



# FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

## Top 10 Facts on Forests and Community Development<sup>1</sup>

1. Forests cover one third of the Earth, protect 75 percent of fresh water and are home to more than 80 percent of species of land-based plants, animals and insects.
2. Losing forest diversity means missing opportunities for medicines, food, raw materials and employment opportunities.
3. 1.6 billion people, with 2,000+ indigenous cultures, depend on forests for their livelihoods.
4. Forests and trees on farms provide food and income for over a billion vulnerable people.
5. 2.6 billion people rely on wood fuel, including charcoal, for cooking. This is vital for local economies and for maximizing the taste and nutritional value of cooked foods.
6. Almost one-in-six people depend on forests for food and income. Agroforestry (growing crops among trees) supports food security, fuel for cooking and is climate-smart.
7. For millions of impoverished people, forest and tree resources provide food, fuel for cooking and heating, medicine, shelter, clothing and a safety net in emergencies.
8. More than two billion people depend on wood energy for cooking and or heating, particularly in households in developing countries.
9. Drylands make up 41 percent of the Earth's land surface, cover more than 100 countries and are the basis for livelihoods of more than 2 billion people.
10. Overuse and degradation of the world's forests contribute about one-sixth of global carbon emissions. Almost as much carbon is stored in forests as in the atmosphere.

## The Food for the Hungry Solution

Food for the Hungry helps communities rebuild their forests and the environment by starting tree nurseries. Vulnerable families can earn money by helping to plant the seedlings. In 2015, FH tree nurseries produced over 785,000 seedlings, and reforested more than 800 acres of hillsides in the Democratic Republic of the Congo alone. the trees mature, they can provide food, firewood and lumber. They reduce soil erosion and increase water retention and groundwater in wells and springs. Some types of trees provide fodder for animals, avoiding overgrazing damage and keeping animals healthier in droughts.

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<sup>1</sup> Sources

<http://www.un.org/en/events/forestsday/>

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