A major objective of restoration of degraded landscapes is to increase tree cover, through natural regeneration and planting. Achieving this objective at scale requires integrated systems able to provide diverse, adapted and high-quality native tree seeds and planting material (Jalonen et al 2017, Lillesø and Graudal 2012).

Commitments under the Bonn Challenge have now pledged 350 million hectares of degraded land globally for restoration. Restoration plays a key role to sustainable development, to reduce poverty, food insecurity and enhance biodiversity.

However, restoration is easier pledged than done.

Through the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA), with Bioversity International and the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), and supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), this discussion forum brings together a diverse panel of experts from countries that have made significant pledges under the Bonn Challenge, stakeholders, development actors, social entrepreneurs, and researchers from FTA to discuss this important topic and explore possible solutions.

The forum will review the issues related to scaling up supply systems of suitable and adapted seeds and planting material for effective and sustainable land restoration. It will explore the practical, technical, economic and institutional challenges that stakeholders currently face, and present solutions developed to address them, with a focus on issues such as access and use of native tree biodiversity as well as the quality, origin and diversity of seeds and planting material.

Participants will discuss solutions, identify gaps and barriers, the need for additional innovations and look for synergies between countries and regions. A special focus will be on the potential for private sector engagement.
The CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry (FTA) is the world’s largest research for development program to enhance the role of forests, trees and agroforestry in sustainable development and food security and to address climate change. CIFOR leads FTA in partnership with Bioversity International, CATIE, CIRAD, ICRAF, INBAR and TBI. FTA thanks all funders who supported this research through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund.