

Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) for enhanced Natural Resources Conservation and Community Development

This special issue aims to be a catalyst for global collaboration on utilizing FMNR as a sustainability tool for resource conservation and community development. We invite leading researchers and practitioners to contribute original research and review articles exploring the intersection of FMNR and these critical areas.

Focus and Significance:

Deforestation, land degradation and climate change are major threats to natural resources. FMNR, a low-cost, community-driven approach, offers a promising solution. Through nurturing existing trees and seeds, FMNR promotes natural regeneration, leading to:

- **Increased Biodiversity:** Regenerated landscapes create diverse habitats for a wider range of flora and fauna.
- **Enhanced Soil Health:** Improved soil fertility fosters a thriving microbial community, vital for nutrient cycling and plant growth.
- **Control of hydrological processes:** reduces surface runoff thereby increasing water infiltration into the soil
- **Rural livelihoods Enhancement:** this is created by provision of firewood, herbal medicine, diversification of income generation activities e.g. introduction of apiculture, increased farm productivity due to available pastures and timber for sale among others.
- **Sustainable Resource Management:** FMNR provides access to resources like timber and non-timber forest products, reducing pressure on natural ecosystems.

Scope of the Issue:

This special issue seeks manuscripts that demonstrate the connection between FMNR and biodiversity conservation, soil and water conservation, community development, gender a social inclusion. We particularly encourage submissions addressing:

- Quantifiable impacts of FMNR on biodiversity metrics (e.g., species richness, habitat connectivity).
- Impacts of FMNR on soil and water conservation
- Role of FMNR in community development
- FMNR as a tool of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures

This special issue will offer valuable insights for researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working in biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem restoration. We believe it can be a significant step forward in harnessing FMNR for a healthier planet with thriving resources and healthy communities.