



Summary of Day 3: Challenges of Women and Youth with respect to forestry sector and climate change

Community of Practice: Advancing women in forestry in the context of climate change





Introduction

- 50 participants joined for Day 3.
- Participants were from Benin, Botswana, Cameroun, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia, Uganda,, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, South Africa, Mali, Togo, La Cote d'Ivoire.
- Two resource persons led the session. They are:
 - Dr. Cecil Ndjebet from REFACOF
 - Chibeze Ezekiel from SYND





Reflection of Participants

- The session started with a reflection on day 2.

Participants shared their reflections as follows:

- What next after the CoP, and called for actions in the various fields.
- The need for gender responsive intervention especially in academic institutions to promote of females in the forestry schools.
- The youth is left out in the climate discourse due to lack of information.
- Need for networking and information sharing among the youth to notice and take up opportunities.





Presentation by Cecil

- Activities of women in the forestry sector
- What women do in climate change
- Challenges of women
 - Insecure tenure
 - Up-scaling women initiative
 - Lack of technology
 - Access to decision-making
 - Gender based violence





Way-forward

Participants proposed the following after the discussions

- Continuous discussions on challenges.
- Development of policy briefs targeting people in authority.
- Collaboration between academia and practitioners to address the challenges.
- Mentorship for younger people
- Bringing men in powerful positions into the discussion on land
- Educate young people especially ladies on their rights
- Integrate climate change issues into educational curriculum





Challenges of youth

A number of challenges of youth were raised. These included:

- Access to funding
- Access to employment
- Involvement in decision making
- Access to information





Inclusion of Youth

Inclusion of youth was identified to be critical in the discussion on forestry and climate change.

The following proposals were made:

- The need for youth to mobilize themselves for action eg. rehabilitation of degraded forest lands.
- The need for sensitization of un-educated youth especially in rural areas on climate change for their involvement in climate action.
- Build capacity of youth for their voices to be heard.
- Need to develop communication and advocacy strategy for the youth.





Conclusion

- 70% of the population in Africa is youthful
- This is a challenge as well as an opportunity
- AFF is creating a platform for engagements and discussions beyond the CoP





Thank you

