# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 3 Global effective policies to promote SFM and Linkages between international, national, and local forest management policies Video 1**

## **FAO 2011: Turning the tide on desertification in Africa**

## **Transcripts Duration: 00:03:35**

(Female Narrator)

Less than fifty years ago this land was lashed Savannah, but here as in much of the hell, the five thousand kilometer belt of land that divides the Sahara Desert from the rest of Africa, vegetation has been disappearing. Climate change leading to prolonged periods of drought, land degradation caused by over farming and overgrazing as well as deforestation have turned this once fertile land into desert. But a recent project to plant in Keisha of gum trees is attempting to reverse that process of desertification.

(Fatou Seye, Beneficiary, Acacia Operation Project)

Before the project, the tweens that happened here during the time of our own stores had disappeared. Since we got tweens and tools from the project, it is easier for us to work the land and put food on the table.

(Female Narrator)

Fatou Seye is one of 150 women in this village alone benefiting from the project begun in 2004 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization or FAO, together with the Forestry Department of Senegal, and five other countries across the region. FAO provided seeds and seedlings, and taught them how to sew and plant acacia trees as well as how to extract and markets the gum they produce.

(Nora Berrahmouni, Forestry Officer, FAO)

Acacia is a good choice for the project because it is a native tree so we are not altering biodiversity. It's a tree which has many benefits. It feeds the soil so it restores its fertility. It is a shelter for crops. It is also providing Garmarapy which has an international market and good for the economy. It also provides fodder for livestock and also food for the local communities.

(Fatou Seye, Beneficiary, Acacia Operation Project)

The benefits we have we received from the project are enormous. People for surrounding villages come here to see what we are doing. We are producing juice, peanuts, and mille which we sell at the market. With that money, we invest in the village to bring the meat.

(Female Narrator)

Another the acacia tree have reached maturity, the women have also begun extracting and selling the gum for processing. Through a middle man the gum arrives at this processing plant close to Senegal's capital Dakar, from where the gum is sold to Europe, US and elsewhere.

(Dr. Madiagne Sakho, Chief pharmacist, Valdafrique processing plant)

It is a growing industry because of the demand and because of all different users in pharmaceuticals and foods industries, such as in confectionery, dairy products, and soft drinks. There is a very long list of users.

(Female Narrator)

Based on the success of the Acacia project, FAO is now in search a funding to roll the project out on a wider scale to re-green more of the land bordering the Sahara Desert. If successful, the initiative will keep the desert sounds a bay and provide protection for the millions of vulnerable people living within Africa's dry lands