

About us

World Agroforestry Centre

ICRAF Southeast Asia Regional Program

Transforming lives and landscapes with trees





Working trees
that keep on giving



Who **We Are**

The World Agroforestry Centre in Southeast Asia is the region's leading agroforestry research-in-development organization.

Regionally headquartered in Indonesia since 1993, we maintain offices in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. Our country offices maintain programs specific to their national situation while also crossing regional boundaries to research issues of wider significance.

With around 150 researchers and support staff, we generate science-based knowledge about the diverse roles that trees play in agricultural landscapes and use our research to advance

policies and practices that benefit the poor and the environment.

Our global headquarters is in Nairobi, Kenya, which also maintains programs in Africa, the Americas and Asia with around 650 scientific and support staff. The Centre is one of the 15 members of the CGIAR, a global partnership for a food-secure future.

The Centre was founded as the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), which remains our legal name after we rebranded as the World Agroforestry Centre in 2002.

About **Agroforestry**

Trees play a crucial role in almost all terrestrial ecosystems and provide a range of products and services. As natural vegetation is cleared for agriculture and other development, the benefits that trees provide are best sustained by integrating trees into agriculturally-productive landscapes, a practice known as agroforestry.

Agroforestry provides many benefits.

- Linking poor households to markets for high-value fruit and other products
- Balancing improved productivity with the sustainable management of natural resources
- Maintaining or enhancing the supply of environmental services in agricultural landscapes for water, soil health, carbon sequestration and biodiversity
- Enriching the asset base of poor households with farm-grown trees
- Enhancing soil fertility and livestock productivity on farms

Our Research

We focus our research on six broad areas.

Agroforestry Systems: Optimising on-farm productivity and livelihoods through trees and agroforestry practices at farm and landscape scales.

Markets, Value Chains and Institutions: Developing market links, optimising the organisation of value chains, enabling business environments for agroforestry products, enhancing production and enterprise economics and strengthening rural livelihoods.

Tree Diversity, Domestication and Delivery: Identifying, delivering and promoting wide-scale planting of the best-quality tree germplasm for local conditions: 'The right tree for the right place.'

Land Health Decisions: Improving policies, strategies and plans for the prevention and rehabilitation of land degradation and accelerating understanding of sustainable landscape management.

Environmental Services: Understanding the roles of trees in landscapes for securing watershed services, carbon storage and biodiversity; the drivers of change; and environmental services' schemes.

Climate Change: Investigating the effects of trees on reducing farmers' vulnerability to climate variability and change and trees' role in mitigation.

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- Son La Extension Centre, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam
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- Yayasan Lingkungan Hidup Papua, Indonesia
- Yen Bai Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Viet Nam





What **We Do**

We undertake research in development in Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam and other countries in Southeast Asia in partnership with governments and local, national and international research and development organizations and the private sector.

Our research projects are specific to countries, landscapes and commodities and are also regional, crossing national boundaries to compare conditions in order to learn more effectively and share the knowledge more widely.

Our regional projects have been at the forefront of global investigations into ways to optimise economic growth and protection of the services provided by the environment. We have been instrumental in developing schemes that reward communities for the ecosystem services they provide, helping to preserve essential natural functions while also improving smallholders' livelihoods.

Another of our regional investigations is into ways to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from all land

uses through developing methodological, policy and investment guidance. We design frameworks for plans and policies, pilot incentives, build capacity and implement agroforestry solutions on the ground. We are also developing approaches to social forestry that integrate it into the climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations while increasing the socio-economic benefits for communities, women and vulnerable groups. In particular, we have been supporting ASEAN develop an agroforestry strategy and policies with member states.

In addition, we manage the ASB Partnership for the Tropical Forest Margins. This collaboration helps develop innovative policies and practices that increase productivity and income for rural households without worsening deforestation or undermining essential environmental services.

We are a key partner in the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry, which has the clear objective of enhancing the



management and use of forests, agroforestry and tree genetic resources across the landscape from forests through farms to markets. We also provide our expertise to other CGIAR programs.

In Indonesia, at landscape level we help build the capacity of governments in land-use planning for low-emission development and multiple environmental services; work to improve sustainable agroforestry, forestry, agricultural and bioenergy systems; and clarify land tenure. At farm level, we develop agroforestry technologies, improve value chains, conduct training with farmers and enhance livelihoods.

In the Philippines, we investigate the loss of biodiversity and depletion of watersheds in protected areas; improve planning for agricultural development to reduce rural poverty and improve livelihoods; develop integrated food-and-fuel systems for smallholders; and develop and promote conservation agriculture with trees.

In Thailand, in partnership with Chiang Mai University, we have established the Knowledge Support Center for the Greater Mekong Sub-region to increase understanding of the complex sub-region by sharing information about issues related to natural resources management, ecosystem services and climate change. This is a matter of increasing urgency as all countries that lie within its scope are undergoing rapid development with a corresponding degradation of the sub-region's natural capital. We were also the initiator and co-founder of the Upper ASEAN Climate Change Research Network.

In Viet Nam, we develop integrated agroforestry systems for degraded sloping land that are economically attractive to farmers and which also restore ecosystem services; and promote sustainable, climate-smart, agricultural practices throughout the nation.



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