



Do not forget that agroforestry can also provide wood, be it fuelwood or timber, for the benefit of populations! Examples in West and Central Africa.

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Environmental services of agroforestry have been emphasised during last decade, such as carbon sequestration and biodiversity maintenance, and priorities given in the last climate COP 26 and IUCN summit reinforce these aspects. Other services, such as shade provision and soil improvement, water and pest management, are also highlighted.

Wood production, be it fuelwood and charcoal, timber and lumber production, arts and crafts, is still critical for a large part of rural and urban populations in many African countries. Present agroforestry systems plays a large role in wood production. Improved agroforestry systems, such as cocoa agroforestry systems or planted fallows, could increase sustainable wood production, and could contribute to decrease pressure on natural forests, complementary to forest plantations.

Examples of improved agroforestry systems developed in some West (Ivory Coast) and Central African (Cameroun, Congo Republic, Democratic Congo Republic) confirms the potential of such agroforestry systems for wood production, complementary to sustainable food production.

Integration of fast growing trees, mainly nitrogen fixing trees (local or introduced species, such as acacia mangium) in agroforestry systems, as part of fallow systems, present many advantages: wood and charcoal production, soil nitrogen and organic fertility improvement, revenues for small peasants. These systems could be managed at peasant level without high investments. They could contribute to wood and charcoal supply for rural and urban population, including cities such as Abidjan, Brazzaville or Kinshasa.

Traditional cocoa production systems have been developed under natural forest shade, integrating some timber trees. Present strategies intend to develop “zero deforestation” and sustainable cocoa production; integration of various tree species in cocoa farms contribute to adapted micro climate, but could also contribute to timber and lumber production, with adapted management.

Wood production for rural and urban population should then not be forgot, complementary to other food and services provided by agroforestry systems.