Current Work

We undertake research for development in partnership with local, national and international organisations. Listed are several of our current projects.

Philippine Biodiversity and Watershed Improved for Stronger Economy and Ecosystem Resilience (B+WISER) Program, 2012- 2017

The B+WISER Program is a five-year project funded by USAID aiming to address rapid loss of biodiversity and depletion of watersheds in seven protected areas of the Philippines.

Climate-smart, Tree-based, Co-investment in Adaptation and Mitigation in Asia (Smart Tree-Invest), 2014- 2017

Smart Tree-Invest aims to improve the livelihoods and resilience of smallholding farmers by reducing their vulnerability to climate change. In selected vulnerable areas of Indonesia, Viet Nam and The Philippines, this project aims to help create local solutions to cope with climate-change risks. Funded by the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD).

Watershed evaluation for sustainable use of sloping agricultural land in southern Philippines, 2011- 2015

This project aims to enable improved planning of agricultural development in upland watersheds in the southern Philippines. By increasing agricultural production and protecting watersheds, the project hopes to reduce rural poverty and improve livelihoods. It is funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).



Selected Past Work

Conservation agriculture with trees (CAwT) production system in the Philippines, 2010- 2014

CAwT practices aim to address natural resource degradation problems in the uplands by building on the principles of minimal soil disturbance, continuous retention of residue mulch, diverse and rational use of crop rotation, integrated pest and nutrient management, and deliberate integration of trees. Funded by USAID- SANREM and ICRAF

Rubber-based agroforestry system for livelihoods and food security in the Philippines

This study looked at the feasibility of rubber-based agroforestry systems (RAS) as a farming system in the uplands. RAS involves proper spacing of rubber trees to complement the growth of cash or subsistence crops planted along alleyways.

Adapting to extreme events in Southeast Asia through sustainable land management systems, 2012- 2014

This study assessed the impacts of climate change, current vulnerability and adaptation strategies of smallholder farmers to extreme events in certain watershed areas. It also identified the different climate variabilities and extremes experienced in the watershed areas.

Mainstreaming climate change in biodiversity planning and conservation in the Philippines, 2011- 2013

As part of this project, vulnerability assessments were conducted that explored ways of adapting to a variable climate through sustainable, integrated natural resources management and building the capacity of local people. Funded by USAID.

From ridge to reef: An ecosystem based approach to biodiversity conservation and development in the Philippines, 2011- 2013

Aimed at addressing key issues affecting biodiversity conservation around Mt. Malindang, ICRAF focused on reducing adverse impacts on watersheds in coastal ecosystems, resource valuation and environmental payments. Funded by USAID.

Gender-specific appreciation of landscape multi-functionality, 2013- 2014

This project aimed to test the hypothesis that appreciation of tree cover and the associated ecosystem services varies with diversity of opinion and preferences for status quo, and possible changes in tree cover.



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Agroforestry

Who We Are

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) is an international,non-profit research organization which works to reduce rural poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and sustainably manage natural resources, by promoting the growth and use of trees on farms

The Centre's mission is to generate science-based knowledge about the diverse roles that trees play in agricultural landscapes, and use its research to advance policies and practices that benefit the poor and the environment.

Our global headquarters is in Nairobi, Kenya, maintaining programs in Africa, the Americas, South Asia and Southeast Asia with around 400 scientific and support staff. The Centre is one of the fifteen members of the CGIAR Consortium, which helps feed the planet through providing cutting edge agricultural and food security research.

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.

ICRAF Philippines

ICRAF Philippines was established in 1993 and has since been active in conducting research and development projects throughout the country. The Centre is recognised for its extensive experience in farming systems research, natural resources management and biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and payments for environmental services.

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. This practice is known as agroforestry.

Agroforestry provides many benefits:

Enriches the asset base of poor households with farm-grown trees

Enhances soil fertility and livestock productivity on farms

Links poor households to markets for high-value fruits, oils, cash crops, and medicines

Balances improved productivity with sustainable management of natural resources

We are working with farmers to integrate trees on their farms and across the agricultural landscape, strengthening livelihoods, and sustaining environments for the future.

What We Do

With over 20 years work with smallholder farmers in the Philippines and in partnership with national agencies, universities, NGOs, research institutions, LGUs and international partners, the Centre delivers science to farmers and policy makers.

We focus our research on six broad areas:

1. Quality trees

Increasing farmers' access to improves germplasm of priority tree species and ensuring better functioning of tree seed and seedling supply systems.

2. On-farm productivity

Improving agroforestry systems to make them more productive, profitable, appropriate to local settings and sustainable.

3. Marketing and extension

Expanding smallholders' access to value chains for agroforestry tree products and improving their incomes and livelihoods' through better marketing.

4. Land Health

Developing multi-scale and widely usable methods and tools to quantify and map major risks to land health.

5. Climate Change

Improving stability of farming systems and livelihood strategies of smallholder farmers.

6. Environmental services

Better understanding the role of trees in protecting watershed services, storing carbon and maintaining biodiversity, so that better policies can be developed and incentives created for maintaining trees within landscapes.



