



# Preparation and presentation of the final draft of the Belize National Agroforestry Policy

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## Contents

<b>Abbreviations and Acronyms .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>National Validation Workshop for National Agroforestry Policy.....</b>	<b>2</b>
Introduction .....	2
Description of Task.....	3
Objectives of the workshop.....	3
Steps in the methodology.....	3
Results from the meeting .....	4
<b>Final Draft of the National Agroforestry Policy .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Technical Guideline of Inter-sectoral Working Group .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Objectives of the IWG .....	7
Work of the IWG's .....	8
Expected Outputs.....	8
Proposed Membership.....	8
Time Frame.....	9
Proposed Topics for Research and Development.....	9
<b>Annexes.....</b>	<b>10</b>
Annex 1 Invitation Letter to the NAFF National Validation Workshop .....	10
Annex 2 Agenda of the NAFF Validation Workshop .....	11
Annex 3 List of participants at the NAFF Validation Workshop .....	11
Annex 4 Minutes of the NAFF Validation Workshop .....	13
Annex 5 Welcome Address delivered by Dr. Lennox Gladden, Chief officer Belize National Climate Change Office .....	19
Annex 6 Keynote address delivered by Honorable Orlando Habet, Minister of the Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.....	20
Annex 7 CATIE's Potential Role on the Way Forward delivered by Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, CATIE's Director General .....	23
Annex 8 Pictures of the Dignitaries at the NAFF Validation Workshop .....	25
Annex 9 Dignitaries and Guest at the NAFF Validation Workshop .....	26
Annex 10 NAFF Validation Workshop via Microsoft Teams.....	26
Annex 11 Power Point presentation delivered by Dr. Marcelino Avila .....	27
Annex 12 Journalist note on CATIE's News Feed and other social media platforms .....	28



## Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF	Agroforestry
AFS	Agroforestry system
AMAF	ASEAN Ministries of Agriculture and Forestry
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
ATWGARD	ASEAN Technical Working Group in Agricultural Research and Development
BLPA	Belize Livestock Producers Association
CATIE	Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (acronym in Spanish)
CC	Climate Change
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
COP	Conference of Parties
CTCN	Climate Technology Center and Network
FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
FTA	Forests, trees and agroforestry
IUCN	International Union for Conservation
PDT	Policy Development Team
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
NAFC	National Agroforestry Council
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Plus
TA	Technical assistance
TCGA	Toledo Cacao Growers Association
TFCGA	Trio Farm Cacao Growers Association
TIDE	Toledo Institute for Development and Environment
UB	University of Belize
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



The objective of CATIE's technical assistance (TA) is: "To develop an integrated and comprehensive Agroforestry (AF) policy framework that will aid in mainstreaming AF countrywide, providing practical knowledge and skills to the national team (National Climate Change Office, the Agriculture Department and the Forest Department) to understand and use a tested and successful process to develop a National AF Policy (NAFP) for Belize.

Based on the Terms of Reference of the "Development of an integrated and comprehensive AF policy for Belize Technical Assistance", CATIE is submitting **Deliverable 7.1 of Output 7- Organize a national workshop to present the agroforestry policy to several stakeholders**

Output 7 deliverable corresponds to specific objective 7 of the TA which is "**Consolidate the final draft and organize a national workshop to present the final draft of the National Agroforestry Policy.**"

## National Validation Workshop for National Agroforestry Policy

### Introduction

The Technical Assistance "Development of an Agroforestry Policy for Belize" responded to a request from the Government of Belize to the Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN).

The CTCN is an operational arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and it is administered by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

The Tropical Agricultural and Higher Education Center (CATIE), who has more than 30 years of experience working in different agroforestry systems was contracted by the CTCN to provide the technical assistance to Belize.

As part of the work plan for the development of the National Agroforestry Policy the formation of a National Development Team was developed with the intention to oversee the agroforestry formulation process. Once this process was completed and all members of the team agreed on the draft of the policy.

A final meeting and final activity of the agroforestry development workplan was scheduled, i.e. the NAFP National Validation Workshop, with the intention of the presenting the draft policy to all important stakeholders from the GoB, NGOs, private sector and civil society.



## Description of Task

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and Statutory Instruments placed in Belize, the meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams, on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from 9:00 am to 11.30 am.

The agenda of the meeting was:

- Welcome Remarks
- Keynote Address
- Overview of the agenda
- Presentation
  - o Justification for and constraints to be addressed by the policy
    - Question & Answer Session
  - o Proposes structure and programs
    - Question and Answer Session
  - o Start-Up strategy and main actions
    - Question and Answer Session
- CATIE's Potential Role on the Way Forward
- CTCN's Potential Role on the Way Forward
- Next Steps and Closing Remarks

In this meeting a PowerPoint presentation of the draft National Agroforestry Policy was presented in three parts, each highlighting key sections of the draft policy. The presentation was made by Dr. Marcelino Avila, the agroforestry consultant.

## Objectives of the workshop

1. To present the draft of the National Agroforestry Policy
2. To receive feedback and recommendations to improve the draft policy and to produce thereof the final draft policy.

## Steps in the methodology

1. Following the final meeting with the National Agroforestry Development Team, a draft invitation letter, tentative list of stakeholders, and a provisional agenda of the workshop, were elaborated.
2. Due to various activities beyond the team's control (related mainly to the national elections held on November 11<sup>th</sup>), the workshop was not held until November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
3. Mr Colin Mattis of the NCCO with CATIE consultants worked closely to finalize the draft letter, list of stakeholders and the provisional agenda.
4. An invitation letter (Annex 1) was signed by Dr. Lennox Gladden, Chief of the Belize National Climate Change Office and was issued to approximately 110 stakeholders from high level representatives of the Government, City and Town



councils, NGOs, the private sector, and farmer organizations. Along with the invitation letter, an agenda of the meeting (Annex 2), and the draft agroforestry policy were attached. This with the intention that each stakeholder would have time to review the policy.

5. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Colin Mattis, Chief Deputy Officer from the National Climate Change Office.
6. Dr. Lennox Gladden presented the Welcome Address, and Honourable Habet presented the keynote address.
7. Honourable Orlando Habet, the new Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, & Disaster Risk Management, delivered the keynote address.
8. The presentation of the National Agroforestry Policy was assisted with PPP slides. The presentation was divided in 3 sections of 15 minutes each:
  - Justification for and constraints to be addressed by the Policy,
  - Proposed objectives, structure and programs
  - Start-up strategy and main actions.
9. After each section, a 15-minute discussion period allowed stakeholder to ask their questions or present their comments. Dr Avila responded to their questions and comments, indicating briefly how the draft policy addressed them or could address them in the next revision.
10. Dr. Ibrahim presented on CATIE's potential role on the way forward and Mr. Ramiro Salinas presented CTCN's potential role on the way forward.
11. Mr. Colin Mattis delivered the Closing remarks and Next Steps.
12. A journalist note was created on the NAFFP National Validation Workshop for CATIE's publication (Annex 12)

### Results from the meeting

From the 110 invitees approximately 50 stakeholders from the GoB, NGO's, Private Sector and Civil Society attended the meeting. At the meeting various stakeholders gave comments as well as asked questions related to the policy.

Major Comments from the meeting were (see Minutes of the Meeting Annex 3):

- Acknowledge the role of traditional forest management and indigenous knowledge especially within the Mayan Communities which are located in the south of the country so as to empower and strengthen new agroforestry practices in order for the adopting of these new practices to be easily adopted by these farmers.
- The need of a stronger collaboration of the line ministries that have some influence with the Agroforestry Policy such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise; Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management; Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour & Local



Government; Human Development, Families & Indigenous Peoples' Affairs along with Education, Culture Science & Technology. Having the collaboration of the other colleagues can help with the lobbying and advocacy for implementing the agroforestry policy so that when the time comes for the policy to go to the cabinet it can be accepted and then the policy and its respective plan can move forward.

- The inclusion of a risk management section into the policy in order to address and be prepared to face the future risks of policy approval and implementation.
- CATIE has a mission and strategy for collaboration with national government, which explains why CATIE is involved in Belize and now assisting with the development of the agroforestry policy.
- CATIE also knows that there are many areas in which they can apply this expertise and make solid contributions in guiding and collaborating with the GoB and its institutions to mainstream AF development in Belize.
- CATIE's DG, indicated that CATIE can assist and provide guidance for preparing proposals for the mobilization of resources for the implementation phase and for research and development in AF as well as provide capacity building to the GoB, NGOs and private sectors. CATIE can also work and develop actions that will integrate the SDGs, the IPCC, the NDCs and NAMAs which are used as an avenue to reduce emission but also integrating AF to improve livelihoods and production and to look for synergies and mitigation objectives.
- CATIE has committed itself to collaborate with Belize on the implementation of the national AF policy. However, CATIE wants to know more on what the GoB and stakeholder's priorities and their action plans are. For example, CATIE can help in the formulation of a proposal with the support of the CTCN to create a small executing unit for generating the pertinent political for the implementation of the NAFP and preparing a long-term project with international organization such as the Green Climate Fund, GEF, etc.
- CTCN is at the service of the GoB to assist in the promotion and diffusion to mainstream AF at a national and hopefully a regional level with the main goal of sustainable agriculture.
- CTCN can support next year, for example, an AF project mainstreaming the participation of women, youth and indigenous community in training, research and dissemination, etc, to enhance the practice and impact of AF practices
- CTCN also supports collaboration, networking, through the formation of partnership at local national and international levels, to ensure the proper implementation of AF and to enhance practice and impacts of agroforestry with the participation of private sector which is the key for the fulfilment of Belize's NDC and SDGs and contribution to the goals for the Paris Agreement.



- Honourable Habet expressed that the agroforestry policy is being developed in the basis that the Belizean society can reap substantial benefits, both economically and environmentally, through the implementation of the agroforestry which have been proven to be more productive and sustainable than forest or agricultural monoculture systems. AF can also prevent soil erosion, aid in water retention, promote soil fertility etc. The policy will drive socio-economic change in Belize, and bring the society one step closer to the status of having national food security.
- He also states that the commitment and participation of the other GoB Ministries such as Agriculture and Natural resources, the University of Belize, Ya'axché Conservation Trust, Program for Belize, BLPA, SIRD, and other, shall be essential for the implementation of the agroforestry policy.
- Minister Habet emphasized that implementing strategies and measure like the AF policy is a strategy that can address climate change and its effects on agriculture and the forest sector with the main goal of facilitating the evolution of these sectors to face the challenges presented by climate change, unsustainable resource exploitation and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other stronger statements that were presented in the workshop by stakeholders were:

- Value of the policy for large farmers, plantations, and the disabled
- Identification of mechanisms to attract the participation of the private sector
- The initiative to include gender especially women and youth was a great compliment and it was applauded.
- To find a way to align the Blue Agenda with the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy along with the Agroforestry policy.

## **Final Draft of the National Agroforestry Policy**

The draft national agroforestry policy was finalized after various consultations and the NAFFP National Validation Workshop were held with various stakeholders from across the country.

A National Agroforestry Development Team was developed (refer to Output 5: Deliverable 5.1 Technical Guidelines for the National Agroforestry Development Team) to oversee the development of such policy. This draft policy was then presented at a National Validation Workshop to stakeholders from the governmental, non-governmental organization, private sector and civil society. Based on the comments and questions provided by the stakeholders, a final draft was produced.



This final draft (**see Belize National Agroforestry Policy**) is the document that will be circulated among the important decision makers to proceed with its formal approval and acceptance by the Government of Belize.

## Technical Guideline of Inter-sectoral Working Group

As mentioned in Chapter 7 of the Belize National Agroforestry Policy, the NAFP like any other public policy is an authoritative prescription for a specific course of action. Once the policy is enacted or legalized, there must be a legal authority charged with the implementation and monitoring of the policy. However, the enactment of any national policy invariably takes time, sometimes months and years.

Consequently, in order to prepare and establish a foundation for the full implementation of the NAFP, it is recommended to form an interim, Inter-Sectoral Working Group (IWG) as mentioned in Chapter 9 of the policy. This IWG will follow up and take over after the dissolution of the NAFP development team.

The IWG could be chaired by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise and the Belize Forest Department where they would alternate every 2 years. As mentioned in the policy this work would demand substantive political muscle, technical resource, and absorptive capacity, which can be provided ably by both the ministry and department only by working as a team.

## Objectives of the IWG

Its objectives are to:

1. Work towards integrating the NAFP into the policy priorities of GoB with the objective of securing Cabinet approval
2. Design and develop a financial sustainability management plan for the implementation of the NAFP
3. Mobilize resources for addressing important priorities such as:
  - a. Spearheading the capacity building on agroforestry development
  - b. Fieldwork to strengthen and complement ongoing AF programs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise, Belize Forest Department Sustainable Forest Management Program, Ya'axche Conservation Trust, Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental



Education, University of Belize (Department of Agriculture at Central Farm) along with other agroforestry related programs and organizations.

- c. Develop proposals on research topics for the successful implementation of the NAFP.

## Work of the IWG's

The work of the IWG would focus on

1. Analysis of convergence, synergies and dovetailing among current and new policies, programs and projects of the new Government taking office in December 2020. If and where conflicts may arise with other public policies and programs, they must be addressed by revisiting national priorities and trade-offs.
2. Dissemination of and advocacy for enactment of the draft NAFP to receive the active support from potentially affect parties, including legislators, courts, interest groups, other units of government, etc.
3. Capacity building for key institutions and stakeholders on the NAFP and AFSs, as a practical, short-term means for enabling cooperation, extension and networking, even if the legalization of the NAFP is delayed due to administrative issues.
4. Development of a five-year agroforestry development strategy and action plan, depending on the results of the above actions
5. Preparation of fundable projects by exploring and building alliances with region and international partners, such as CATIE, CTCN, FAO and others, that will enable and ensure the implementation of the NAFP will be successful.

## Expected Outputs

1. Trained and strengthened AF capacities at professional, technical and production levels among participating and beneficiary institutions and stakeholders.
2. Improved adoption and development of AF programs, AF systems and farmer practices.
3. Approved and enacted AF policy in Belize.
4. Availability of human, technical and financial resources for implementing the AF policy for mainstreaming AF in Belize.

## Proposed Membership

Many institutions will participate in IWG programs, but key institutions to be actively involved as members are:



- Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise
- Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management
- Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour & Local Government
- Ministry of Human Development, Families & Indigenous People's Affairs
- University of Belize (Department of Agriculture and Environment Research Institute)
- Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute
- Belize Livestock Producers Association
- Ya'axché Conservation Trust
- Development Finance Cooperation

## Time Frame

The IWG would function until the National AF Council and its Secretariat (proposed in the AF policy) are established, which could be achieved within the next 2 to 4 years.

## Proposed Topics for Research and Development

- Quantification of costs and benefits of main agroforestry systems, in comparison to crops, livestock and sustainable forest management in Belize.
- Gender analysis on women's participation in agroforestry decision making, field management and marketing operations.
- Assessment of the performance of smallholders' cacao with shade trees on their farming systems and under forest reserves.
- Review of agricultural market information and its potential use for AF development
- AF Alternatives for improving home-gardens, milpa system, and extensive cattle grazing systems.
- AF for sustainable rural development through the agro-eco-tourism sector.
- Roles of sustainable AF practices for both mitigation and adaptation to climate
- Adoption of AF and its impacts on household food and nutrition security at household level
- Analysis of incentive systems for the rapid adoption of AF systems at farm level
- Evaluation of effective extension models or methods for AF technologies in Belize, i.e., Agriculture Extension, Ya'axché, BLPA, SIRDI, and others.



## Annexes

### Annex 1 Invitation Letter to the NAFF National Validation Workshop



#### *National Climate Change Office*

Ministry of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, and Sustainable Development  
Old Lands Building, Market Square, Belmopan City, Cayo District, Belize C.A.  
Tel: (501) 828-5961, E-mail: NCCOclerk@gobmail.gov.bz



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REF: GEN/NCCO/II/02/20/VOLII/114

12<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Subject: Invitation to participate in National Workshop for the validation of the National Agroforestry Policy (NAFF)**

Dear Valued Stakeholder,

The Ministry of Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment and Sustainable Development, recognizing the potential and importance of agroforestry, made a request for technical assistance to the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for the development of a National Agroforestry Policy (NAFF). The objective of this technical assistance is to develop an integrated and comprehensive policy framework that will help to integrate agroforestry practices throughout the country.

The Tropical Agricultural and Higher Education Center (CATIE) has been contracted by the CTCN to provide technical assistance for the development of the NAFF. CATIE has tasked Mr. Guillermo Detlefsen - team leader, Dr. Marcelino Avila- an international Agroforestry Policy expert, and Mrs. Helen Choco-Galindo-project coordinator in Belize, with the development of the NAFF.

Under the guidance of the National Climate Change Office (NCCO), CATIE has consulted with key sectorial ministries and non-governmental stakeholders through the establishment of a National Agroforestry Policy Development Team, whereby the objective of the team is to promote their participation in, and ownership of the NAFF development process. The team has reviewed, approved and provided guidance in the development of the NAFF.

At this juncture, the NCCO cordially invites you to the national workshop for the validation of the draft National Agroforestry Policy with the objective of receiving your valuable feedback on any aspect of the proposed policy.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in this meeting, which will be held virtually via Microsoft Team on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2020 from 9:00 am to 10:45 am. To confirm your participation, kindly contact Mrs. Johanna Noble, by sending an email to [adaptationofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz](mailto:adaptationofficer.cc@environment.gov.bz) by November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Mrs. Noble can also be contacted via telephone by calling 828 5964.

Please accept my appreciation in advance for your timely consideration and we look forward to a favourable response.

Yours sincerely,

Lennox Gladden (PhD)  
Chief Climate Change Officer  
National Climate Change Office



## Annex 2 Agenda of the NAFF Validation Workshop

### DRAFT NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY POLICY (NAFF)

National Validation Workshop  
November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

#### Provisional Agenda

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
9.00-9:10 am	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Lennox Gladden, Chief Climate Change Officer, NCCO
9.10-9:20 am	Keynote Address	Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management
9:20-9:25 am	Overview of agenda	Mr. Colin Mattis, Deputy Chief Climate Change Officer, NCCO and Chair, NAFF Team
9:25-9:35 am	Presentation: Justifications for and constraints to be addressed by the Policy	Dr. Marcelino Avila, CATIE Consultant
9.35-9:45 am	Question and Answer Session	Mrs Helen Choco-Galindo, CATIE National Project Coordinator
9:45-9:55 am	Presentation: Proposed structure and programs	Dr. M. Avila
9:55-10:05 am	Question and Answer Session	Mrs H. Choco-Galindo
10:05-10:15 am	Presentation on NAFF: Start-up strategy and main actions	Dr. M. Avila
10:15-10:25 am	Question and Answer Session	Mrs H. Choco-Galindo
10:25-10:30 am	CATIE's Potential Role on the Way Forward	Dr. Muhammed Ibrahim, CATIE
10:30- 10:35 am	CTCN's Potential Role on the Way Forward	Mr. Ramiro Salinas, UNIDO-CTCN
10:35-10:45 am	Next steps and Closing Remarks	Mr. Colin Mattis, Deputy Chief Climate Change Officer, NCCO and Chair, NAFF Team

## Annex 3 List of participants at the NAFF Validation Workshop

Participants at the National Validation Workshop- NAFF	
Name	Organization
Daryl Sabourin	ASR Group International
Pablo Mis	Maya Leaders Alliance/Toledo Alcalde Association
Diana Ramos	CTCN
Ramiro Salinas Revollo	CTCN
Raul Chun	Belize Forest Department
Wilber Sabido	Belize Forest Department
Edgar Correa	Belize Forest Department



Sitnah Blease	Belize Forest Department
Lester Cabral	UB- Central Farm
Francisco Tzul	UB- Central Farm
Adriano Vasquez	UB- Central Farm
Victor Alegria	Sustainable Development Unit
Darlene Padron	Sustainable Development Unit
Hannah St-Luce Martinez	National Biodiversity Office
Saul Cruz	National Biodiversity Office
Lennox Gladden	Belize National Climate Change Office
Colin Mattis	Belize National Climate Change Office
Johanna Pacheco	Belize National Climate Change Office
Willie Chan	IICA
Lucito Ayuso	Belize Audobon Society
Dr.Muhammad Ibrahim	CATIE
Guillermo Detlefsen	CATIE
Danilo Pezo	CATIE
Dr. Marcelino Avila	CATIE
Helen Choco-Galindo	CATIE
Omaira Avila Rostant	CARDI
Orlando Habet	Minster Sustianable Development, Climate change & Risk Management
Keiyari Romero	Ministry of Natural Resource, Petroleum and Mining
Michelle Alvarez	Minsitry of Natural Resource, Petroleum and Mining
Maximiliano Ortega	BLPA
Elma Kay	UB-ERI
Dr. Dion Daniels	FST-UB
Clifford King	Ministry of Local Government
Fay Garnett	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise
Belarmino Esquivel	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise
Victoriano Pascual	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise
Jacob Marlin	BFREE
Jeffery Joseph	SIRDI
Juvenio Rivero	Atlantic Bank
Rudolfo Carcamo	Atlantic Bank
Karishma Misir	REDD+
Kimberley Wetby Cassasola	Ministry of Economic Development
Denaie M. Swasey	PACT
Ed Boles	Consultant
Christina Garcia	Ya axche Conservation Trust



Armando Aban	FAO-Belize
Alejandra Pedraza- Luengas	Danaus Consultant
Javier Sabido	President-NAVCO
Diane Wade-Moore	UNDP-Belize

#### Annex 4 Minutes of the NAFP Validation Workshop

## **Draft National Agroforestry Policy National Validation Workshop November 25<sup>th</sup> 2020 Via Microsoft Teams**

Executive Minutes of the workshop

### **1. Welcome Remarks- Dr. Lennox Gladden- Chief, National Climate Change Office**

- a. Belize's geographic location and low-lying coast areas makes the country highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and many economic and climate-sensitive sectors such as water, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry also depends on these natural resources and services.
- b. Climate change is a major threat to Belize and the current projections are that the impacts will be exacerbated and have highly noticeable impacts on social and economic well-being. There have been changes in precipitation patterns, decrease in water supplies leading to drought, decrease in agricultural yields, more intense and frequent storms and hurricanes in the regions, which have caused flooding, and storm surges, erosion along the coast, bleaching of corals etc.
- c. Agriculture sector is a main pillar in Belize's economy it is one of the sectors that is highly sensitive to climate change and could lead to alterations in water supply, agriculture production, growing season, changes in growth patterns and productivity, habitat loss and decreased defense against pest, diseases and forest fires.
- d. Traditional practices in both these sectors have led to widespread deforestation and the emission of greenhouse gases.
- e. Belize has committed itself to developing, adopting and implementing policies and measure to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and adapt to its changes. The National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (NCCPSAP) addresses the vulnerability to climate change of key productive sector and its adverse effect it may have on social and economic development of the country.
- f. In the policy, it highlights the conservation, utilization and sustainable use of forest resources while ensuring the establishment of climate resilient cropping and livestock agriculture system with an effort to mitigate climate change and foster climate resilience in these sectors.
- g. Belize's Nationally Determined Contributions places great emphasis on sustainable forest management and improved crop and livestock husbandry practices.



- h. Agroforestry can serve as a tool in mitigating and adopting to climate change, it can decrease deforestation, provide farm grown forest product, increase sequestration of carbon by trees
  - i. Agroforestry practices is a viable solution to curve deforestation, increase tree cover, reduce GHG emissions, promote sustainable and climate smart agriculture and sustainable forest management, help improve water quality, air quality, soil health and increase habitat and crossing for wildlife.
  - j. Sustainable production in both agriculture and forest sectors is necessary while still maintaining the current national levels of forest cover.
  - k. The goal if this agroforestry policy is to aid in setting out a clear roadmap for mainstreaming agroforestry in small and large scale farms, and to encourage research capacity development and the establishment of new agroforestry projects throughout Belize.
- 2. Keynote Address- Hon. Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development Climate Change & Disaster Risk Management**
- a. The agriculture and forest sectors are very important sectors for the rebuilding of the economy, creating jobs, improving national food security, alleviating rural poverty, earning foreign exchange, and increasing Belize’s self-sufficiency overall. In this, the tourism sector should also be included with a new and revitalized focus that utilizes contribution from these two most important sectors.
  - b. Due to climate change and its effects that it has on the agriculture sector, this places a high demand on management technique for agricultural production and extra input into agriculture which results in an increase in the cost of production.
  - c. Forest are coming under increase pressure form large-scale, slash and burn agriculture, aquaculture, illegal logging, and unsustainable logging, encroachment etc.
  - d. For these reasons, there is a necessity to develop and implement policies and measure by putting strategies in place to address them with a main goal of facilitating the evolution of these sectors to face the challenges presented by climate change, unsustainable resource exploitation and the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - e. The agroforestry policy is being developed in the basis that the Belizean society can reap substantial benefits, both economically and environmentally through the implementation of the agroforestry which has been proven to be more productive and sustainable than forest or agricultural monoculture systems. It can also prevent soil erosion, aid in water retention, promote soil fertility etc.
  - f. It is expected that the new policy would drive socio-economic change in Belize and it brings the society once step closer to the status of having a national food security.
  - g. This process of the development of the policy a “whole of society” approach by including GoB and NGO stakeholder in the consultation process and included the formation of a multi-sectoral “Agroforestry Policy Development Team” which has provided valuable inputs for the effective and efficient and equitable development of the policy.
- 3. Presentation of the Agenda**
- a. Welcome Remarks



- b. Keynote Address
  - c. Overview of the agenda
  - d. Presentation
    - i. Justification for and constraints to be addressed by the policy
    - ii. Q&A session
    - iii. Proposes structure and programs
    - iv. Q&A session
    - v. Start-up strategy and main actions
    - vi. Q&A session
  - e. CATIE's Potential Role on the Way Forward
  - f. CTCN's Potential Role on the Way Forward
  - g. Next steps and Closing remarks.
- 4. Rules just after the overview of the agenda**
- a. Put your hand up to speak so that it can be orderly
  - b. Before giving your contribution, please state your name and the organization that you represent
  - c. Mute your mic as long as you will not be talking
- 5. Presentation of the draft National Agroforestry Policy was presented in 3 sections which are the following:**
- a. Justification for and constraints to be addressed by the Policy
  - b. Proposed Structure
  - c. Start-up strategy and main actions
- 6. Comments from Stakeholders**
- a. SDs and Horizon 2030 was mentioned in the policy but there was no mention on the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy which speaks about tourism and agriculture which would be important to highlight in the policy.
  - b. Its great to see that the policy took into consideration the SDGs and Belize's Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy was for the period of 2016-2020 which is the first in a series of medium development strategy. Moving forward, it is necessary not only to include previous strategy that were mentioned in the previous GSDS but also to include innovative ideas into the second medium development strategy which will culminate into the Horizon 2030. Looking at the NAFP and highlighting home-garden and back yard farming as a strategy for agroforestry system, is an opportunity for families who own a home or rent a home and can be achievable in areas where there is limited space or in spaces that have enough land where these types of garden can be established.
  - c. If the traditional knowledge of the Mayan people is recognized and included into the policy, they will be able to conceptualize and empower the new agroforestry systems and would be easily adopted by these farmers. If this is not clearly stated and highlighted then adopting these new systems into the Mayan communities will be very difficult or better



yet it will not be successful. Therefore, traditional knowledge inclusion is an important key that will allow or permit a successful implementation of these agroforestry system within the Mayan communities.

- d. In terms of land and tree tenure policies, it is important to look at what is going on within the Mayan communities because governance and use of forest resources and land is very challenging. However, there a promising initiative taking place for example the Mayan communities are embarking on a forest costumery use permit which comes with its specific guidelines and structure.
- e. Suggest an inclusion of risk management for the implementation of the policy document. It is encouraging to show the see Minister Habet in the meeting and it shows the political willingness to go through and implementation of the Agroforestry program and projects.
- f. In terms of getting financing for agriculture and forestry, and due to the pandemic, that is currently happening, it is important to know how to maximize financing.
- g. Program like IFAD and NARMAP where some of these programs were trying to change traditional way of production within the communities which were not as successful as expected. Therefore, it is of major concern that during the implementation of the agroforestry policy, it considers the traditional knowledge that farmers have been implementing for years.
- h. Having the National Agroforestry Council and secretariat is an excellent strategy whom can keep a record of quantification, measure and evaluate the deliverables of the implementation of the agroforestry which will in return show the benefits of agroforestry to the individual stakeholders and the country.
- i. It is also important to get the collaboration of all the line ministry in passing on the information obtained from the validation workshop to their minister, in this way having the collaboration of the other colleagues can help with the lobbying and advocacy for implementing the agroforestry policy so that when the policy goes to cabinet it can be accepted in the cabinet and move the policy and plan forward.

## **7. Questions from Stakeholders**

- a. In the policy it talks about women and youth inclusion, how would people with physical disability can be incorporated?
- b. A series of what are relevant agroforestry systems for Belize was presented, how deeply did the team look at agroforestry system in Belize so that other activities can be incorporated into the existing trees? And how can it be incorporated into these systems?
- c. How can we align with Blue Agenda with the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy along with the agroforestry policy?
- d. On the list of constraints, have you considered the academic institution's ability to mainstream then national agroforestry policy as a constrain?
- e. Has there been any taught on how to formally integrate the other ministries (Min of agriculture, food security and enterprise, Min of rural development & transformation, Forest Department etc.) to ensure coordination that would allow for an agroforestry initiative?



- f. Will there be any further mechanism to ensure that every program, line ministry and project has an element of agroforestry implementation, monitoring and evaluation? How best will we be able to align or streamline the agroforestry policy within the work program in each ministry? How are we contributing in ensure that we are implementing the agroforestry policy?
- g. Many of the propose system are easily adopted by small scale farmers. What will be the approach (policies) to encourage large scale farmers to adopt some of these systems?
- h. What platform or mechanisms will be used to bring all entities together to ensure that the policy is properly implemented?
- i. What would be BELTRAIDE's role and involvement in the implementation of this policy especially if we are looking at agroforestry beyond food security?
- j. What role has the private sector played in achieving the results of implementing agroforestry policy and targets in other countries? How those can be applied in Belize? How can private sector assist in agroforestry sector here in Belize?

#### **8. CATIE's Potential Role on the Way Forward**

- a. CATIE remains committed to work with the Ministry and Government of Belize to forge sustainable development.
- b. CATIE vast experiences in agroforestry and other topics related to agroforestry has given the institution the opportunity to train thousands of technical professionals and students through their international accredited master's degree Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture program
- c. CATIE works hand in hand with national and regional institutions within and across countries of this hemisphere by doing research, development and capacity building on similar problems and systems, sharing methods and results and building synergies to advance their knowledge and results.
- d. CATIE's collaborative mission and strategy explains why CATIE are involved in Belize with the agroforestry cocoa project, improving livestock sector productivity and climate resilience in Belize and now assisting with the development of the agroforestry policy.
- e. CATIE also knows that there are many areas in which they can apply their expertise and make solid contributions.
- f. CATIE is willing and in a position to be able to guide and collaborate with the Government of Belize and its institutions to mainstream agroforestry development in Belize.
- g. CATIE can assist and provide guidance for preparing proposals for the mobilization of resources for the implementation phase and for research and development in agroforestry as well as provide capacity building Government, NGO's and private sectors.
- h. CATIE can also work and develop actions that will integrate the sustainable development goals, the IPCC, the NDCs and NAMAs which are used as an avenue to reduce emissions but also integrating AF to improve livelihoods and production and to look for synergies and mitigation objectives.
- i. CATIE extended a hand and express interest in wanting to know more on what the GoB and stakeholders wants to do, what the plans and priorities are? CATIES expressed that they can help in the process, in the formulation of a proposal with the support of the



CTCN to create a small executing unit that may allow generating the pertinent political actions for the implementation of the NAP and to prepare a long-term project proposal with international organization such as the Green Climate Fund, GEF etc.

#### **9. CTCN Potential Role on the Way Forward**

- a. CTCN is at the service of the GoB in assisting in promoting, diffusion to mainstream agroforestry at a national and hopefully a regional level with the main goal to have a sustainable agriculture.
- b. CTCN's technical assistance hopes to have 14 to 15 technical assistance in Latin America. CTCN's traditional technical assistance can go up to 250 000 US \$ while the Fast Technical Assistance of maximum 50 000 US \$. Request for technical assistance to CTCN can be made by the local government or national government, private sector companies, NGO's and the academia through the National Designated Entity (NDE) in this case Dr. Lennox Gladden.
- c. CTCN can support agroforestry project mainstreaming women, young youth participation and indigenous community in agroforestry activities through training, research, experiments. CTCN also support collaboration, networking, through the formation of partnership local and internationally for proper implementation of agroforestry and to enhance practice and impacts of agroforestry with the participation of private sector which is the key for the fulfillment of Belize's NDC and SDGs and contribution to the goals of the Paris Agreement.

#### **10. Next Step and Closing Remarks**

- a. All comments will be taken into consideration by the consultants to finish develop the final draft
- b. After having the final draft of the policy the NCCO will ensure to socialize the policy to the highest level of government and also accepted by cabinet
- c. If there is more comments, it is recommend to send final comments and improvements can be mailed to the Mrs. Johanna Pacheco preferable by the end of the weeks.
- d. After the finalizing of the agroforestry policy, the agroforestry development team will be disbanded and this should lead to the institution of an Interministerial Working Group and this working group will be working with CATIE and other partners in order to mobilize financial and technical resources to for the implementation of the policy. Important is capacity building and provide support to other ongoing programs and it is also expected that the IWG will develop a financial sustainable development plan and an agroforestry development strategy and action plan.
- e. There is financial support from international organization and there is a draft concept development paper which hopes to seek to attract financial assistance.
- f. It is important that there is a need for total involvement of everyone in this endeavor. From the keynote address there is full support from our Minister. Everyone has a part to play in ensuring that the policy is effectively implemented; whether it is from the Government department, a non-government organization or civil society.



## Annex 5 Welcome Address delivered by Dr. Lennox Gladden, Chief officer Belize National Climate Change Office

Distinguished Guests, Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to extend a heartfelt welcome to you all.

On behalf of the National Climate Change Office (NCCO), I would like to thank you for being a part of this virtual validation workshop for the development of Belize's first National Agroforestry Policy. I would like to extend a special welcome to our guests of honor: the Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Honorable Orlando Habet; to Mr. Ramiro Salinas from the Climate Technology Centre and Network, through which this policy was made possible; and to Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim from the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE), whose team provided the technical expertise necessary to develop such a policy. We look forward to an open and eager discussion.

I would like to first wish you and your families well as you navigate this pandemic. 2020 has been a difficult year for many of us. However, we must remember that to move forward it is a collective endeavor, and now, more than ever, this global pandemic has highlighted the need for adaptation and increased resilience to face our common challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware, Belize's geographic location and low-lying coastal areas leave it highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Many economic and climate-sensitive sectors such as water, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry also depend on the natural resources and services around us. That means that climate change is a major threat to the overall development of SIDS like Belize—in terms of the built and natural environment. Given current projections for the Belize and the region, impacts will be exacerbated and have highly noticeable impacts on social and economic wellbeing of our nation.

In fact, the consequences of climate change are already impacting communities and different sectors throughout Belize. We have seen changes in precipitation patterns, decrease in water supplies leading to drought, decreased agricultural yields, more intense and frequent storms and hurricanes in the region, which have led to flooding and storm surges, erosion along the coast, impacts to the fisheries sector and bleaching of corals; among others.

Belize's agriculture sector is one of the main pillars of the Belizean economy. However, it is one of the sectors that is highly sensitive to climate change, which could lead to alterations in water supply, agricultural production, and growing season; leading to crop loss, food shortage, and the spread of pests and diseases. The forestry sector, which is intrinsically linked to agriculture, may experience changes in growth patterns and productivity, habitat loss and decreased defense against pests, diseases, and forest fires due to climate change. The traditional practices in both these sectors have led to widespread deforestation and the emission of greenhouse gases.

Belize has committed itself to developing, adopting, and implementing policies and measures to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and adapt to its changes. The National Climate Change Policy,



Strategy and Action Plan (NCCPSAP) addresses the vulnerabilities to climate change of key productive sectors and the adverse effects it may have on social and economic development of the country. The policy highlights the conservation, utilization, and sustainable use of forest resources, while ensuring the establishment of climate resilient cropping and livestock agricultural systems; all in an effort to mitigate climate change and foster climate resilience in these sectors. Belize's Nationally Determined Contributions also places great emphasis on sustainable forest management and improved crop and livestock husbandry practices.

Unlike traditional forestry and agricultural systems, agroforestry can serve as a tool in mitigating and adapting to climate change. This type of land management decreases deforestation by providing farm-grown forest products or forest-grown farm products, which in turn increases sequestration of carbon by trees. Therefore, agroforestry is a viable solution to curve deforestation, increase tree cover, reduce GHG emissions, and promote sustainable and climate smart agriculture and sustainable forest management countrywide.

I am very honored that we are embarking on this journey to further the agenda to combat climate change. Further integrating agroforestry practices into our agricultural and forestry systems will help to support agricultural production, help improve water quality, air quality, soil health, and increase habitat and crossings for wildlife. It can also help to meet the growing demand for food and forest products, as the need for agricultural and forest products will continue expanding. Hence, sustainable production in both sectors is necessary while still maintaining current national levels of forest cover.

The goal of this agroforestry policy is to aid in setting out a clear roadmap for mainstreaming agroforestry in small- and large-scale farms, encouraging research capacity development and the establishment of new agroforestry projects throughout Belize.

We are here today because your input and feedback are highly crucial in ensuring that this policy meets the needs of all relevant stakeholders.

I urge you all to pay keen attention to the presentations regarding the policy today and provide insightful feedback so that we may move forward with adoption and implementation of this new policy. Climate change is happening now and requires urgent attention; the prosperity and sustainability of our economy and people depend on it.

Annex 6 Keynote address delivered by Honorable Orlando Habet, Minister of the Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management

**Ladies and gentlemen**, it is a great privilege and honour to be with you today. On behalf of the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Management, I offer my appreciation for your participation in this workshop which aims to validate the draft National Agroforestry Policy. Thank you for coming and for active participation.

I especially want to thank the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) for the leadership, financial support and technical assistance, provided for planning and executing this initiative, which ultimately aims to promote climate resilience of Belize's agriculture and forestry sectors. My Ministry sees your support



as being invaluable in our national efforts towards facilitating sustainable development in the face of climate change. I look forward to working with you on this and many other initiatives.

Let me also acknowledge the National Climate Change Office and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for the coordination and hard work that was carried out to successfully develop the draft policy and to execute this virtual workshop.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**, the agriculture and forestry sectors, which employ over one third of the Belizean labour force and accounts for approximately 22 percent of the GDP, are vital to the economy of Belize. Dating back to the 1950s, these sectors have contributed, in no small way, to food and nutrition security, and continue to be significant drivers for social and economic development in this country.

As we seek to recover from the COVID 19 Pandemic, these 2 sectors will be brought into sharp focus and will be important for rebuilding the economy, creating jobs, improving national food security, alleviating rural poverty, earning foreign exchange, and increasing Belize's self-sufficiency overall. And in this rebuilding, we include our tourism industry with a new and revitalized focus that not only considers but strongly utilizes the contribution from these two most important sectors.

In this regard, we must take note of the challenges ahead. Both sectors have been affected and are continuously being threatened by the issue of climate change. As you all know, yields of major crops, such as sugarcane, rice, bananas, citrus and beans, are all expected to decrease. The decreases in crop yields would result from an increase in air temperature accompanied by higher evaporation rates, variable rainfall and increases or decreases in rainfall, depending upon the location in the country.

In the case where there will be excess water in the soil due to higher rainfall and flooding, production costs will also likely increase because new drainage infrastructure will be necessary, especially for crops such as bananas. This would place a high demand on management techniques for agricultural production and extra inputs into agriculture, thereby resulting in an increase in the cost of production. Irrigation costs would rise in places where soil moisture would decrease. At the same time, soil erosion, caused by flooding, would necessitate the increased use of fertilizers and pesticides to offset losses in organic material in soil, reduced soil fertility, plant diseases, pest occurrence and weed control. The use of which may not be in accordance with our desire to produce safer, wholesome foods that are not tainted with undesirable pollutants.

The forestry sector contributes in a myriad of ways to the direct production of food, provision of rural employment and income, and it is important for ensuring sustainable agricultural production. Healthy forests can counteract many of the aforementioned climate change impacts by maintaining soil fertility, reducing soil erosion, preserving biodiversity and the provision of farm inputs.

Nevertheless, Belize has been losing forest cover at an alarming rate. Since the year 2000, we have lost an estimated 235,000 ha of forest cover, most of which was caused by commodity-driven deforestation. This includes the conversion of forest to other uses including agriculture. The forests are coming under increased pressure from large-scale and slash-and-burn agriculture, aquaculture, illegal logging and unsustainable logging, encroachment, forest/bush fires and climate-related hurricanes and storms. With these impacts, it should be of no surprise that the forestry and land use changes represent the highest amount of greenhouse gas emissions in Belize, when compared to other sectors.

As we must seek to improve the social, economic and environmental fabric of the Belizean society, we have to take stock of the issues facing these sectors by putting strategies in place to address them. This necessitates the development and implementation of policies and measures with the main goal of



facilitating the evolution of these sectors to face the challenges presented by climate change, unsustainable resource exploitation and the covid-19 pandemic.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** the development of a national agroforestry policy presents such a strategic opportunity. The policy is being developed on the basis that the Belizean society can reap substantial benefits, both economically and environmentally, through the implementation of agroforestry which has been proven to be more productive and sustainable than forestry or agricultural monoculture systems.

On an environmental level, agroforestry can help prevent soil erosion while simultaneously aiding water retention and promoting soil fertility, which could help provide a solution for areas where rainfall is irregular or might become irregular due to climate change, while dense plantations of trees would also help to absorb CO<sup>2</sup> and regulate air temperature. The increased ability of farmers to maintain some sort of control over production and to be more resilient in the face of climate change, means agroforestry could hold huge promises for the agricultural sector.

It is expected that the new policy would drive socio-economic change in Belize. By adopting agroforestry practices, farmers are expected to experience increased income from the sale of tree products, increased livestock production, increased crop production, and increased market access, while reducing farm labour. This would lead to improved quality of life for the rural and general population, enhanced economic stability, increased production potential of agricultural systems, and increased productivity of our land resource. The FAO Background paper for the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition states that “Agroforestry supports food and nutritional security through the direct provision of food, by raising farmers’ incomes and providing fuel for cooking, and through various ecosystem services. And that Agroforestry is an important climate-smart agriculture approach. It is my opinion that this policy brings us one step closer to the status of having national food security.

It is with these benefits in mind that my Ministry has partnered with CATIE for the development of this policy of utmost importance. In this process we have used a “whole of society” approach by including both government and non-government stakeholders in the consultation process. This involved the formation of a multi-sectoral “Agroforestry Policy Development Team” which has provided valuable inputs for the effective, efficient and equitable development of the policy.

As you will note in the policy presentation, the commitment and participation of other Government Ministries such as Agriculture and Natural resources, the University of Belize, Ya’axché Conservation Trust, Program for Belize, BLPA, SIRD, and others, shall be essential for the implementation of the agroforestry policy. Therefore, I wish to register my appreciation, and I look forward to their present and future contributions to this national agroforestry policy.

This workshop will facilitate the presentation of this policy to you, the stakeholders, for your validation and acceptance. During the next presentations, you will learn much more about the policy development process, the proposed structure and programmes being proposed, and you will also be able to critically assess the start-up strategies and main actions. These deliverables are products of broad consultations, exhaustive literature reviews, and planning sessions, which were carried out under the auspices of Agroforestry Policy Development Team and other key stakeholders.

It is my hope that you will acquire considerable benefits from this workshop and that we would be able to have fruitful engagements with you, the stakeholders, relating to the issues considered in the Agroforestry Policy. As such, I thank you all for participating and I would like to encourage you to share your ideas, experiences and knowledge so that we can have a successful workshop.



I also must say that I am happy to see that AF can contribute to 9 out of the 17 SD goals. I would also like to see embedded in the policy the measurement or quantification not only of deliverables but the benefits of such project. And, I am happy to see that the policy includes various line ministries that on their own may be acting individually but can have a more substantial impact if coalesced into one unit with common national goals and objectives.

I would like to end with this quote by Theodore Roosevelt- “To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

**Thank you. *May God bless you, and God bless Belize.***

### Annex 7 CATIE’s Potential Role on the Way Forward delivered by Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, CATIE’s Director General

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Honorable Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Belize and CTCN for allowing CATIE to assist in the development of the National Agroforestry Policy. Furthermore, please allow me to congratulate the National Agroforestry Policy development team for an outstanding effort in putting together this draft policy.

Agroforestry has played a leading role in CATIE’s work since its inception. Over the last 50 years of its existence, CATIE has accumulated vast experiences in this area and have contributed in many ways to the development and strengthening of the science, education and practice of agroforestry in Latin America, the Caribbean and the world. Through agroforestry systems, the institution has worked on improving the productivity, profitability and sustainability of livestock (i.e. cattle and small ruminants), annual crops (i.e. maize, beans, cassava, sweet potato and others), perennial crops (i.e. coffee, cocoa and sugarcane), and forest ecosystems (i.e. a range of valuable timber and fruit tree species).

That diversity of agroforestry systems has enabled CATIE to gain valuable experience in developing robust and cost-effective approaches and methods to design, test and validate multiple arrangements and processes of agroforestry. This scope of work generated a major outcome, i.e. education and training modules, on how to design, conduct, collect and record data, and analyze and draw conclusions on the assessment of agroforestry systems in terms of their multiple impact relating to biological, physical, social, economic and environmental benefits. These modules have been used by CATIE and its partners to train thousands of young professionals, technicians and farmers all over Latin America, the Caribbean and in the world.

In recent years, CATIE has focused its agroforestry work on investigating the use of trees on farms to improve the production of ecosystem services, diversification of products, and mitigation of climate change, as viable ways to enhance food and nutrition security, diversify income generation and job creation, and to promote sustainable livelihoods. Because of these innovations and others, CATIE today can be proud of having an internationally accredited MSc degree in Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture, made possible because of the extensive research experience of CATIE with their post-



graduate student research projects. CATIE has also developed applied research strategies for students that can be implemented in the field and in their home countries, which do have great scientific value and have contributed tremendously to rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CATIE is a unique institution in its genesis and design. It was always intended that CATIE should work hand in hand with national and regional institutions. As a result, we manage a wide network of collaborations, within and across countries of this hemisphere, doing research, development and capacity building on similar problems and systems, sharing methods and results, and building synergies to advance their knowledge and results. To this end, CATIE has formal relationships with relevant international organizations, i.e. World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF), Center for International Cooperation in Agronomic Research for Development (CIRAD), CIAT, CIP, CTCN, among others.

Our collaborative mission and strategy explain why we are involved in Belize with the AF cocoa project, Improving Livestock Sector Productivity and Climate Resilience in Belize, and now assisting with the development of the agroforestry policy. We have studied the draft policy, and clearly, there are many areas in which we can apply our expertise and make a solid contribution. And CATIE is willing and in a position to be able to guide and collaborate with the Government of Belize and its institutions to mainstream agroforestry development in Belize. CATIE can assist and provide guidance for preparing proposals for the mobilization of resources for the implementation phase and for research and development in agroforestry as well as provide capacity building Government, NGO's and private sectors.

At this point, however, please allow me to hear what you want to do, what the plan and the priorities are. We can help in this process, for instance in the formulation of a proposal with the support of CTCN to create a small executing unit that may allow generating the pertinent political actions for the implementation of the NAFFP and likewise, this executing unit may prepare long-term project proposals with organizations such as the Green Climate Fund, GEF, etc.

The decision on what and how CATIE can do in the future in Belize depends mainly on you.

Thanks for listening!



## Annex 8 Pictures of the Dignitaries at the NAFP Validation Workshop



Upper Left: Mr. Colin Mattis, Chairperson; Upper Right: Dr. Lennox Gladden; Lower Right: Dr. Marcelino Avila, Lower Right: Hon. Orlando Habet



Upper left: Dr. Marcelino Avila; Upper right: Hon. Orlando Habet; Lower Left: Dr. Lennox Gladden, Middle: Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Lower left: Mr. Ramiro Salinas



## Annex 9 Dignitaries and Guest at the NAFP Validation Workshop



## Annex 10 NAFP Validation Workshop via Microsoft Teams





Annex 11 Power Point presentation delivered by Dr. Marcelino Avila

# THE BELIZE NATIONAL AGROFORESTRY POLICY (NAFP)

Presented by:  
**Dr Marcelino Avila**

On behalf of:  
**The NAFP Development Team**

**November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



## Annex 12 Journalist note on CATIE’s News Feed and other social media platforms

CATIE
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Programas de Educación
¿En qué trabajamos?
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Inicio / Noticias del CATIE / Belice cuenta ahora con una Política Nacional Agroforestal

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Visto: **293**

### Belice cuenta ahora con una Política Nacional Agroforestal

- CATIE, con el soporte de CTCN, apoyó la formulación de esta política que fue recientemente lanzada en el país, bajo el liderazgo de la Oficina de Cambio Climático**

**3 de diciembre de 2020.** A partir del 25 de noviembre, Belice cuenta con una Política Nacional Agroforestal que le permitirá al país avanzar en el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS), así como contribuir a la adaptación y reducción de emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero a nivel nacional.

Para formular dicha política, el país contó con el apoyo del CATIE (Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza), a través de una asistencia técnica brindada a la Oficina de Cambio Climático del Ministerio de Desarrollo Sostenible, Cambio Climático y Manejo del Riesgo a Desastres, de Belice. Los fondos de esta asistencia técnica fueron patrocinados por el *Climate Technology Centre and Network* (CTCN).

"Con esta política se promoverán sistemas silvoagrícolas, silvopastoriles y agrosilvopastoriles, los cuales incrementarán el bienestar y los ingresos de la población del sector agropecuario, forestal y ambiental nacional. A su vez, servirá al país como estrategia para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y cumplir con estrategias nacionales e internacionales", señaló Helen Choco, quien fungió como coordinadora nacional del proyecto que impulsó la política por parte del CATIE.

Al lanzamiento oficial de la política, que se llevó a cabo de forma virtual, asistieron 50 representantes de organizaciones gubernamentales, no gubernamentales y académicas. Además, estuvo presente Orlando Habet, ministro de Desarrollo Sostenible, Cambio Climático y Manejo del Riesgo a Desastres de Belice; Muhammad Imbrahim, director general del CATIE; y Ramiro Salinas, del CTCN.

La presentación de la política estuvo a cargo de Marcelino Avila, consultor nacional del CATIE para Belice, con apoyo de Choco y Colin Mattis, oficial a cargo de la Oficina de Cambio Climático.

El Ministro Habet expresó su apoyo y aceptación a la política y ofreció llevarla en el corto plazo ante el gabinete gubernamental para su aceptación y aprobación oficial. El Ministro enfatizó en que la política conducirá a una mejor calidad de vida para la población rural y en general, una mayor estabilidad económica, un mayor potencial de producción y productividad de los sistemas agrícolas, de manera sostenible con los recursos naturales.

Por su parte, Ibrahim puso a las órdenes el conocimiento, la experiencia y la trayectoria del CATIE para brindar apoyo al país en la implementación de su Política Nacional Agroforestal, para lo cual ofreció el apoyo del CATIE en la búsqueda de fuentes donantes, que permitan fortalecer las acciones agroforestales que ya existen en el país y formular nuevos proyectos asociados al tema.

Ramiro Salinas, del CTCN, hizo énfasis en el camino a seguir tras tener la política e invitó al país a presentar una propuesta para comenzar a implementarla.

La Política Nacional Agroforestal de Belice fue formulada y validada mediante un amplio proceso participativo e inclusivo, que tardó alrededor de un año y medio.

**Mayor información:**

Guillermo Detlefsen  
Investigador

Líder del Proyecto de la Política Nacional Agroforestal para Belice  
Programa de Agricultura, ganadería y agroforestería  
CATIE

### Más visitados

- Concurso sobre tecnología y agua para jóvenes de comunidades rurales de Costa Rica
- Facilitan a familias productoras manual para aplicar prácticas de agroforestería en sus ranchos
- Centroamérica y el Caribe analizan sus agendas regionales de investigación y asistencia técnica en café
- MIDES y CATIE presentan resultados de proyecto piloto para el registro social de hogares en Guatemala
- Aprenda sobre fortalecimiento de capacidades y facilitación de procesos de desarrollo y conservación
- Promueven la conservación y restauración del paisaje forestal en Acatenango y San Andrés Itzapa
- Doctorado y maestrías académicas del CATIE son reacreditadas por SINAES
- Belice cuenta ahora con una Política Nacional Agroforestal
- Latinoamérica debatió sobre gobernanza territorial participativa ante la crisis global