



CONSERVATION AND THE AGRICULTURAL FRONTIER:



Integrating Forests and Agriculture in the Tropics

April 7-8, 2006

International Society of Tropical Foresters, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Call for Papers

Is agriculture responsible for deforestation? In discussions of forest conservation, the debate over the impact of forest clearing by small-holder farmers is of long standing. While some argue that the effects of traditional agriculture are mild and reversible, others suggest that smallholder forest clearing – especially in the context of population expansion – has drastic negative impacts on ecosystem integrity. Recently, the dimensions of this debate have expanded in light of research showing that large-scale agricultural development projects, including as plantation farming and ranching, may be changing the world's forest cover with previously un-acknowledged speed and extent. Faced with the linked challenges of livelihood maintenance, forest degradation, and sustainable development, what's a modern-day tropical forester to do?

Can initiatives along the agricultural frontier contribute to the ongoing and sustainable use of forest resources? In recent years, initiatives integrating agricultural production and forest management have proliferated in the tropics. Projects grounded in agroforestry, and the management and harvest of timber and non-timber forest products, have been offered up as compromises between the challenges of poverty, development, and sustainable forest management. However, challenges remain, not only in assessing the effectiveness of these initiatives, but also in determining where, when, and how their lessons can best be scaled up in policy, legislation, and practice.

“Conservation and the Agricultural Frontier,” April 7th-8th, 2006 The Yale Chapter of the International Society of Tropical Foresters invites you to contribute to a discussion of these topics in its Spring 2006 conference. We invite academics and practitioners from both the social and natural sciences to submit abstracts addressing current trends in research, policy, and implementation along the tropical forest/agriculture frontier. We hope the conference will stimulate debate on a range of topics, including but not limited to such questions as:

- How can timber and non-timber forest product harvesting be integrated into agricultural management schemes? What impact do markets for these products have on ecosystems and livelihoods?
- Do income generation schemes integrating agriculture and forest management have the potential to reduce poverty? Or do they further trap resource users inside of the “poverty net”?
- What potential do agroforestry systems hold as a “middle ground” between agriculture and forest conservation? What institutional strategies have successfully motivated farmers to implement agroforestry systems?
- How does the legitimacy of biodiversity conservation in agricultural landscapes vary among actors, across regions, and across systems of government? How does perceived legitimacy play into conflicts on the agricultural frontier?
- What methods exist to pinpoint the collateral effects of agriculture-related activities indirectly threatening biodiversity conservation, such as local development plans, market liberalization, and/or illicit crop production?
- How do local communities measure success at integrating conservation and agriculture? How do these standards compare with guidelines generated by policy-makers, researchers, conservationists, or other communities?

We encourage abstracts based on primary research, or personal or institutional experience. Selected participants will present full papers at the conference, and typically have the opportunity to publish their work in a peer reviewed proceedings. Abstracts should be a maximum of 500 words, and all correspondence will be addressed to the principal author.

In your response, please include the following:

Name(s) of the author(s)
Title and abstract of the paper to be presented
Institution(s) or organization(s) of author(s)¹
affiliation(s)
Address, telephone, fax and e-mail
of the principal author

Please send abstracts to the following address or email address by 7 January, 2006:

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