

APFNET ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the APFNet Alumni Network



*Fayzmamad Davlatbekov (on the left),
NWAUFU student, 2019 class, and his team
in a planting campaign*

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APFNet Alumni Community



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APFNet Alumni Network

International Day of Forests



“Except for relaxing, connecting us with nature and their calming effect, trees do a lot when coming to the environment”

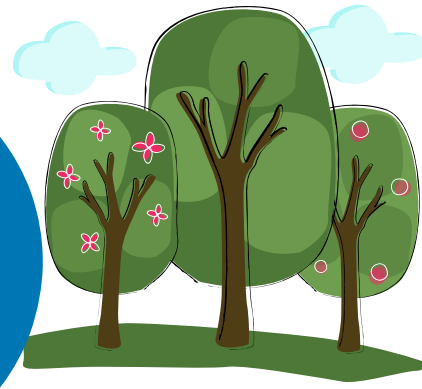
Fayzmamad Davlatbekov (in the middle), NWAUFU student, 2019 class

Fayzmamad Davlatbekov from Tajikistan is currently working at the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). Today, to mark the International Day of Forests, (AKDN) agency staff teamed up with the State Forestry Agency under the Government of Tajikistan in partnership with the Khuroson district government to plant trees on the highway Dushanbe–Bokhtar. This joint effort aims at promoting environmental stewardship and combating climate change.

Fayzmamad Davlatbekov was leading the team to initiate the tree planting marathon with the governmental agencies to promote the greening initiative, which was actively stepped up by the central state.

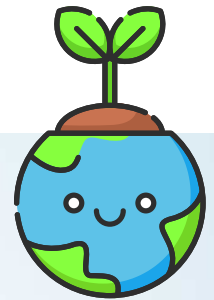
Fayzmamad Davlatbekov mentioned that a huge number of people feel enriching their environment by planting trees is the ideal approach. And most of them do it for beauty or to provide extra shade in the hot season. However, there are more benefits from trees than you might think. Except for relaxing, connecting us with nature and their calming effect, trees do a lot when coming to the environment. I want just to mention the most accountable benefits. They absorb CO₂ removing it from the air and storing it while releasing oxygen. Trees also absorb odors and act as a filter as little particulates get trapped in leaves. Trees are cooling cities by up to 10 F by providing shade and releasing water. Green roofs are a fantastic way to incorporate vegetation into your home and provide environmental benefits for your community while saving money on cooling bills. Because of the shade they provide, water will evaporate slowly from low vegetation.

Trees also contribute to boosting biodiversity as they become a food source and natural habitat for wildlife. Trees are one of the best partners when it comes to agriculture. They act positively in several ways: they reduce soil erosion, increase fertility, and help soil obtain moisture. Fallen tree leaves reduce soil temperature and prevent soil from losing too much moisture. Decaying leaves that fall onto the ground turn into nutrients for tree growth and promote microorganism development.



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Strategically planting trees around your home can have tremendous benefits on the environment. Not only will you help restore life quality in your community, contribute to the environment, and help fight climate change, but you will also set an example. Therefore, planting a beautiful tree is always a good idea!



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF
FORESTS

Forest in Tajikistan and its brief history

By Fayzmamad Davlatbekov, NWAUFU student, 2019 class



Extent of forest

Forests play a key role in the lives of Tajikistan's rural population. Firewood, fodder, medicinal plants, fruit, and nuts can be sold locally at a profit and represent an important source of income. Forests also perform an essential function in regulating the water balance and providing protection against natural disasters. Rehabilitating and protecting forests is therefore of vital importance in the process of adapting to climate change. Forests make up slightly over 3% of the economy's total area, in terms of its forest cover, Tajikistan is at the bottom of the list of the Central Asian republics, although scientific studies suggest that, in the early twentieth century, some one-fifth of economy was under forests.

Brief historical sketch

Tajikistan is unusually rich in plant resources, with some 5,000 different species, thanks, above all, to the wide diversity of its natural landscapes. Among these species are several plants which have value for the population. This variety of plant species has led to the emergence of a range of diverse and unusual types of plant cover in Tajikistan. The areas covered by these different types of vegetation, their harvesting seasons, productivity, and potential economic benefits to the economy have still not been fully studied. According to figures held by the Forest Management and Hunting Agency, the total area under forests in Tajikistan is 410,000 hectares, but this does not include 50,000 hectares of forests that belong to dehkan (small family-owned) farms. Tajikistan does not have many real forests. The mountain slopes are ringed with small, broken strips of tree-covered land between the altitudes of 500–700 m and 3,200–3,700 m, invariably in the form of sparsely forested stands typical of all arid mountain regions.

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Forest and landscape of Tajikistan

Forest extends down into the valleys only where rivers are providing a constant source of irrigation. In these sparsely forested stands, the trees are spaced too far apart for their canopies to meet, with the result that there is rampant growth of shrubs and long grass in between. The highly fragmented nature of these forested areas and the sparseness of their tree cover are almost ubiquitous features of the landscape and have led some botanists to maintain that there are no real forests in the southern mountains of Central Asia. They prefer instead to refer to these arboreal stands as the Pamir-Alai parkland, groves, open or desert woodland, savannah, or merely clumps of trees, thereby emphasizing their "non-forest" nature.

The lower boundary of Tajikistan's forests runs approximately along the 500–700 m contour line, the altitude at which, in southern Tajikistan, scattered stands of pistachio (*Pistacia vera*) are found. Over most of the economy, however, the lower boundary of forest cover rises to 1,200–1,500 m and in places as high as 2,200 m, because of the widespread destruction of forests in the past, primarily during the development of the mining industry in Central Asia. The upper limits of the economy's forests run along the 3,200–3,400-m contour line, sometimes rising as high as 3,700 m, while isolated shrubs may be seen in the Pamirs at altitudes as high as 4,800 m.

At these altitudes, forest clumps of juniper (*Juniperus* spp.), birch (*Betula* spp.) or willow (*Salix* spp.) form unusual environmental niches in a general landscape of treeless terrain, covered with low thorny scrub, or cold-resistant heathland. None of the trees or shrubs growing here manifest any signs of expansion: they have a low rate of seed propagation, tend to be stunted in growth and have a shallow rootstock. The occurrence of occasional live trees in vast "cemeteries" of dead forest testifies to the former existence of large and species-rich forest stands. Their disappearance is due no doubt to abrupt changes in the natural conditions caused by extensive orogenic processes, both in the past and those still under way in the latest phase of geological development in the Pamir-Alai region.

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Geographical instability

The inclusion of an increasing area of mountains in the troposphere has led not only to the degradation of forests but even to their downward drift, the disappearance of warmer-weather species and the spread of treeless steppes, subalpine grasslands, and tall-grass semi-savannah.

In the modern era, many varieties of trees and shrubs thrive better at altitudes lower than those at which the main concentrations of these species are currently found. For example, *Juniperus turkestanica* always grows better in areas considered typical of *Juniperus semiglobosa*, which occurs at altitudes lower than those of *Juniperus turkestanica*. For its part, *Juniperus semiglobosa* now does better in birch groves situated at even lower altitudes. *Juniperus seravschanica* always grows faster and bears fruit more abundantly in maple forests formed by the species *Acer turkestanicum*, which is typically found at lower altitudes than *Juniperus* spp. The downward “slide” of the frontiers of different ecosystems is also occurring with *Pistacia vera* trees and many other forest stands in Tajikistan.





Navruz is the Persian new year festival.

Navruz is one of the ancient holidays of the Aryan people, and it has been celebrated with great splendor since ancient times along with other holidays of the Persian people, including Mehrgon, Sada and Tirgon. The meaning of word Navruz is taken from the Tajik word and means "new day", "fresh", and "first day", it is a celebration of the spring holiday and the beginning of the new year, which represents the revival of nature, the awakening of plants and animals.

It falls on the first day of the solar calendar or March 21 of the AD calendar. This holiday has a history of more than three thousand years and is one of the oldest and oldest holidays of the Aryan people. Navruz has a very ancient history. Most of the historical sources attribute its origin to the reign of Jamshed. It is the celebration of the equinox of day and night and the beginning of the new agricultural year among the peoples of Iran and some of the Turkic peoples of Central Asia, Iran, as well as among the Bashkirs and Tatars.

Navruz celebration is one of the oldest festivals on Earth. This festival was celebrated until the time of Zoroastrianism. Navruz was considered a real holiday in the state of the Khacomanis (VI-IV centuries BC) and the Sassanids (III-VII centuries BC).

The celebration of Navruz on the day of the equinox relates to the origin of the solar calendar, which was established among the peoples of Central Asia and Iran seven thousand years ago before the presence of Islam.

In September 2009, Nowruz was included in the UNESCO list of cultural monuments of humanity, and at the end of February 2010, the 64th Assembly of the UN General Assembly declared March 21 as the "International Day of Navruz".

Our alumnus won the first prize in the “Academic Forum on Green Ecological Development for International Teachers and Students of NFU” on October 19th, 2023

南京林业大学 国际教育学院
南京林业大学国际教育师生
绿色·生态·发展学术论坛
Academic Forum on Green Ecological Development
for International Teachers and students of NJFU

Hoang Van Sam
Senior lecturer, researcher and director
of International Cooperation Department
Vietnam National University of Forestry

Ali Movahedi
PhD graduate of the class of
2014
Associate professor
College of Life Sciences
Nanjing Forestry University

Abolghassem Emamveridian
PhD graduate of the class of
2015
Associate professor
Bamboo Research Institute
Nanjing Forestry University

Kevin R. Messenger
PhD graduate of the class of
2017
Professor
College of Life Sciences
Nanjing Forestry University

Bright Oubuobi
2020 PhD Student
College of Economics and
Management
Nanjing Forestry University

Souvanthone Douangphachanh
2020 PhD Student
College of Ecology and
Environment
Nanjing Forestry University

Usama Sayed
2022 PhD Student
College of Civil Engineering
Nanjing Forestry University

50405 Teaching Building 5
08:30 AM Around 3 Hours
19 October
JOIN SCHOLARS. SHARE IDEAS. GAIN INSIGHTS.

Our Ph.D. student, Mr. Souvanthone Douangphachanh, majoring in Forest Management, participated in the "Academic Forum on Green Ecological Development for International Teachers and Students of NFU". This is a great opportunity for all NJFU learners and instructors to present their current research progress and findings in the field of sustainable forest management. Souvanthone Douangphachanh won the first award for his paper on "Analysis of Land Cover Change Using Landsat Imagery in Thapangthong District, Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR." This is a noteworthy achievement that occurred during his NJFU learning term and career research.

"I think this is a fantastic chance for me to present the findings of my research, along with those of other international students and faculty at NFU. We also received a lot of feedback and sharing from prominent professors regarding the findings of our research. I will try all my best to finish the work that needs to be done in the forestry sector now and in the future, particularly about the use of GIS/Remote sensing in forest inventory and management."

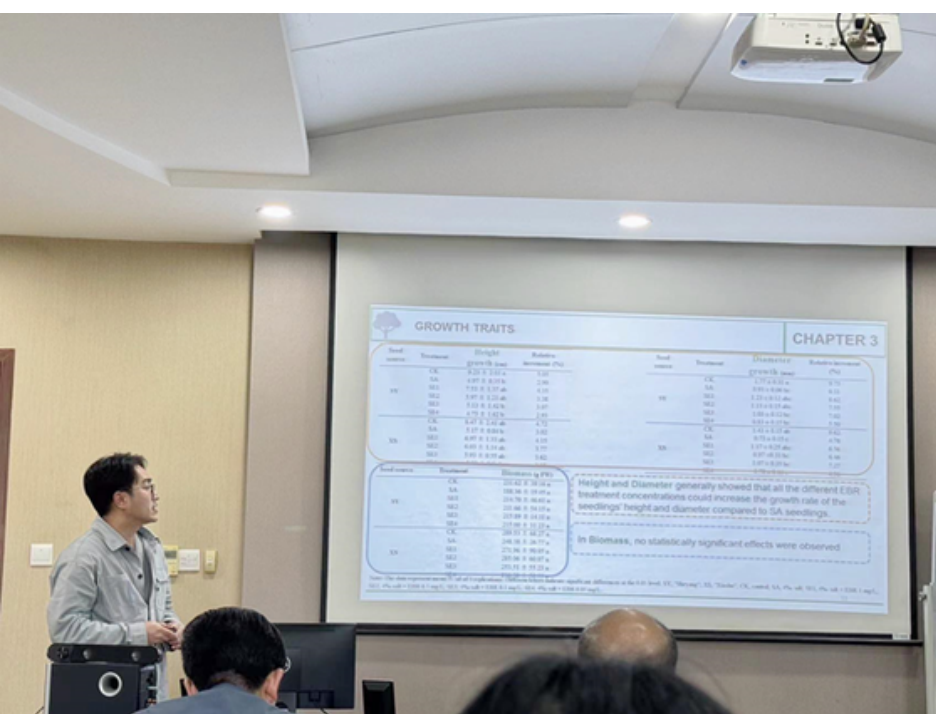
*"I will try all my best to finish the work that needs to be done
in the forestry sector now and in the future"*

Updates from APFNet students in China

**Mr. Souvanthone
Douangphachanh
and his supervisor**



On March 29th, two of our doctoral students from Nanjing Forestry University: Souvanthone Douangphachanh and Zin Myo Htet presented their pre-defense for a doctoral course here. The pre-defense is a chance for the dissertator and their committee to meet and go over a preliminary version of the thesis to talk about the primary claims, supporting data, structure, and organization. This is a good time for each committee member to provide the student advice on significant changes and additions to the research and thinking assignments that need to be completed in order to pass the final defense. The Defense Committee gave their entire performance positive evaluation, and they will proceed to official defense in this May.



**Mr. Zin Myo Htet is
summarizing his
main research
results.**

APFNET ALUMNI NETWORK

- The APFNet Alumni Network was officially launched during the 1st Asia-Pacific Forestry Forum held on December 8-12, 2019 at Beijing Forestry University, China which was attended by APFNet Alumni and students.
- The network aims to further enhance knowledge and experience sharing, and also strengthen contacts and coordination between APFNet alumni across the Asia-Pacific region to promote regional forestry development and collaboration.
- More details about the APFNet Alumni Network please refer to:
<https://www.alumniapfnet.com/home.dz>

