



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Terms of Reference for Intern

Name	TBD		
Job Title	Intern		
Division/Department	FOA/FO		
Programme/Project Number	Social Forestry Team		
Location	Rome, HQ		
Expected Start Date of Assignment	01/03/2019	Duration:	11 months (NTE: 1/02/2020)
Reports to: Name:	Safia Aggarwal	Title:	Forest Tenure Officer

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASK(S) AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED

Since the 1950s, China has embarked on massive land and forest reforms. These reforms had profound consequences in terms of nationalization and collectivization of land and forests nationwide. However, collectivization of forests combined with massive industrial expansion across China led to serious destruction of forests, with significant repercussions for local livelihoods. In the early 1980s, China responded by initiating a new phase of forest tenure reforms aimed at decollectivization and enhancing private sector participation by granting strong user rights to individual farmers. The reforms included a combination of collective rights contracted to households for utilization and management for fixed terms of 30-70 years (Responsibility forest land), and various types of private forest rights such as permanent inheritable rights granted to rural households for subsistence purposes and private rights to mountains. Some provinces, such as Fujian Province in the south further promoted break up of collective forests (Responsibility forest land) to private holdings.

These tenure reforms have had many positive impacts for afforestation (mostly through the establishment of plantations), as well as for income generation to right holders. However, it has also resulted in extensive parcelization of forests into small plots, and particularly where households were assigned a few hectares of forests split into several separate plots. There are concerns that forest fragmentation seriously threaten the health, function, and resilience of the remaining forest. There are also concerns that high levels of fragmentation are reducing economic efficiency in the forestry sector.

Between 2009-2013, EU/FAO supported a China forest tenure project to support smallholder forestry by strengthening government assistance to them, by strengthening cooperatives and associations of smallholders. Various models of collaboration were supported such as smallholders working collaboratively to joint holdings and share holder arrangements. The project was highly successful in overcoming challenges associated with the fragmented small plots, in addition to providing the much needed support to smallholders. Ten years following the start of the project, it not clear how these smallholder cooperatives, associations, and shareholding arrangements are faring. The intern will assist by conducting research on these sites to determine the continued success of these models for addressing parcelization and other inefficiencies. This will build upon the National Forests and Grasslands Administration interest in addressing parcelization concerns related to smallholder forestry.

Under the direct supervision of the forest tenure officer, and in close collaboration with relevant units in FAO, the intern will:

- 1) Review existing project documents from the EU/FAO supported China forest tenure project
- 2) Identify/select sites for follow up
- 3) Prepare a workplan for the field research and compilation of results
- 4) Conduct field research over a 4 month period (approx.)
- 5) Prepare first draft paper;
- 6) Finalize paper based on input from FAO and others;
- 7) Prepare a workplan for follow-up activities to be implemented in China;
- 8) Perform any other related duties, including possible presentation of work within FAO.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Expected Outputs:	Required Completion Date:
1) Research conducted and research sites selected/identified	1) 01/04/2019
2) Workplan developed	2) 10/04/2019
3) Field research completed	3) 30/08/2019
4) First draft of paper developed	4) 01/10/2019
5) Final paper completed, incorporating feedback and input received from colleagues	5) 01/12/2019
6) Workplan for follow-up activities developed	6) 01/01/2020
7) Other related duties performed	

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES

- Advanced university degree in Forestry, Agriculture, Environment, Natural Resources Management, Food Security)or any other related field;
- Good reporting and writing skills in English;
- Experience in organizing events and producing minutes is an asset;
- Good research skills;
- Detail-oriented;
- Ability to work in a team and meet deadlines.