




Side Event at the 44th Session of the FAO Conference

The IPC: A Unique Platform to Advance the Silviculture of Fast-Growing Trees for Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Development

 2 July 2025 |  19:45 – 21:15 |  Iran room, FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Background

In a global context marked by growing environmental, economic, and social challenges, fast-growing tree species represent a strategic solution to meet wood demand, restore degraded ecosystems, sequester and store carbon, and support sustainable livelihoods. Thanks to their rapid growth and ability to adapt to extreme ecological conditions, they are a key component in addressing development challenges, particularly in the bioeconomy.

The **International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast-Growing Trees Sustaining People and the Environment (IPC)**, a statutory body of the FAO, is dedicated to advancing knowledge and policies on the environmental and socio-economic dimensions of cultivating these species. Since 2019, the IPC has expanded its mandate (originally focused on poplars and willows in temperate regions) to include all fast-growing trees worldwide, thereby strengthening its role as a global platform for dialogue, cooperation, and innovation.

The **“United Nations Decade on Afforestation and Reforestation within the Framework of Sustainable Forest Management for the Period 2027–2036”**, initiated by the Republic of Congo and adopted by the United Nations during the 79th session of its General Assembly through Resolution A/79/L.64, aligns with the IPC’s vision. It marks a major step forward in combating deforestation, land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate imbalances.

In this context, the **Republic of Congo** and the **IPC Secretariat** are seizing the opportunity of the **44th Session of the FAO Conference** to host a side event to discuss the importance of the IPC in achieving the objectives of the UN Decade on Afforestation and Reforestation for Sustainable Forest Management (2027–2036).

Objectives of the Event

- Highlight the potential of the IPC to strengthen national policies and scientific cooperation on fast-growing trees.
- Share concrete experiences from member countries on implementing afforestation programs with fast-growing trees.
- Encourage tropical countries to join the IPC and benefit from a framework for technical, legal, and policy collaboration.
- Reflect on strategies to integrate fast-growing species into the implementation of the UN Decade on Afforestation and Reforestation for sustainable forest management.

Target Audience

- Government representatives, especially from tropical countries
- Researchers, scientists, and academic institutions
- International and regional organizations
- Private sector actors, NGOs, and civil society engaged in sustainable forestry
- Policymakers and government officials
- IPC members and stakeholders

Program

- **Opening Remarks-**
Representatives from the Republic of Congo and FAO
- **Introduction to the IPC**
Thais Linhares-Juvenal – Secretary of the IPC, FAO
- **Presentation of the UN Decade on Afforestation and Reforestation**
François MANKESSI (Congo) and a representative from UNFF
- **Roundtable Discussion**
Representatives from France, Brazil, Belgium, Italy, China, and Indonesia
- **Q&A Session**
Participants
- **Closing Remarks**
FAO Representative