

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM IIED: Issue 36 – July 2006

Welcome to IIED's monthly e-bulletin announcing the latest publications from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), an independent, non-profit research institute working in the field of sustainable development. <http://www.iied.org>

AGRICULTURE

Agroecología y la Lucha para la Soberanía Alimentaria en las Américas

Avery Cohn, Jonathan Cook, Margarita Fernández, Kathleen McAfee, Rebecca Reider, and Corrina Steward, (Editors)

Este libro busca:

1. examinar las dimensiones política, económica, cultural y ecológica de la soberanía alimenticia
2. generar e intercambiar conocimiento técnicamente informado y aplicable prácticamente
3. Facilitar la formación de alianzas entre culturas entre los EE.UU. y América Latina entre académicos y practicantes.

IIED, ISBN 1 84369 619 3, Pb, 222pp, US\$32/£18, non-oecd US\$7/£4, students US\$12/£7

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Barter Markets: Sustaining people and nature in the Andes

Neus Marti and Michel Pimbert

As regulative institutions, Andean barter markets help sustain local food systems and the ecosystems in which they are embedded. Action research with indigenous communities in the Lares Valley (Department of Cusco, Peru) generated new evidence on the importance of barter markets. The resilience of linked social and ecological systems is enhanced as a result of dynamic management of biodiversity and economics by Andean indigenous peoples.

IIED, ISBN 1 84369 625 8, Pb, 15pp, US\$7/£4, free non-oecd

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Getting the message across: Promoting ecological agriculture in Bangladesh

Gatekeeper 122

Dipankar Datta and Kamal Kar

Amid mounting concern over increasing reliance on high-yielding varieties, chemical fertilisers and pesticides among Bangladesh's smallholder farmers, many NGOs have been training farmers in more sustainable farming methods. Despite this, the number of farmers adopting ecological agriculture have not been great. In this paper we explore why this is so, drawing on action research we conducted in 16 Bangladeshi villages.

IIED, ISSN 1357 9258, Pb, 24pp

To Download: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14515IIED>

CLIMATE

Climate Change and Development Links

Gatekeeper 123

Saleemul Huq, Hannah Reid and Laurel A. Murray

Until recently, climate change was viewed largely as an environmental concern, of little relevance to development policy-makers or practitioners. Likewise, development approaches have been given less attention within the climate change community, who instead favour natural science approaches focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This paper describes the independent evolution of climate change and development discourses, and provides some explanation as to why the two fields have operated largely independently from one another. The recent initiatives to strengthen links between the climate change and development communities are also described. These are of particular importance as climate change impacts will significantly affect national development.

IIED, ISSN 1357 9258, Pb, 24pp

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FORESTRY

Associations in the emergent communities at the Amazon forest frontier, Mato Grosso

Small and Medium Forestry Enterprise 14

Luciene Dias Figueiredo, Noemi Porro, Ligia Sauaya Pereira

A broad arch of deforestation spans the lower Brazilian Amazon, cutting through the State of Mato Grosso. At the forest frontier, varied traditions of family farming are being adapted by migrant settlers of diverse origins. The forceful expansion of soybean plantations led by global markets is displacing family farms or incorporating them into out-growing schemes. Commodity plantations are pushing cattle ranching further into the forests. Logging is also opening up new access at the frontier. Conflicts are all but inevitable. As associations endeavour to strengthen the voice of marginalized groups, their role and functions continue to evolve. This report analyses eight active associations along the BR 163 highway in Mato Grosso. It assesses the factors that have allowed them to function and spread benefits to the poor. It also identifies the types of external support that have proven useful.

IIED, ISBN 1 84369 608 8, Pb, 90pp

To Download: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=13525IIED>

Forest-based associations as drivers for sustainable development in Uganda

Small and Medium Forestry Enterprise 15

Cornelius Kazoora, James Acworth, Charles Tondo, Bob Kazungu

Uganda's 2,000-3,000 forest-based associations play an important role in the country's sustainable development. They include community groups made up of individuals (often with a strong social focus) and industrial groups made up of enterprises (often with a commercial focus). They span a number of different areas: forest production (both timber and non-timber forest products), primary and secondary processing, management, training and enterprise support and environmental services (such as ecotourism or carbon sequestration projects). This report surveys 62 different associations. It charts the reasons for their formation, the systems by which they govern their activities, the distribution of costs and benefits to members and the nature of external intervention and support. It draws out lessons about the types of association that contribute most to rural livelihoods and appropriate forms of support.

IIED, ISBN 1 84369 609 6, Pb, 99pp

To Download: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=13526IIED>

Speaking with one voice: the role of small and medium grower's associations driving change in the South African forest sector

Small and Medium Forestry Enterprise 17

Septi Bukula, Mzwanele Memani

The South African timber industry has been dominated by a few large companies. Meanwhile poor rural people increasingly see tree growing and timber sales as a means of improving their livelihoods. Policy frameworks have begun to recognise this too. Yet emerging South African small tree growers still operate under conditions of economic marginalisation - they have to fight for land rights and fair deals for their products. Individual growers have seen the logic of collective action - with the result that many associations have sprung up to champion members' interests. This report surveys 10 associations with the purpose of understanding what led them to form, how they make decisions, how they share costs and benefits, and what external support would be most appropriate.

IIED, ISBN 1 84369 616 9, Pb, 48pp

To Download: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=13528IIED>

LAND

Mysteries and Myths: De Soto, Property and Poverty in South Africa

Gatekeeper 124

Rosalie Kingwill, Ben Cousins, Tessa Cousins, Donna Hornby, Lauren Royston, and) Warren Smit

Hernando De Soto's influential book *The Mystery of Capital* offers a simple yet beguiling message: capitalism can be made to work for the poor through formalizing their property rights in houses, land and small businesses. Yet this paper presents evidence from South Africa to suggest that many of de Soto's policy prescriptions may be inappropriate for the poorest and most vulnerable, and could have negative impacts on their security and well-being. The authors draw on case studies and literature to show that: Titling does not necessarily increase tenure security or certainty; Formalisation of property rights does not promote lending to the poor; Formalisation through registered title deeds creates unaffordable costs for many poor people; Informal property systems currently support a vibrant rental market; 'The poor' are not homogeneous and those in the extra-legal sector should be differentiated according to income and vulnerability status; and such an approach does not mesh with rural common property resources which are never exclusive to one person, and which have fluid boundaries and flexible rules.

IIED, ISSN 1357 9258, Pb, 24pp

To Download: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14517IIED>

MARKETS

Desafiando preconcepciones sobre el comercio de productos sustentables. Hacia unos mayores beneficios para los países en desarrollo

Nicola Borregaard, Annie Dufey

Productos sustentables (definidos como aquellos productos que generan impactos sociales, ambientales y económicos más positivos o menos negativos que aquellos generados por los productos convencionales) han sido indentificados debido a su potencial para contribuir al desarrollo sustentable de los países en desarrollo. No obstante, existen diversos factores que dificultan el crecimiento de estos mercados para los países en desarrollo. Por ejemplo, en el nivel nacional existe una falta de información de mercado, y en el nivel internacional los requerimientos de ecoetiquetado imponen complejidades y cargas financieras que son especialmente importantes para los productores más pequeños.

El objetivo de este documento es brindar algunas perspectivas más nuevas al debate sobre comercio internacional, productos sustentables, ecoetiquetado y los métodos y procesos de producción (MPPs), con la visión de iniciar un diálogo constructivo y ayudar a los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo a esbozar políticas adecuadas para el apoyo de los productos sustentables.

IIED, ISBN 1 84369 618 5, Pb, 36pp, US\$18/£10

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MDGs

Making Poverty Reduction Irreversible: development implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Steve Bass

Development is achieved through growing and managing the 'portfolio of assets' available to a household or a nation. Soils, water, plants and animals often make up the biggest chunk of poor people's assets. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has taken stock of these environmental assets worldwide. It reveals that fully sixty percent are being degraded – with poor people disproportionately suffering the consequences such as shortage of clean water, floods and droughts. Yet the MA also identified instances of effective asset management – proven 'Response Options' that deserve scaling up. This briefing note identifies the major developmental implications of the MA, and calls for action in four areas. Information, Institutional Reform, International Cooperation, and Investment Vehicles and Budgets.

To Download: <http://www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=11050IIED>

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is an independent, non-profit research institute working in the field of sustainable development.

IIED aims to provide expertise and leadership in researching and achieving sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels. In alliance with others we seek to help shape a future that ends global poverty and delivers and sustains efficient and equitable management of the world's natural resources.

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