

# ICRAF in Southeast Asia

## Our Mission

ICRAF's *Southeast Asian Regional Research Programme* is developing alternatives to unsustainable slash-and-burn agriculture and ways to rehabilitate degraded land. We work with many partner institutions, including government research centres in forestry and agriculture, universities, and non-government institutions. Our target ecosystems are:



**forest margins** or zones of current forest conversion; here we focus on 'complex agroforests' as a sustainable land use

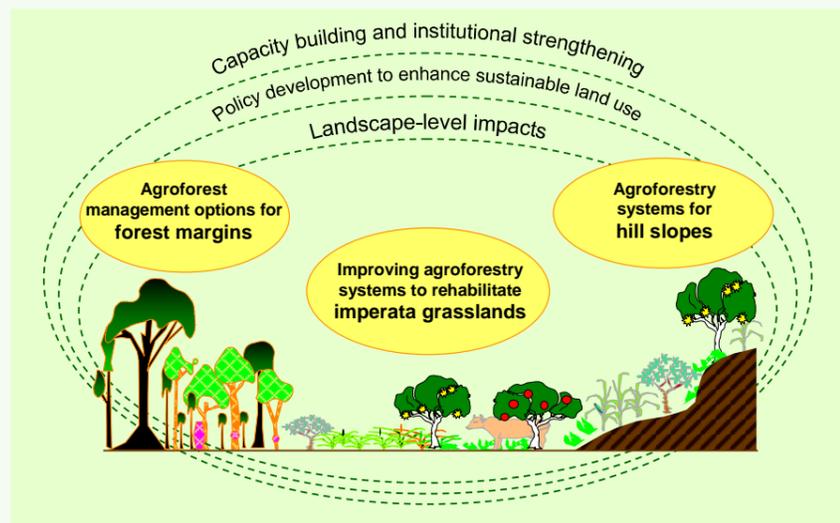
**imperata grasslands**, where small-scale agroforestry methods contribute to reclamation of currently underutilized land



**hill slopes**, where natural vegetative strips and other contour hedgerow practices provide a foundation for agroforestry to sustain farming on sloping land



ICRAF SEA Brochure



## Our Research and Development Themes

- **National policy constraints to agroforestry and upland resources management**

we elucidate constraints to farmer-led development of agroforestry systems and discuss with policy makers how such constraints can be alleviated

- **Managing landscape-level impacts of land use change**

we determine how interactions between land-use systems in a landscape contribute to overall resource conservation and utilization and how local institutions can address such issues

- **Mitigate land degradation**

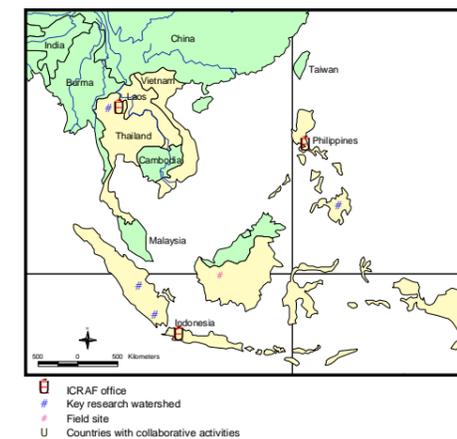
we analyse the agroforestry systems that smallholders use to rehabilitate and improve the utilization of degraded lands and we help to develop new options for farmers

- **Agroforest management options**

we analyse and develop options for farmers to improve the profitability of rubber, damar and other types of agroforests

- **Capacity and institutional strengthening**

we build human and institutional resources in agroforestry research, development and educational organizations, through training, information, and a regional agroforestry education network



## ASB Alternatives to Slash-And-Burn

Traditionally, slash-and-burn is a system for land use — shifting cultivation — based on alternating food cropping periods with periods of regrowth of vegetation (fallow). Increasing population pressure has shortened the fallow periods dramatically, making the system unsustainable in many areas. Slash-and-burn is also a technique to convert forests into permanent agricultural land, or into other land use practices, including large-scale tree crops (rubber, oil palm, timber).

ASB is a system-wide initiative of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. ICRAF is the convening centre for ASB because there is a close link between agroforestry options and alternatives to unsustainable slash-and-burn practices.

In Indonesia the peneplain zone of Sumatra is ASB's focus of interest, with research sites in Jambi (low population density, forest margin) and North Lampung (high population density on similar soil, degraded lands). Associated research is carried out in West Lampung (Krui) and West Kalimantan. The Mae Chaem watershed in Thailand, and Claveria and Lantapan in the Philippines, were also chosen as ASB benchmark sites.



# The International Centre for Research in Agroforestry

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