



Summary of Day 7: Challenges of securing women participation in forestry and climate action and Prospects

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





Introduction

- 50 participants joined for Day 7.
- Participants were from Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Cameroun, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, La Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Nigeria, Sudan, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, South Africa, Mali, Niger Togo.
- The Resource person was Loretta Alethea Pope Kai.
 - Executive Director - Foundation for Community Initiatives in Liberia





Recap of Day 6

- The session started with a recap of day 6 which focused on the role of women in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Participants shared further reflections on the topic. Issues raised included:
 - Individual actions contributing to climate change mitigation are possible
 - There is the need for collective actions
 - Policy is critical





Presentation by Loretta Pope Kai

The presentation by Loretta focused on:

- Forest and communities
- Climate change, forest and community
- Women participation in forestry and climate action
- Challenges of securing women participation in forestry and climate change action and Prospects





The challenge

- Women represent a high percentage of the poor
- In rural areas, they depend on natural resources for their livelihood, health needs, energy for cooking and heating, as well as for food security.
- Rural women are involved in agriculture but lack access to their own land which is major resource for climate action.
- There is low participation of women in decision-making on forest and climate change.





Discussions

- What is preventing women from participating in forestry and climate change action?
 - Systems (male dominance sector)
 - Cultural barriers (practices that prevent women from speaking in public)
 - Security of women (from harm)
 - Low levels of education and capacity
 - Confidence
 - Interpretation of provisions in the law
 - Access to information
 - Access to resources





What needs to be done

- Society has a high expectation for women in positions
- Such women therefore need
 - To conduct research on their fields
 - Be competent
 - Make input at the decision-making spaces but not just be counted
 - Be visible and intentional
- Empowered women should mentor and empower others especially young ones.
- Promote education of rural people especially women





What needs to be done

- Addressing poverty since economic empowerment will enhance participation of women.
- Develop and implement Policy.
- Men to support women for holistic development.
- Promote women's access to resources like land.
- We need to break societal barriers and transform society.





What are the men, women, youth doing to support each other in the decision-making process?

- Women needs to build their capacity and confidence level.
- Women should make their voice heard when necessary
- Participate fully in decision making when giving the opportunity
- Sensitization of issues to rural women to fully participate and maximize their potential





Thank you

