Asia, China

Upper Mekong

Mean annual rain fall: ~2000 mm

Direct benefits from trees on farm?

Environmental and economic Fertilizer

trees





Economic benefits







The planting of Alder trees in the tea terraces of western Yunnan Province, China has proven to be a highly successful agroforestry practice. We found that the soils under this agroforestry system were higher in bacterial and fungal diversity and that tea productivity increased substantially in comparison to the monoculture planting. **Environmental benefits**



Below ground microbial communities, at different soil depths. Taken from monoculture and agroforestry tea plantations.

Mushrooms as alternative sources of

income



Pinus yunnanesis and Thelephora ganbanum – mushroom productivity was increased by 86% over a two year period as a result of a few changes in forest management. Changes included practices such as cutting the fruiting body instead of plucking them, stacking leaf litter to create microhabitats and canopy management.







Wild harvesting of mushrooms in forests and plantations is big business in Yunnan. Last year the trade of *Thricholoma matsutake* alone topped \$100 million. Many of the harvesting areas for this species are in pine plantations, giving extra value to these man made forests.



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