

Our key challenge

While farmers grow, tend and manage trees on their farms and in the landscape, public policies and institutions draw a distinct line between forestry and agriculture.

Our challenge is to reconcile this segregated institutional view with the reality of how agroforestry operates in the landscape.

Background

For more than 30 years, agroforestry has been heralded and actively promoted as a practical and beneficial land use system for smallholders.

Established in 1978 as the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, we are now part of a network of 15 Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

We work in six regions of the world in partnership with national agricultural research organizations, universities, government and non-government development institutions and advanced research institute partners. The results of all our work are made freely available.

World Agroforestry Centre in Southeast Asia

Farmers have practiced agroforestry for thousands of years, nurturing trees on their farms and lands around their homes. In some of the poorest and most environmentally fragile parts of Southeast Asia, agroforestry is at the frontier of sustainable rural development.

The World Agroforestry Centre believes agroforestry has significant potential in helping to address poverty, hunger and environmental problems in tropical regions of the world.

We aim to build on what farmers already know and do. By combining scientific excellence with innovative development partnerships, we are delivering science to farmers and policy debates.

The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) is an international research organization. The Southeast Asia program was established in 1993 with Indonesia as its regional headquarters.

Acknowledgement

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World Agroforestry Centre
LINKING PEOPLE, TREES AND ANIMALS

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Agroforestry is the integration of trees on farms and in the agricultural landscape



The **vision** of the Southeast Asia regional program is that agroforestry opportunities are available to all people in the region so that they have access to natural resource, health, social, financial and physical security in a manner that respects livelihood choices, diversity and the environment.

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

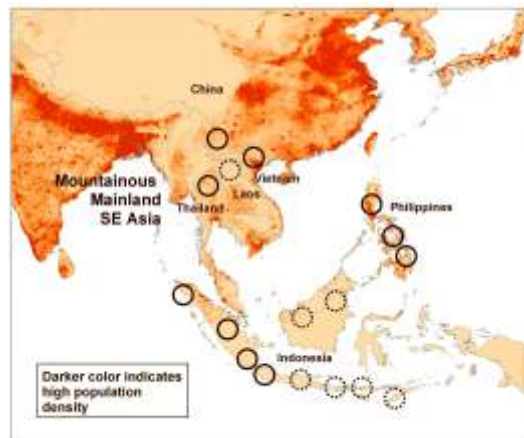
Where we work

The Southeast Asia program works in two geographically distinct areas.

The islands: In Indonesia, from highly populated Java to medium density Sumatra and low density Kalimantan, as well as locations in the drier and poorer East. In the Philippines, we have sites in Mindanao and Luzon.

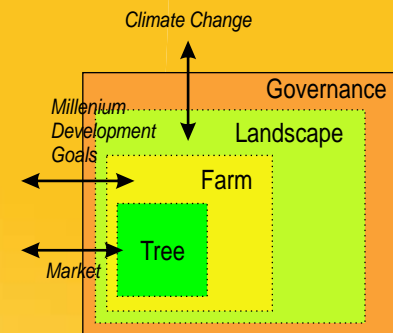
The mainland:

Mountainous areas of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and southwest China (Yunnan), all part of the greater Mekong region. In these poor and fragile upland zones, changing patterns of land use are linked with ecological, ethnic and cultural diversity.



Our work

In Southeast Asia, the World Agroforestry Centre focuses its work on four main levels. We take a nested approach that considers trees within the farm, farms within the landscape, and the landscape within governance structures.



1. Governance Processes

- Facilitating institutional change and policy reform which secures land use rights, giving farmers access to forests.
- Establishing mechanisms to reward poor communities for actions which improve or preserve environmental services.
- Building the capacity of local governments and research and development organizations in integrated natural resource management.

2. Multifunctional Landscapes

- Gaining a better understanding of the role of agroforestry in protecting watersheds and biodiversity across landscapes.
- Researching the interactions and impacts of land use change.
- Facilitating negotiations at the landscape level between governments/policy-makers and farmers.

3. Farmers' Land Management

- Developing technologies at the plot-level which ensure productive landscapes.
- Providing the tools, methods, science, and information about different options, that farmer's need to make decisions about whether or not to adopt agroforestry.
- Researching trade-offs between short-term profit and long-term productivity, with environmental considerations.

4. Trees & Markets

- Informing farmers about available tree species.
- Making quality planting material available to farmers.
- Linking farmers to reliable tree product markets.

