

## Introduction

A larger proportion of agricultural landscapes face multiple challenges related to increasing agricultural production, food security, poverty, climate change, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss. These challenges are highly interlinked and exacerbate the pressure on scarce natural resources. Most of these challenges are linked to existing or not sufficient policies, therefore creating a need of coming up with approaches that support multifunctional benefits and multistakeholder engagement processes. The fundamental challenge that remains, given the intricate integrated landscapes, is how to combine the various efforts addressing divergent interest through a more harmonized and collective engagement of the various actors as a means of scaling up initiatives. In essence, for any landscape level initiative to be extensive, it is necessary that both the functional and institutional needs are clearly articulated and prioritized. There is also need to recognize the multiplicity of smallholder landowners across landscapes that dictate multiple interests and needs.

The Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) Project has been working on enhancing the food security of resource poor rural farmers in Eastern Africa through research that underpins national programmes to scale up the use of trees within farming systems. This includes customizing tools methods and approaches that are 'best fit' to the specific contexts for the eastern African region. A crucial step in this regard is defining a process for identifying and facilitating an enabling environment. It also includes the recognition of pertinent policies and institutional arrangements that inhibit the adoption of trees on farm. In identifying these challenges, the ACIAR project in partnership with the Strengthening Rural Institutions (SRI) project began a process to understand the policy and institutional frameworks in the two focus countries of the project in Ethiopia and Rwanda through the Trees for Food Security (TFS) initiative. The TFS initiative seeks to enhance food security for resource-poor rural people in Eastern Africa through research that underpins national programmes.

## Policy dialogue process

The format of the participatory workshop was designed on the premise of the scalability of the benefits from the Woreda/ district or site level to the national level. Further, it was with the recognition of constraining policy factors that inhibit the flow of benefits to the various categories of society. This scenario was visually articulated through an hourglass (figure 1) whereby the multiplier effects of increased adoption of trees on farm could be realized at Landscape level resulting to streams of benefits to a large number of households. In this regard deliberate steps are articulated to motivate an institutional arrangement that provide enabling environment for addressing constraints that inhibit the scalability of trees on farm.

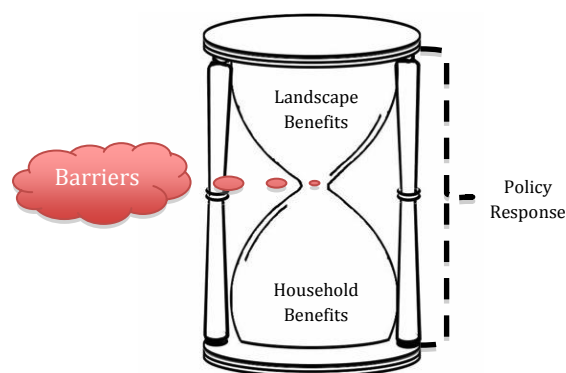


Figure 1: Policy scenario

The workshop design is based on a policy dialogue tool and process, which explore the household benefits of having trees on farm, such as food supply, energy supply, shade, fodder for livestock amongst other potential environmental benefits. It also provides a forum for identification of trade offs and opportunity for brokerage. The main objective in the policy dialogue process is to identify strategies for the scalability of benefits and ensuring win-win outcomes such as improved livelihoods, land rehabilitation, water supply systems, carbon sequestration, conservation and capitalization of ecosystem services. The key areas identified from the district policy dialogues were escalated to the national level discussion thereby establishing their relevancy in inhibiting the scaling up adoption of trees on farm. In the case of the ACIAR project in both Ethiopia and Rwanda, initial baselines undertaken formed the basis for the biophysical, socio-economic and institutional barriers to adoption of trees on farm. The baselines also informed the development of effective strategies for scaling up/ out the packages of agroforestry technologies. Table 1 shows the series of deliverables provided through the use of the policy dialogue tool.

OUTPUT	Title
Workshop report	District level policy dialogue Meeting Ethiopia
Workshop report	National level policy dialogue Ethiopia
Workshop report	District level policy dialogue Meeting Rwanda
Workshop report	National level policy dialogue Rwanda
Policy dialogue Process Tool	Facilitating policy dialogues

## Main results of the dialogues

Various issues inhibiting adoption of trees on farm were identified and prioritized based on the level of influence. The prioritized issues in Ethiopia include: market access (opportunities); water stress; grazing management; Allelopathic (knowledge/ awareness; FMNR; land certification; pests and disease. Policy recommendations were also identified in order to facilitate the adoption of trees on farm as summarized in the figure below.

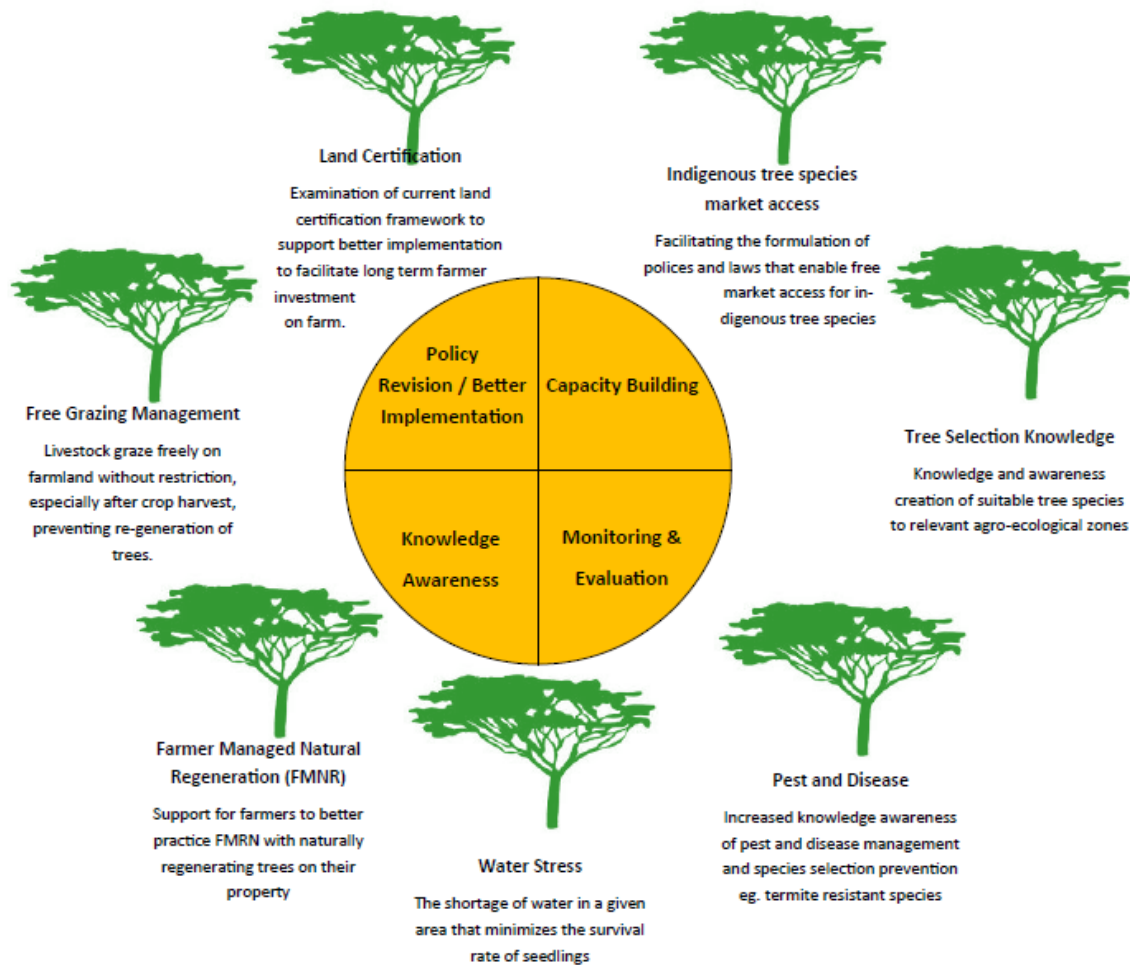


Figure 1: Key policy findings (Ethiopia)

The prioritized issues in Rwanda were clustered as follows: security and theft; trees for mitigation of climate impacts; farmer capacity building on tree management; market access for tree based products; and increased tree supply and diversity. In order to facilitate adoption of trees on farm, policy recommendations were made as depicted in the figure below.

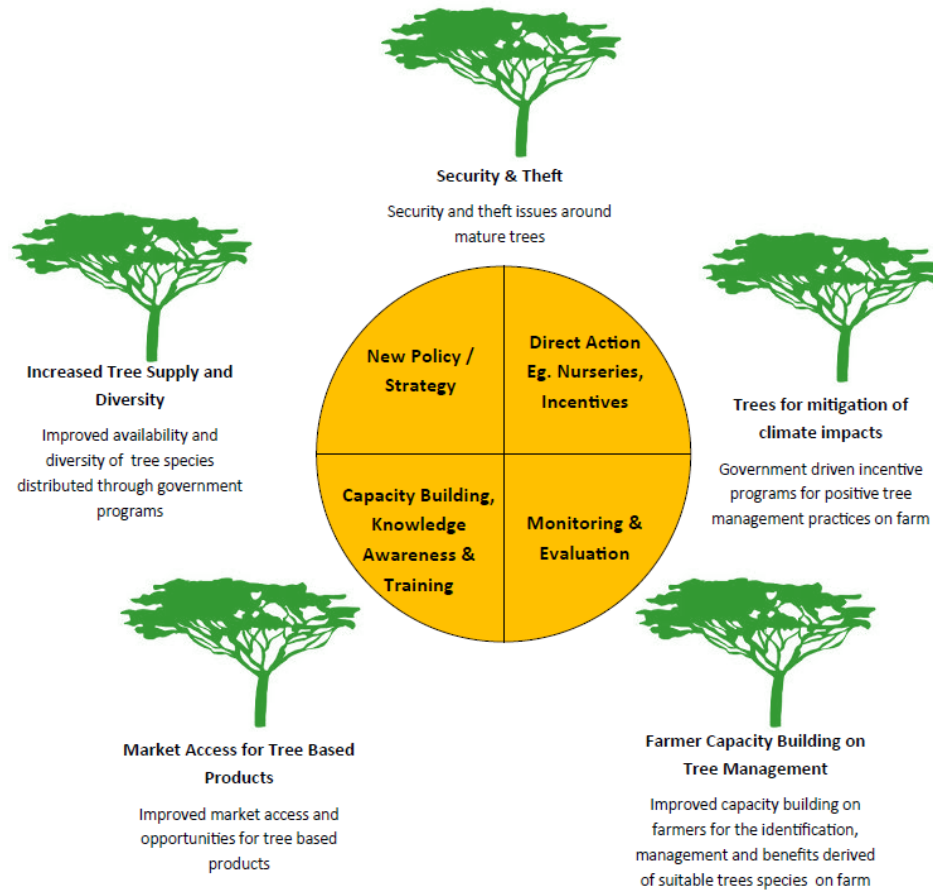


Figure 2: Key policy findings (Rwanda)

## Next steps

Some of the outputs developed as a result of this initiative include workshop reports and a policy dialogue tool that acts as a guide to facilitators when undertaking policy dialogue meetings. In order to facilitate a favorable policy environment that will translate to increase in the adoption of trees on smallholder farms for food security, further engagements and discussions with key national policy makers will take place. Additionally, both the ACIAR and SRI projects will go a step further to ensure scaling out the success of this initiative to relevant agro-ecological zones in other countries. The SRI project will also test policy tools for national level “Trees for Food Security” for ACIAR project in Ethiopia and Rwanda”.