# APF Net Curriculum 3 INternational dialogue on forestry issues

## **Lecture 8 Mandates and activities of forestry-related international organizations addressing forestry issues (Part 1) Inter-governmental organizations**

## **Video**

## **CIFOR: Castanero Stories-Snakes, thieves and falling nuts**

## **TranscriptsDuration: 00:04:13**

(Miguel Zamallaya, President, RONAP-Brazil nut producers’ organization)

At five in the morning you leave home in the dark and head into the forest. You walk all day gathering the nuts underneath the trees, all day.

 (Serapio Condori Daza, Brazil nut harvester)

You do this…so that it doesn’t hurt your back. Yeah, that’s heavy…

(Miguel Zamallaya, President, RONAP-Brazil nut producers’ organization)

Carrying the nuts is always hard. You’re carrying 70, 80 kilograms on your back.

(Serapio Condori Daza, Brazil nut harvester)

Yes, of course, it’s difficult…a bit risky, and difficult. Why? Because sometimes there are snakes and the Brazil nuts fall from the trees when it’s windy.

(Felicitas Ramirez Surco, Brazil nut concession holder)

Once a Brazil nut fruit fell on me, too. I was walking along a path and I didn’t realize. Now I have five stitches here. The fruit fell on me and I fainted.

(Miguel Zamallaya, President, RONAP-Brazil nut producers’ organization)

If you go and speak with each Brazil nut concession holder, they’ll tell you their stories. And you’ll start to realize that every year is practically the same for them. So I want to ask all these leaders, researchers and authorities to pay more attention to these elderly people who’ve spent years suffering failure after failure and to give them some kind of support. I’m not talking about money. I mean projects, alternative work so that they see that at least all these years haven’t been for nothing.

(Felicitas Ramirez Surco, Brazil nut concession holder)

It’s a problem, it’s chaos taking care of this forest, it worries me a lot. I have to be here. If not, they come, people will come in from the highway. They’ll cut down trees and take them away.

(Miguel Zamallaya, President, RONAP-Brazil nut producers’ organization)

In one sense we castaneros have protected the Brazil nut concessions and the forests. And if there were loggers around and the castaneros weren’t there to defend their forests, the timber would have been extracted, and the whole forest would be degraded. It would be nicer for the castaneros if there was more contact between the consumer and the producer so that the consumers know just how hard this work is. Gathering the nuts is hard. Splitting them is hard. Shelling them it’s backbreaking – your back hurts because you spend the whole day sitting there. We have some ideas about how to reach the consumers. Now that globalization and the internet exist, the idea is that this year we can make ourselves known. All we need is that the consumers over there also want to get to know us!

(Felicitas Ramirez Surco, Brazil nut concession holder)

It would also be good if the world knew how we live here in our forest and the problems we are having. And I like the forest. If I go over there, I usually see animals, there are even deer running there. If my children make me mad, I come to my forest and take a walk, much calmer. This is the way I want to live!