

Virginia Clarke-Las, 20:17 20/8/2001 +, Agricultural Technologies and

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From: "Virginia Clarke-Laskin" <vlaskin@hotmail.com>

To: "EARTH University-Salzburg Seminar series" <earth@lyris.salzburgseminar.org>

Bcc:

Subject: Agricultural Technologies and Tropical Deforestation

Date: Mon, 20 Aug 2001 20:17:37 +0000

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<DIV>>Date: Mon, 20 Aug 2001 03:28:01 -0700 </DIV></P></DIV>

<DIV></DIV>>From: David Kaimowitz <D.KAIMOWITZ@CGIAR.ORG>

<DIV></DIV>>Subject: Do higher yields mean more forest?

<DIV></DIV>>To: "POLEX (LISTSERV)" <POLEX@CGNET.COM>

<DIV></DIV>>Cc: Arild Angelsen <ARILD.ANGELSEN@IOS.NLH.NO>

<DIV></DIV>>X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)

<DIV></DIV>>Comments: Forest Policy Experts

<DIV></DIV>>

<DIV></DIV>>People often say that if farmers produced more crops and livestock on their
<DIV></DIV>>existing land they wouldn't need to use so much area and could leave more
<DIV></DIV>>forest. New agricultural practices might also allow them to continue farming
<DIV></DIV>>their current plots, rather than exhausting their soils and moving to other
<DIV></DIV>>areas. This logic underlies most Integrated Conservation and Development
<DIV></DIV>>Projects, which assume that if poor farmers adopt more intensive and
<DIV></DIV>>sustainable practices they will encroach less on nearby protected areas.

<DIV></DIV>>

<DIV></DIV>>At the regional or national level, agricultural researchers sometimes argue

<DIV></DIV>>that their work takes pressure off forests by allowing countries to meet

<DIV></DIV>>their food requirements without clearing additional land. They claim that

<DIV></DIV>>the only way countries can satisfy their rapidly expanding demand for

<DIV></DIV>>foodstuffs without bringing more land under crops and pasture is by

<DIV></DIV>>improving their agricultural productivity.

<DIV></DIV>>

<DIV></DIV>>'Agricultural Technologies and Tropical Deforestation', edited by Arild

<DIV></DIV>>Angelsen and myself, represents the first comprehensive attempt to assess

<DIV></DIV>>these arguments. It presents 18 studies that draw from several disciplines

<DIV></DIV>>and cover a wide variety of countries, technologies and types of

<DIV></DIV>>agriculture. The studies deal with everything from pasture research and

<DIV></DIV>>improved fallows in the Amazon, to the Green Revolution in Asia, the use of

<DIV></DIV>>chemical fertilizers in Africa, and the reforestation of the southern United

<DIV></DIV>>States.

<DIV></DIV>>

<DIV></DIV>>The book concludes that under certain circumstances new agricultural

<DIV></DIV>>technologies do actually benefit forest cover, but they can also have the

<DIV></DIV>>opposite effect. In particular, anything that makes agriculture in forested

<DIV></DIV>>areas more attractive runs a big risk of being bad for forests. It may

<DIV></DIV>>encourage or permit existing farmers to clear additional land or attract new

<DIV></DIV>>farmers. Technologies that improve the profitability of activities that do

>not require much labour, such as cattle ranching or mechanized soybean
>production, are especially problematic. So is the introduction of new export
>crops such as cocoa, bananas, and rubber in areas undergoing rapid
>immigration.
>
>New technologies are most likely to have a positive effect on forest cover
>when they lead to major declines in agricultural prices and/or require a lot
>of labour. For example, the rapid rise in rice yields associated with the
>Green Revolution in Asia reduced pressure on forests by pushing down rice
>prices, which discouraged upland rice production. Similarly, in areas
>without much immigration, labour-intensive activities such as growing
>vegetables, tree crops, and irrigated rice can tie up labour that might
>otherwise be out clearing more forest. The experience of western Europe and
>the United States shows that attractive off-farm employment opportunities
>and effective regulation of forest conversion greatly reinforce the positive
>effects of agricultural productivity improvements on forest cover.
>
>The bottom line is that conservationists and researchers should not assume
>that increasing agricultural productivity is always good for forests. Before
>they make any efforts to protect forests by promoting rural development they
>should read this book.
>
>
>If you work for an organization in a developing country and would like to
>request a free copy of this book, please send your request including a
>postal address to: Nia Sabarniati at n.sabarniati@cgiar.org
>
>Others can purchase the book, published by CAB International, from
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Virginia Clarke-Las, 18:05 27/6/2001 -, Stockholm Water Prize

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To:

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Subject: Stockholm Water Prize

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http://www.siwi.org/swp/swp.html (How to
Nominate) </P></DIV>

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<DIV></DIV>Nominating Procedure

<DIV></DIV>The Stockholm Water Foundation invites the international scientific and environment
community as well as the general public to submit nominations for the Stockholm

<DIV></DIV>Water Prize.

<DIV></DIV>

<DIV></DIV>The nominating period for the 2002 Stockholm Water Prize is now open and ends on
September 30, 2001.

<DIV></DIV>

<DIV></DIV>Leading scientific organizations, universities, colleges, academies, learned bodies and
individuals from all over the world are invited to nominate candidates for the Prize.

<DIV></DIV>

<P>The Stockholm Water Foundation Nominating Committee reviews the candidates and recommends a
Prize Laureate to the Board of the Stockholm Water Foundation, which makes the final decision. The
Nominating Committee includes five representatives from the National Committee for Swedish Water
Management Research of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and two from the International Water
Association. Two additional members are selected by the Committee; currently, they are from the
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). </P>

<DIV></DIV>

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<P>To receive a copy of the Prize Nominating Folder, send an e-mail to siwi@siwi.org. Alternatively, you
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<DIV></DIV>>Acrobat. To download the folder, go to http://www.siwi.org/pdf/2002_SWP_N
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