

AGROFORESTRY PRACTICES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Agroforestry includes all practices that deliberately combine trees and shrubs with agricultural crops, aquaculture and/or livestock over time or space. While it has been recognized to be an important form of land use practices and resource management, and a major contributor to sustainable society, policy makers do not seem to give the attention it deserves. In this paper, we focus on how agroforestry adds to the sustainable use of land areas and the related resource management and thus contribute to sustainable society. Examples of current agroforestry practices from many parts of the world are highlighted. Selected agroforestry tree species generate products such as fuelwood, poles, lumber, and fodder that often greatly needed by rural populace in many developing nations of Africa and Asia. In addition, experience from the temperate zones revealed that agroforestry trees moderate the microclimate, protect the soil, provide shade to livestock, and enhance crops production by reducing wind effects on the crops. With these beneficial effects, we propose policies that encourage agroforestry to improve existing unsustainable land use practices leading to more value-added agroforestry products. This will in turn contribute to enhancement of land owners' financial standing while providing economical and environmental benefits to the society. Furthermore, integrated research needs to be conducted to improve agroforestry technologies and systems; in so doing decision makers could formulate effective policies leading to more sustainable overall land use practices and society.

No extended abstract received yet