultations were held, a year apart, with participants from diverse backgrounds. Several roundtable discussions were organized for participants with multiple objectives and diverse interests. These activities resulted in the shortlisting of key institutions and individuals and a consultation process coordination mechanism. Scanning and targeting key individuals in different agencies who could contribute to discussions and share and implement the policy was the most difficult part. However, these two consultations made the process of identification a bit easier. These consultations also identified the National Advisory Council (NAC) as the nodal institution for such coordination, and one of its members as the convener. NAC also created a working group for the process, in which members were drawn from a number of other institutions, including the government, industry, NGOs and civil society organizations, financial institutions and ICRAF.

All in all, a total of 14 meetings and roundtable discussions were organized, including two national consultations, six regular meetings by sector, and five roundtable discussions and planning meetings. These were in addition to the drafting, receiving feedback and incorporating these into the draft, and getting the draft ratified and approved by the government. Details of these meetings are available in Appendix 1.

4.2 Convening the meetings and consultations

A series of consultations was held specific to each ‘interest category’ e.g. by hierarchical order of policy formulation and governance, federal and state level institutions, industry, R&D institutions and financial institutions. Based on the feedback from various consultations, the working group felt it wise to hold consultations with each interest category, rather than with a large group with diverse interests and mixed opinions and views. This approach provided an opportunity for the participants to be frank and put forth their concerns and arguments face-to-face with their colleagues. It also proved beneficial in terms of any conflicts that arose; they were discussed and resolved among colleagues. In most of the meetings organized this way, though there were inter-departmental/inter-ministerial conflicting views, in general, they managed to reach a consensus.

This provided the working group with an opportunity to take the consolidated position of a particular sector to the next sector meeting so that the next sector participants were clear enough about the position of the previous group before beginning their own deliberations. Likewise, the next group meeting had the cumulative position of the previous two groups and so on. By the end of this series, the working group had a cumulative and consolidated output from all the groups and that formed the basis for drafting the policy.

The consolidated output was divided in five sections: 1) The system understanding and its importance, 2) Justification for having an agroforestry policy, 3) Policy goal and objectives, 4) Main issues to be addressed by the policy, and 5) Suggested pathways to achieving the policy deliverables. A large portion of the cumulative output from previous meetings was incorporated in the policy document. See Box 4 for the concise form.

Box 4. Consolidated output from the various discussions

Agroforestry is a system which allows the integration of trees and shrubs on farmlands and rural landscapes to enhance the productivity, profitability, diversity and ecosystem sustainability. Agroforestry systems are both, traditional and modern land use systems, practised in both, irrigated and rainfed environments. These systems produce food, fuel, fodder, timber, fertilizer and fibre; contribute to food, nutritional and ecological security, sustain livelihoods, alleviate poverty, and promote sustainable cropping and farming environments. They enhance ecosystem services, biodiversity, carbon storage, and prevent deforestation and land degradation through soil and water conservation. These systems provide employment to rural and urban populations in production, industrial application and value-addition enterprises.

Because of its multiple benefits, the role of agroforestry has been emphasized time and again. However, it has not been able to gain the desired importance as a resource development due to many factors. Some of the factors may include restrictive legal provisions on harvesting and transportation of trees planted on farms and on non-timber produce, near non-existent extension mechanisms, lack of institutional support, both in technical and fiduciary terms, issues about the production and supply of quality planting material, inadequate marketing infrastructure and price discovery mechanism, lack of post-harvest processing technologies, etc. Overall, the position of agroforestry is ambiguous and under-valued at the national level mainly due to lack of public policy support.

The goal of the policy is to scale up adoption of agroforestry systems and practices at the national level by ensuring coordination, convergence, and synergy among various existing agroforestry missions, programmes, schemes and agencies pertaining to agriculture, environment, forestry and rural development sectors. This can be effectively achieved through setting up a National Agroforestry Policy and a National Agroforestry Mission. The basic objectives of the policy are to promote and expand planting of trees in a complementary and integrated manner with crops and livestock; protect and stabilize ecosystems and promote resilient cropping and farming systems; meet the raw material demand of wood-based industries and reduce the importation of wood and wood products; supplement the availability of agroforestry products such as fuel wood, fodder, non-timber forest produce and small timber; complement achievement of the target of increasing the forest/tree cover; and develop capacity and strengthen research in agroforestry.

The main issues to be addressed by the policy are: Establishment of an institutional set-up at the national level to promote agroforestry by drawing in various institutions and programmes through coordination and convergence options; Simplification of cumbersome regulatory mechanisms; Development of a sound database and information system; Increased investment in research, extension, capacity building and related services; Improved access to quality planting material by farmers; Providing institutional credit and insurance cover in agroforestry; Facilitating increased participation of the industry dealing with agroforestry; Strengthening farmers' access to markets; providing incentives to farmers for adopting agroforestry; and promoting agroforestry for renewable biomass-based energy.

In view of the above goal, objectives and the issues to be addressed, the group suggested a number of pathways to achieve the deliverables. These pathways included areas which can be taken up at different levels – federal level, state level, district level and block/village/community level. Likewise, they relate to adjusting existing policies and streamlining existing programmes at different levels, drawing support from various institutions and agencies in research, teaching and extension, forging public-private partnerships, developing marketing infrastructure and market support mechanism, and in general, creating an enabling environment for farmers.

Since the policy was to be developed and applied at the national level, the working group began organizing the first meeting of the Central Government agencies, and also included a few policy supporting institutions such as NAC, ICRAF, BAIF and ASA (the latter two are NGOs). The full list of participants is available in Appendix 2.

4.3 Ensuring participation in all consultations for continuity

While the meetings were progressing well, it was essential to have the same participants from any particular institution (at least a few) to be present in all meetings for institutional memory and continuity; otherwise the meetings and their outcomes would run the risk of being disjointed. In addition, this was to avoid personal biases given by two different individuals of the same institution. Therefore, the working group requested the participating agency to nominate a specific individual who could attend all the successive meetings and speak on behalf of the institution. The exception to this was if the seniors of the nominated person wanted to attend subsequent meetings. This request was granted in most cases.

4.4 Distilling and consolidating views, opinions and responses

One of the standards the working group tightly held onto was that the discussion points and consensus agreed upon during meetings would be directly and immediately recorded by each and every member of the group, and the formal proceedings of a meeting would be compiled by the coordinator or working group members based on combining and triangulating inputs based on these diverse sets of notes. This discouraged interjection of personal views of the working group members in interpreting the discussion points and agreements arrived at by the participants and was important in ensuring transparency and building trust. Thus, each group had a new rapporteur from among its members during each consultation.

4.5 Enriching successive consultations

Successive meetings and consultations were enriched by providing the background and agenda for the current consultation and feeding the outcomes of the previous meeting into the next one. After the proceedings of a meeting were finalized using the method described above, they were then synthesized into an aggregated or cumulative document with the proceedings of the previous meeting tabled in the next meeting, and so on.

This method proved effective and efficient as the participants in the current meeting already had access to the major outputs and outcomes of all the previous meetings. Therefore, they did not have to re-argue the previously discussed points. They were however, free to make their comments on previous outputs, in addition to the main agenda of the current meeting, which were considered by the working group and the previous proceedings modified accordingly if members felt that it was necessary.

4.6 Forging a larger group consensus

After completing all the sectoral consultations and meetings, there came a point when the overall proceedings needed a larger group consensus. Failing which, the working group ran the risk of being blamed as a group of few elites that was bent on forcing the acceptance of

recommendations by a general constituency without its consensus. Therefore, the working group decided to do the following:

- First, to present the 'draft version of the consolidated recommendations' from all the meetings and discussions to a larger group, mostly comprising members who had participated in previous meetings. Each recommendation or a portion of it was discussed in detail, point-by-point, and suggestions and feedback of the group incorporated into the draft. This also led to casting the net wider to obtain feedback from those who did not or could not participate in any of the previous meetings, but had an interest in agroforestry.
- Second, the larger group's feedback was incorporated into the consolidated recommendations and the revised draft shared with a much wider group by sending them printed copies and uploading the recommendations onto the website. About a month was given for all to send their feedback and some were followed with phone calls. Once their feedback was received, the draft was shared with policy makers and other higher level government officials.

5. Third round: from recommendations to accepted policy

5.1 Sharing the final draft of recommendations

After receiving and incorporating feedback from all institutions, the draft of recommendations was initially shared with policy influencers/policy supporting officials in the government, industry and private sector, philanthropic/charity organizations, CSR and other institutions. The feedback received from these institutions was also incorporated and widely shared with various government agencies.

5.2 Keeping other government departments in the loop

All the relevant government offices were kept abreast on these developments. While the draft recommendations were being shared with key personnel, they were also checked for clearance from legal, legislative and fiduciary implications.

5.3 Drafting the policy and obtaining clearance

The group sought permission and clearances through proper channels and the established protocol. In order to move fast, NAC was requested to inform the concerned ministry that they were ready to release the consolidated recommendations of the meetings and that these could be used to compile a policy document. Consequently, a letter was sent to the Minister of Agriculture along with a caveat that his ministry take the lead in drafting the policy document on 12 November, 2013. It was clear during previous meetings that the Ministry of Agriculture always played a pivotal and proactive role.

In less than three weeks, all formalities were completed in the Ministry of Agriculture and instructions were given to its staff to go ahead and lead in drafting the policy document. The same message was copied to NAC as a response to its letter.

5.4 Constituting the drafting committee

Within a week after receiving the above information, a National Agroforestry Policy drafting committee was constituted in consultation with the NAC, the working group and other stakeholders. The committee was composed of DAC, ICRAF, ICAR, Planning Commission, and representatives of state governments, industry players, NGOs, MoEF&CC, DoLR, and NABARD. Since the committee nominations were made by the respective office, it did not require any further approval.

5.5 Drafting the policy framework

The National Agroforestry Policy drafting committee without losing any time, immediately embarked on this daunting task, and produced its first draft in less than a month. After having it reviewed by the NAC, the draft document was rechecked to ensure that it was in harmony with the national priorities.

5.6 Sharing the policy draft widely

At the same time the policy draft was shared widely and stakeholders invited for an in-depth review of the document. A date of 10 January 2014 was set. More than 60 participants, representing the drafting committee and other stakeholders, including state governments participated in the meeting to produce the final draft. Each and every sentence of the policy draft was debated. All observations and suggestions were deliberated from various angles, including the legal, financial, regulatory, revenue and technical aspects. These were consolidated and incorporated into the policy draft during the meeting which went on for eight straight hours without a break. The outcome was a consensus draft of the policy with all major stakeholders on board.

During the same period, as recommended by the reviewers, DAC scanned best practices in agroforestry across the world in consultation with ICRAF and incorporated these into the policy draft. This was done within two days after the review meeting.

5.7 Finalizing the policy document

After finalizing the policy draft, a Cabinet Note was prepared for approval by the Agriculture Minister, who would then send it for consideration to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Union Cabinet. The Cabinet Note was approved by the Agriculture Minister with instructions to circulate it, along with the policy document, to all concerned ministries, state government and other agencies for their comments, and vetting of the policy within 10 days before submission to the Cabinet.

The ministries/departments to whom the policy document was sent include: the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Department of Land Resources, Department of Agricultural Research and Education/ICAR, Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Rural Development, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Herbal Medicine (AYUSH), Department of Expenditure, Department of Banking, and the Departments of Revenue, Agriculture and Forest in different states of the country. DAC of the Ministry of Agriculture received feedback from majority of them, and those who could not respond on time were advised to give their views during the Cabinet meeting. Comments from all concerned were considered and incorporated into the policy draft.

The document was then submitted to the Union Cabinet for approval and the file put up again for the Minister of Agriculture's approval. From here a Cabinet Note was sent to the Cabinet Secretary to present the policy before the Union Cabinet for approval on 2 February 2014. The Cabinet Note is a formal request note which is required to ensure that an item is included in the business agenda of Parliament. The Cabinet approved the policy document soon after the deliberations of its meeting held on 6 February 2014.

The Honourable President of India announced the country's intention to have a policy on agroforestry during his inaugural speech of the World Congress on Agroforestry on 10 February 2014 in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Secretary of Agriculture, who had also been present during the relevant Cabinet meeting where the policy had been approved. Shortly after the President's announcement, the Secretary of Agriculture gave a presentation on the approved policy to the World Congress on Agroforestry.

A copy of the approved policy by the Cabinet along with a letter from the Minister of Agriculture was sent to Parliament for ‘laying of the policy document on the floor’ of the two Houses of Parliament in session. It was presented on the floors of the Upper and the Lower Houses of Parliament on 20 February and 21 February, 2014, respectively, thus, concluding the process.

5.8 Fast-tracking feedback, clearance and approvals

Since a short timeline was given to get the policy approved, there was need to fast-track it. The normal process is to prepare a draft and circulate the document widely for comments; the draft is prepared by the concerned department and sent to other related ministries and departments. Given the short timelines, it appeared tricky to achieve the consensus needed, and the ‘short-cut’ of a multi-departmental committee was constituted to speed up the process of drafting the preliminary policy document. It was expected that such a committee would be more successful in addressing the priorities and concerns of all the major stakeholders within the short time available. This indeed, proved to be the case. Additionally, this dealt with cases where in the normal course of events, delays due to lack of responses could be avoided. Nonetheless, vigorous follow-up through mail, phone calls and sometimes visits were still required to ensure that feedback from some agencies and departments were incorporated into the document.

5.9 Safeguarding against ‘drop-outs’

Often in government offices, documents being processed through the hierarchy or chain-of-command can be subject to the vagaries arising from misunderstandings by line or section officers who can ‘flag’ a document for additional attention simply because of a misunderstanding or a gap in knowledge. This can slow down the process of approval and enrichment unduly. In other cases, such documents languish on the desks of section officers because they do not consider them a priority. Reaching out to such officers directly, often by telephone, on behalf of the senior officers from the policy drafting committee, proved extremely useful.

6. Fourth round: from accepted policy to implementation

6.1 Detailing items in the policy and developing a protocol and roadmap

The National Agroforestry Policy of India is now officially housed in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. A high-level Inter-Ministerial Committee, headed by the Secretary of Agriculture, is monitoring the policy implementation. The policy prescribes incentivizing complete value chain of agroforestry system so that it becomes a self-propelling mechanism. Research, extension and capacity building are also key areas of focus to ensure greater industry involvement.

It was realized during the review of existing policies and also noted during the discussions that many of the policies or portions of them have left lots of room for varied interpretations. Therefore, the policy drafting committee decided that each item contained in the draft copy of the document should be as detailed as possible. This would enhance the understanding of the reader and remove any ambiguity. Accordingly, all efforts were made to detail each item and also to provide a protocol/roadmap to implement that particular item. The National Agroforestry Policy of India document has a specific section on the pathways to achieve the deliverables. This is probably the only policy document in the country that is so elaborate and has been lauded by both readers and implementers.

6.2 Validating some of the policy recommendations independently

In order to find out if the policy document contained achievable recommendations or not, it was highly valuable to pilot test some of the recommendations, independently and separately with the agencies who would be responsible for implementing them. This exercise proved useful, e.g. the de-notification of certain number of tree species from felling and transit regulations in different states. The feedback from the sample cases was that it is possible, but would require allowing state governments to make decisions on particular species, as well as the number of species. Therefore, a policy recommendation was made that each state could select 20 species based on their preferences, and make them free from felling and transit regulations. The net effect was that as soon as the policy was passed, many states came forward and de-notified as many as 50 species. This would never have been possible without the National Agroforestry Policy.

In addition to the validation through pilot testing, this policy has also been effective in upgrading of national R&D institutions, and creating a new National Sub-Mission on Agroforestry to promote agroforestry. The emergence of a more complete, equitable and self-sustaining value chain seems promising. The process of this policy development has also been recognized and is being used in neighbouring countries in South Asia.

7. Discussion and inputs to the roadmap for future efforts

Upon reflection, the case for an agroforestry policy for India was successful because of at least four main elements:

- Saliency: It started with a large number of participants who included senior officials, policy makers and policy influencers, and looked for solutions that were feasible within the existing institutional and policy frameworks
- Credibility: Compiling an unarguable justification with reference to the specific data and aspects that are observable by all
- Legitimacy: Having a neutral facilitator throughout, with involvement of all stakeholders and a process that respected their opinions and addressed real concerns; articulation of the recommendations in a doable format for ownership by all stakeholders
- Ensuring Consensus: Having an understanding of strong jurisdiction and differences among Indian states in agriculture, forestry and other sectors

Developing a policy is a time-consuming and patience-testing exercise. More importantly, it is a camaraderie forging venture, where everybody's views are respected and none is rejected outright. The facilitators of this exercise always had to play a neutral role, and provide unbiased feedback, even when covering their own areas of specialization.

It is always good to start with a larger number of participants drawn from various sectors, as it usually narrows down with time. Those who are really interested in the topic or the discussion will remain active, while others fall out gradually.

Involvement of senior officials, policy makers and policy influencers is critical in such an endeavour. All efforts must be made to have a few of them in all the meetings and other gatherings. In addition, choosing the right partners to influence 'fence sitters' is also very important.

It is extremely useful to keep the consultations of the opposing (or even 'warring') groups separate, and to provide the views of one group to the other group without having them face-to-face. Thus, conducting the consultations by sectors or departments is recommended. However, a few of the participants should be involved in all the consultations to ensure continuity and institutional memory.

The unbiased proceedings of meetings must be shared with the participants as soon as possible and their feedback considered favourably in modifying the proceedings. The revised proceedings should be shared with the participants, not only of the current meeting, but also of previous meetings. The same rule should apply to other documents, e.g. draft policy document.

Regular communication through electronic or print media is key. That could pay dividends in terms of sharing back and forth, getting additional inputs and suggestions, finalizing the documents and winning over more supporters.

The legal, fiduciary, and regulatory aspects should always be kept in sight. The policy recommendations should come by consensus and be put in a doable format; top down, imposing type live a short and unproductive life.

The resulting policy provides a platform for converging the various programmes of planting of trees outside of forest areas, currently being implemented by different ministries, such as Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

One of the challenges encountered was turf wars, where some entities did not fully agree with the 'joint policy' per se. Considering that a policy requires full agreement, it was challenging to work across different ministries with diverse, contradictory and sometimes opposing views and mandates. For this reason, it was crucial to have the widest possible buy-in and the supporters worked to engage the widest possible audience and to actually 'choreograph' how that would be done.

To enhance transparency and avoid vested interest agendas, the team was made up of actors from across democratic sectors. The consultative process was documented and a multi-departmental committee was used to ensure transparency among government offices in the final stages of the process.

8. Conclusion/recommendations

Agroforestry in India was not housed in any specific ministry, which drew little attention to its importance. This is also reflected in resource allocation. Additionally, there is a rather strict regulation regime that affects the expansion of agroforestry because of rules around tree felling and transport from the Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change. There are other constraints based on national policies, but for those wishing to implement agroforestry, there was also a lack of high quality planting material and certification guidelines for trees.

The policy development in India was set at the national level with a key emphasis on bridging forestry, agriculture, water and environment and ensuring that other policies do not undermine agroforestry as a solution to multiple national goals. The policy is not only seen as crucial to India's ambitious goal of achieving 33 percent tree cover, but also to providing many of the other benefits such as increasing food and nutrition, supplying fodder, fuel wood and timber for the country's growing population, and also the ecological services.

The effort to develop a National Agroforestry Policy was initiated in 2008 when ICRAF in collaboration with other national institutions collected the existing policies related to forests, water, agriculture, farmers and other relevant topics within and outside the country (for comparison with other policies that were working) and analysed those side by side with the benefits of having an agroforestry policy. Alongside this, evidence was collected on the need to have the policy from different stakeholders. India's National Advisory Council helped in bringing all the stakeholders together to ensure that their voices were heard while formulating the policy. Subsequently, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare working with inter-ministerial representatives as well as experts in this field gave final shape to policy, which was approved by the Government of India.

The policy provides a platform for converging the various programmes of planting of trees outside of forest areas, currently being implemented by different ministries, such as Agriculture, Rural Development, and Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

A high level Inter-Ministerial Committee, headed by the Secretary of Agriculture, is now monitoring the policy implementation. The policy prescribes incentivizing the entire value chain of the agroforestry system so that it becomes a self-propelling mechanism. Research, extension and capacity building are also key areas of focus to ensure greater industry involvement. The case brings together agriculture, environment and rural development sectors among others and includes stakeholders such as farmers, NGOs, the private and public sectors, and research institutions.

The case of India was successful because of the following elements:

- Unarguable justification; involvement of all stakeholders and their opinions and addressing real concerns; articulation of the recommendations in a doable format for ownership by all stakeholders
- Neutral facilitator throughout the process of deliberations
- Consensus among a large number of stakeholders from diverse fields
- Starting the deliberation process with a large number of participants that included senior official, policy makers and policy influencers.

The above elements appear crucial for developing a viable, acceptable and implementable policy. The policy however, should not be considered as a panacea to all the problems. It becomes useful only in cases where there is high level of public and private interest in adopting the practices and there are contradictory regulations, or lack of various kinds of support (technical, financial, etc.) that could hamper adoption.

Appendices

Appendix 1. Chronological listing of main events in the process of developing and delivering the National Agroforestry Policy in India

Late 2007	ICRAF began discussions on the Agroforestry Policy
November, 2008	ICRAF-South Asia reviewed several existing policies in India and abroad and prepared a draft Agroforestry Policy
September, 2009	ICRAF BoT formally decided that there should be an Agroforestry Policy prepared and entrusted this responsibility to one of its BoT members
May, 2011	ICRAF-South Asia organized the first National Consultation on the need to develop a National Agroforestry Policy
May, 2012	ICRAF-South Asia organized a second National Consultation on the above subject and used the outcome of the first one (in 2011) as a background note for the 2012 meeting
5 November, 2012	A roundtable discussion with key officials on how to move the process of developing the policy forward with NAC
22 January, 2013	Another roundtable discussion with NAC
11 February, 2013	Meeting with NAC about setting the rules for future meetings, creation of a core group, and its coordination by ASA Chair – Mr. Ashish Mandal
5 March, 2013	First regular meeting on developing the Agroforestry Policy, a large meeting attended by BAIF, Ministry of Agriculture, MOEF, other ministries, ICAR, CRIDA, ASA, ICRAF, several NGOs, and some private groups
8 May, 2013	The second regular meeting attended by many state governments, Central Government Ministries, TERI, NGOs, and other stakeholders
18 June, 2013	The third meeting, attended mostly by industry players, including CII, FICCI, PHDCC, Federation of Plywood and Panel Industry, ITC, Dabur, Mother Dairy
12 July, 2013	The fourth meeting, attended by financial institutions, international institutions, and government departments and ministries, including the SBI, Bank of Baroda, PNB, NABARD, Agricultural Finance Corp, IFC, ADB, USAID, DFID, SDC-IC, Ford Foundation, IFPRI, AusAid, IDRC, CIDA, FAO, GIZ
5 August, 2013	The fifth meeting, a general one, attended by several participants
23 August, 2013	The sixth meeting, attended by many secretaries or their representatives of various ministries, including the MoA (DAC, DARE/ICAR), MoEF, DoLR, MoRD, MNRE, NAC, ICRAF
29 September, 2013	A roundtable discussion and exchanging notes and views among key players, MoA/DAC, ICRAF, ICAR, NAC
9 October 2013	Special meeting with the MOEF
3 October, 2013	Knowledge sharing workshop including a discussion on the Agroforestry Policy preparation

12 November, 2013	NAC letter/record to Secretary, A&C/DAC to take the lead in drafting the National Agroforestry Policy
21 November, 2013	Approval by Sec, A&C to take the lead in drafting the National Agroforestry Policy
25 November, 2013	Approval by the Minister of Agriculture for DAC to take the lead in drafting the National Agroforestry Policy
6 December, 2013	Information by Sec DAC to NAC to start drafting the National Agroforestry Policy
3 December, 2013	Organized the drafting committee with its ToRs; the committee consisted of DAC, ICRAF, ICAR, Planning Commission, Representatives of the State Governments, Industry, NGOs, MoEF, DoLR, and NABARD
2 January, 2014	First draft of the policy sent by the Ministry of Agriculture, which was largely based on NAC recommendations and the general government policies. It was also circulated to the drafting committee members on the same day with a request to go through the document and prepare for discussion meeting on 10 January, 2014
10 January, 2014	First meeting on draft policy; participants were the drafting committee and others outside the drafting committee who were considered as stakeholders. The draft policy document was discussed paragraph by paragraph, and the views of all the stakeholders were taken, and consensus reached before improving/amending the draft to give it a final shape before circulating it to different ministries/state governments for seeking their final views on the policy
Within 2 days of this meeting	Best practices in agroforestry scanned by DAC in consultation with ICRAF and incorporated into the document to make it more logical and comprehensive
13 January, 2014	A draft Cabinet Note along with draft policy presented for Agriculture Minister's approval
14 January, 2014	The Cabinet Note was approved by the Agriculture Minister with instructions to circulate it along with the policy document to all concerned ministries, state government and other agencies for their comments on the policy within 10 days. The ministries/departments to whom the policy document was sent included: MoEF, DoLR, DARE/ICAR, Department of Animal Husbandry, Department of Rural Development, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Herbal Medicine (AYUSH), Department of Expenditure, Department of Commerce, Department of Banking and all the state governments
28 January, 2014	Comments received from a majority of the departments and state governments
30 January, 2014	The Ministry of Agriculture decided to present the policy document to the Cabinet for approval and the file was put up again for Agriculture Minister's approval with all observations and comments of various departments along with DAC's responses to them
3 February, 2014	Approval received from the Agriculture Minister and a note sent to Cabinet Secretary to place the policy draft before the Union Cabinet for approval
4 February, 2014	The policy draft was placed before the Cabinet and was approved

6 February, 2014	The Cabinet approval was communicated to DAC by Agriculture Minister
10 February, 2014	Therefore, the Sec Agriculture made a presentation on the draft policy at the World Congress on Agroforestry *Immediately after the Cabinet approval, a letter was sent to the Department of Expenditure to include the Policy in the speech of the Finance Minister during the Vote on Accounts in the Parliament, and the Policy was included in his speech of 17 February, 2014
14 February, 2014	Cabinet decision communicated to the Department of Agriculture
19 February, 2014	A copy of the approved policy by the Cabinet along with a letter from Agriculture Minister sent to the Parliament for ‘laying of the policy document on the floor’ of the two Houses of Parliament in session
20 February, 2014	Policy document was placed on the floor of the Upper House of the Parliament
21 February, 2014	Policy document was placed on the floor of the Lower House of the Parliament, Thereby, concluding the “Process of Developing and Delivering the Agroforestry Policy”

Appendix 2. List of participants¹

State Governments

Representatives from Different States of India, a.o. Andhara Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karanataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, UttaraKhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhatish Garh, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya

NGOs and Civic Societies

- Mr. G.G. Sohani and Dr. Narayan Hegde, BAIF, Pune, India
- Dr. N Parasuraman, MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, India
- Mr. Ravi Kumar, Foundation for Ecological Security, (FES), Gujarat, India
- Mr. Crispino Lobo, Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR), Pune, India
- Mr. Ashish Mondal, ASA, Bhopal, India
- Dr. RPS Yadav, Indian Farmers Forestry Development Corporation (IFFDC), New Delhi, India
- Dr. DN Tewari, President Utthan, Allahabad, UP, and Former Member of the Indian Planning Commission, New Delhi, India

Industry and Chambers of Commerce

- Mr. Gokul Pattnaik, CII, New Delhi, India
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- Representatives from Dabur India, Limited, Ghaziabad, India
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- Representatives from Bank of Baroda, New Delhi, India
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- Representatives from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), New Delhi, India
- Representatives from Agriculture Finance Corporation (AFC), New Delhi, India
- Representatives from International Finance Corporation (IFC), New Delhi, India
- Representatives from Andhra Bank, New Delhi, India
- Representatives from Banking Industry for Rural Development, New Delhi, India
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